



Rebecca Zajac

Year of Induction: **2022**

Year of Graduation: **2009**

When the question about an outstanding female lacrosse athlete is asked, the name Rebecca Zajac is quickly uttered by anyone who follows girls lacrosse in the district and in the area.

A 2009 Johnson City graduate, Zajac was involved in athletics throughout her four years in high school.

Zajac started her athletic career as a young girl, joining the youth lacrosse program in the third grade. Without a girls youth program, she played in the boys youth program through sixth grade. The first time she played on an all girl team was at the modified level in seventh grade.

A two sport athlete, Zajac played both soccer and lacrosse and was also the manager/announcer for the boys swim team. Where she made her athletic mark was through her presence and leadership on the girls varsity lacrosse team. Coach Joe Schieve has reflected on her athleticism and program impact:

"Becca was the most dominant (girls) lacrosse player in Section IV during her junior and senior season. She could take over a game with her ability to score or draw the attention of the defense to help her teammates score. This led to Johnson City's first Division championship in 2009. As great a player that she was, she was a better person. You couldn't ask for a better example for young lacrosse players to look up to. Her legacy on and off the field still has an impact on the players today. As a young coach myself, she was everything you would want in a student-athlete ... a true leader in all definitions of the word."

Record setting was the result of all Zajac's hard work and determination. As a junior in 2008, she had 97 goals and eight assists for a total of 105 points. These 97 goals were a school record which still stands today. As a senior in 2009, she scored 83 goals with seven assists for 90 points. Zajac set an all time JC record with 228 career goals. Her 35 assists was a JC record until 2018 when Samantha Majewski broke it. She has tied the school record for assists. She still holds the record for the most goals in a single season (2008) and is the record holder for most career points (263).

As a midfielder, she received several honors due to her exceptional performance on the field. She was named the 2008 Honorable Mention All-American and in 2009 she was the first in program history to be named All American. Zajac served as the captain of her team for three years and was designated 3x Section IV All-Star, 3x Team MVP, and named 3x to the Central Square All-Tournament Team.

Between clubs, band, working and volunteering at sports camps, this well-rounded student-athlete took full advantage of all high school had to offer her.

After high school, she furthered her education at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania on an athletic scholarship. Edinboro University's lacrosse program, although in its second year, was Division II and part of the PSAC conference. Zajac chose to play there because she made a decision that she wanted to play every game despite their fledgling state. She played mid-field college lacrosse every year except her junior year when she sat out with a knee injury. She credits her college coach for recognizing she was a player who gave her best in games.

After receiving her Bachelors degree with a major in secondary education Spanish, Zajac taught English in South Korea for several years. She had three different assignments ranging from pre-K to adult in the EPIK program that provided instructors in English in South Korean public schools.

She now resides in Binghamton, NY and is a graduate student pursuing a Masters degree in Student Affairs Administration. She is gaining valuable experience in this area with an internship in Study Abroad at Binghamton University's IEGI Office and a graduate assistantship at the Fleishman Center for Career and Professional Development. On weekends, she relaxes by playing in a female recreational soccer league. Her love of lacrosse has her thinking of starting a female lacrosse league in this area in the future.