



PHOTO: DAN VAILLANCOURT

Lauren Matysiak '08

Three-time Northeast-10 soccer goalie of the year

BY TROY WATKINS

“I FELT LIKE I HAD 25 SISTERS WITH ME WHO WERE ALL EXPERIENCING THE SAME STRUGGLES AND TRIUMPHS,” SAID FORMER STANDOUT SOCCER GOALKEEPER **LAUREN MATYSIAK '08**. **“THEY ALL HAD AN IMPACT ON ME AND A FEW HAVE BECOME MY DEAREST FRIENDS. I SPEAK TO THEM EVERY DAY AND CAN’T IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE IF WE HADN’T MET.”** TODAY, MATYSIAK IS MEMBER OF A DIFFERENT TEAM; THE CORPORATE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT IN THE RETAIL DIVISION OF STAPLES CORPORATION, WHERE SHE PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR MORE THAN 1,500 U.S. STORES.

A Holden native, Matysiak was sold on Assumption during an overnight stay with the soccer team and drawn to its strong liberal arts reputation. “I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do, but explored many areas of study, she remembers. “Assumption provided me with an amazing liberal arts, value-based education with a whole person approach.” Matysiak discovered accounting through an introductory course and made it her major. “I forged relationships with the outstanding faculty, as they took a genuine interest in my success as a student and an athlete.”

A three-time Northeast-10 Goalie of the Year, Matysiak set several Greyhound goaltending career records, with 39 wins, 31 shutouts, and a 0.93 goals against average. The team enjoyed two of its most success-

ful seasons with Matysiak in net in 2004 and '05, winning two NE-10 titles and advancing to the NCAA Tournament. “We had a strong core of veteran players that demonstrated what it took to be a championship team,” she explained. “We worked hard toward a common goal and truly believed in each another.”

Matysiak learned a lot from her coach, Neil Stafford. “I grew as a person from playing soccer at Assumption, and I gained self-confidence in myself which has really helped me in my professional career.

She earned a MS in accounting from Northeastern University while working at Grant Thornton, an international accounting firm, where she rose to become a senior accountant before moving to Staples. “I’m making a transition from straight accounting and want to stay with a large, well-known corporation that is publicly traded,” she said.

Last summer, she accepted an offer to serve as assistant coach for AC’s women’s soccer team, a position she has enjoyed. “I realized how much I’ve missed soccer and I have been lucky to have an opportunity to pursue my passions beyond the office doors. I enjoy my relationships with co-workers and being a part of a team. It has been rewarding to learn from and work with some wonderful people as I’ve started my career.” ❖