



NJSIAA TRAILBLAZER

Whenever a ranking of New Jersey's all time greatest athletes is compiled, Christie Pearce Rampone always deserves a place on the list.

She gained her greatest acclaim as a long-time player on the United States Women's National Soccer Team, where she earned an incredible 311 caps while being a team mainstay from 1996 through 2015. She won Olympic Gold Medals in 2004, 2008 and 2012, and World Cup championships in 1999 and 2015.

But before any of that happened, she was a multi-sport athlete like no other at Point Pleasant Boro, where she graduated in 1993.

During her time in high school, the opportunities created by Title IX still hadn't fully taken hold. Girls soccer in the Shore Conference was still a spring-season sport. But the excellence of players like Christie resulted in the Shore joining the rest of the state in competing in the fall soon after her graduation.

However, what spring soccer enabled her to do was to star in field hockey during the fall. She was an All-State selection after setting various scoring records.

In the winter, she was one of the best basketball players that Ocean County ever produced. She scored 2,190 points, and earned a scholarship to play at Monmouth University.

In the spring, she was a high-scoring forward for Point Boro, which enabled her to graduate that spring as that year's top Shore Conference scorer in three different sports, an unheard of achievement anywhere in the state.

At Monmouth, she played soccer in the fall and basketball in the winter, and added a new sport as well - lacrosse in the spring. She continued her high-scoring ways in soccer, starting all 80 games in her career, with 79 goals and 64 assists. She was a two-time Northeast Conference Player of the Year. In basketball, she was also a standout point guard for the Hawks.

Late in her career at Monmouth, she received a surprise invite to train with the women's national soccer team, which had just won Gold at the 1996 Olympics. The roster was loaded with talent from the small group of national college soccer powers back then, not from small northeast schools like Monmouth. She was also going to be tested in a new role - not as a high-scoring forward, but rather as a defender. Powered by her incredible drive, and boosted by her defender's mentality from being a point guard, she not only made the main roster, she became an international star.

Her 311 matches and 24,011 minutes are second most in USWNT history. She also started 272 times, and only missed time for a few injuries and the birth of her two daughters during her 19 years with the team. She also was also leader, earning the nickname "Captain America" after serving as team captain from 2008 to 2015.

While playing for the national team, she also competed in the various U.S. pro leagues that existed during her career. Most notably, she served as player/interim coach for New Jersey's Sky Blue FC in 2009, and led the team to WPS league championship. She later revealed that she was three months pregnant during the team's three-game run of road victories to the championship.

Christie remains active as a speaker, author, broadcaster, clinician and mom. She's also a member of several Halls of Fame, including the NJSIAA Hall of Fame and National Soccer Hall of Fame.



CLASS OF 2021

PLAYER:

**CHRISTIE PEARCE
RAMPONE**



TITLE IX 50
Celebrating and Growing Opportunities