**Catherine Gizzo**

Catherine’s story of her soccer journey is one of courage and resilience She started the sport relatively late (11 years old) –playing on a recreational team. After one year. . .she tried out for a competitive team. . but (in her words) “just wasn’t good enough”. So, she decided she would work hard to improve, taking private coaching lessons and practicing. Within a few months, the same team asked her to try out again –and this time she made it! She continued to play on that team for four years, then joined her high school team. Once again, she was one of the weaker players, but worked hard to earn playing time.

At the end of her junior year, she had hip surgery for a problem that had caused her pain all through her junior soccer season. The surgery failed and she was told she probably couldn’t play her senior season. She proved the surgeon wrong – she persevered – and played her senior season.

Catherine has volunteered as an assistant coach with a local youth team and earned praise from her coaches as an exceptional person, a great teammate and a leader.

She plans to continue her education at William and Mary pursue her interest in developmental psychology.