



The Fab 4.

NCAA National Signing Day 2017



Camryn DeGrafft

Signed her national letter of intent to play at Indiana State University

Emily Stranne

Signed her national letter of intent to play at Washington University in St. Louis

Camila Rodlauer

Signed her national letter of intent to play at Wesleyan University

Naomi Jaffe

Signed her national letter of intent to play at Cornell University

National Signing Day at McLean Soccer

The Fab 4 experience in McLean Soccer, the coaches and experiences that shaped them on their road to College Soccer.



Cam, Emily, Camila and Naomi are affectionately known as the FAB 4 throughout our club. They are currently seniors in high school preparing to attend college this fall as student-athletes.

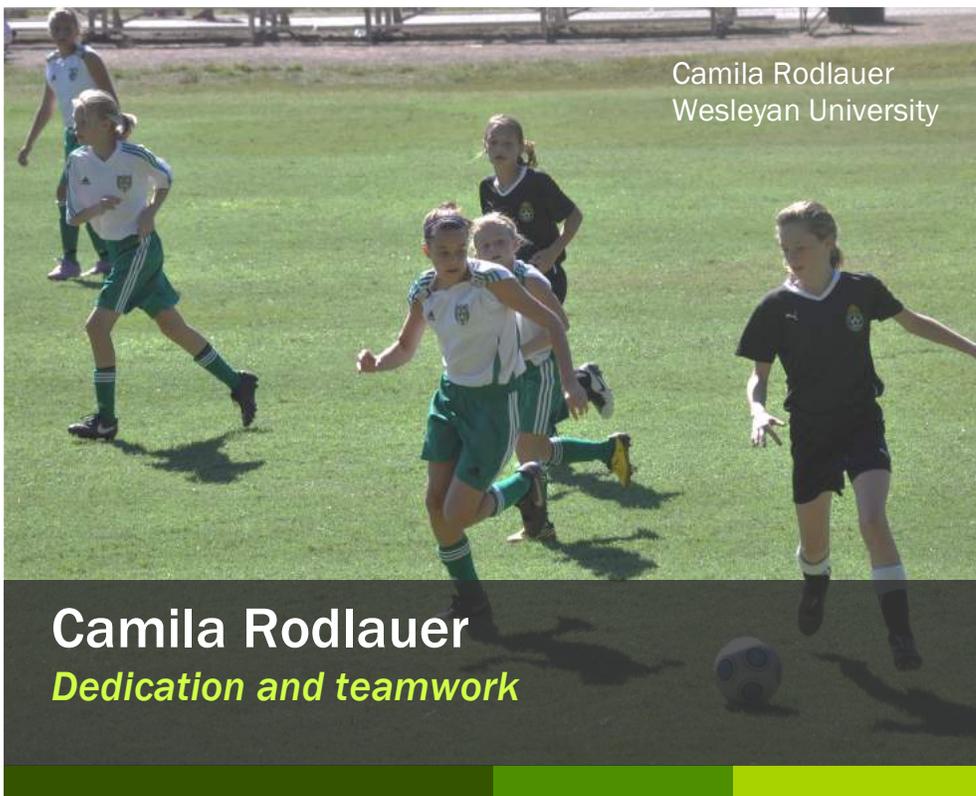
They began playing soccer in the Recreation leagues and worked their way up through MYS's travel program. They have recently

completed the cycle within MYS and signed their NCAA National Letters of Intent to play soccer in college.

Over the course of 8 years, these girls have experienced success, disappointment, and everything in between, but within the MYS environment, have developed into amazing young women.

MYS wanted to follow-up with our **Fab 4** and ask them to share their experiences at MYS, discuss with them who their influential coaches were, the lessons they learned during their time at MYS, and to share a bit of advice about their college recruiting experience.





Camila Rodlauer
Dedication and teamwork

What made your McLean Soccer experience special?

Ever since I began McLean House League when I was 5 years old, I've worn the McLean green color and the McLean patch with pride. It has been an honor to compete for our home team club at an increasingly higher level. I've worn the ECNL patch as well for the last 4 years. I've played with such amazing teammates and for great coaches, many of them life-long friends.

What are you looking forward to most in college soccer and why did you choose your university?

There's nothing like the bond that forms between you and your teammates, playing every day the game that you love! I'm so excited to continue to share that passion in college. I chose Wesleyan University due to its academic rigor, its commitment to social awareness and justice, and the amazing chemistry on the soccer team.

What advice would you give to the McLean kids coming after you about the college process?

Although, it's easier said than done, my

biggest piece of advice would be to focus on your own recruiting process as opposed to being stressed out by others' timelines. It's definitely important to start contacting coaches early and attending camps and clinics. Persistence and organization are key!

As an alum of McLean Soccer, what moments in training or games do you remember?

I'll never forget when we flew as a team to Texas for an ECNL Showcase and somehow it snowed so much that all three of our games were cancelled! Our team got so close and we even made a music video <https://vimeo.com/202652326> to enter into an ECNL contest.

Who were the McLean coaches, when you were young to now who influenced you the most?

Although our team was so lucky to have been coached and influenced by so many great people, Clyde Watson and Jamil Faryadi have both always had such a strong leadership role in my soccer career. From pushing me in extra one-on-one trainings to cracking jokes to brighten my mood, both Clyde and Jamil

have shaped the person and soccer player I am today. I am also so thankful for Coach Cindi Harkes and all her support in helping me reach my collegiate soccer dreams!

Please tell us the quote that you live your life by, the quote that says to everyone who you are.

"Don't ask what your team can do for you, ask what you can do for your team" - variation on President John F. Kennedy's inauguration speech.

What soccer specific advice is important for McLean players to understand? Is it technique, tactics, etc.?

My favorite thing about McLean is how our style of play separates us from many other teams. We have never been taught to just kick and run and the emphasis that has been placed on technique enables McLean players to execute strong tactical decisions.

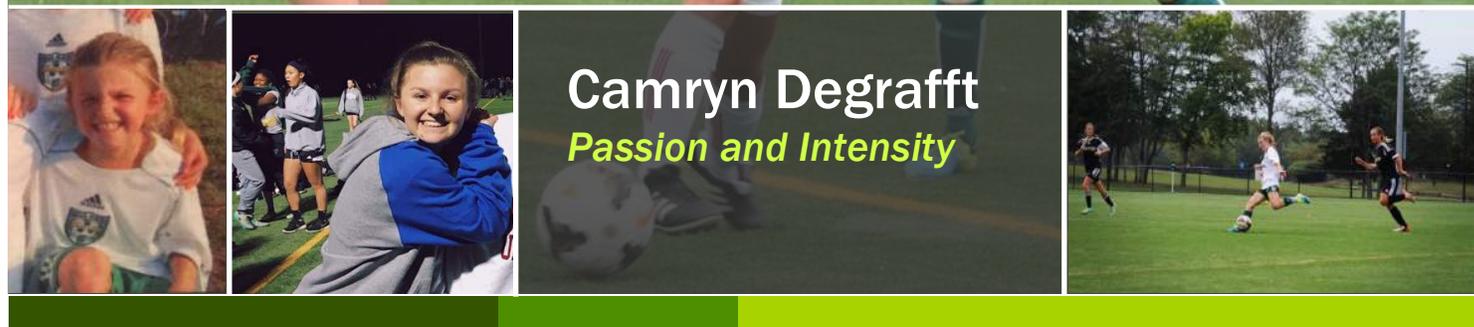


WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY



Camryn Degrafft
Indiana State

Indiana State University
More. From day one.



Camryn Degrafft
Passion and Intensity

What made your McLean Soccer experience special?

Even though we had many coaches over the years, the one thing that remained constant was my teammates and our strong bond - friendships that I know will last a lifetime.

What are you looking forward to most in college soccer and why did you choose your university?

I'm looking forward to playing for my school and being close with my teammates. I chose Indiana State because the minute I stepped on campus, I loved it and it also has a Nursing Program! The team and coaches are all so nice, which played a huge factor as well.

What advice would you give to the McLean kids coming after you about the college process?

The college process does not always go the way you plan, but there are plenty of schools out there so it is very good to be open-minded with your choices. Things do happen for a reason!

As an alum of McLean Soccer, what moments in training or games do you remember?

I will never forget when I was in U10 and we won the Battlefield Classic tournament. We were all so happy because we got to bring home these huge trophies that were designed like a cannon! I'll also never forget our first 11v11 tournament game hosted by George Mason University that we played in the pouring down rain. And we won!

Who were the McLean coaches, when you were young to now who influenced you the most?

The two coaches who have been with me since U9 and influenced me the most

are Clyde Watson and Jamil Faryadi. Clyde always told me to keep a smile on my face and enjoy playing the game. Jamil was my coach at U12 and always pushed me to work hard and do my best. I may not have enjoyed it in the moment, but it has helped me get to where I am today and I'm so thankful for that.

Please tell us the quote that you live your life by, the quote that says to everyone who you are.

"Things happen for a reason"

What soccer specific advice is important for McLean players to understand? Is it technique, tactics, etc.?

Technique is key. Start juggling at a young age because it helps so much with ball control and technique.



Emily started playing in MYS Recreation, followed the McLean development pathway to travel and eventually to ECNL.

Emily Stranne
Washington University
in St. Louis



Emily Stranne
Focus and determination

What made your McLean Soccer experience special?

Even though my team has had many different coaches, I have had the opportunity to play with some of my teammates for the past ten years. Looking back and seeing how far we have come as a group is a unique experience that few players get.

What are you looking forward to most in college soccer and why did you choose your university?

After having played at Mclean for the last ten years, I am excited to continue playing at the next level. I chose Washington University in St. Louis because it is a school where both my academic and soccer interests are fulfilled. Both the school and coach value the academic success of their athletes and it is a school where my teammates and I will push each other on the field and in the classroom.

What advice would you give to the McLean kids coming after you about the college process?

Pick the school that you would want to attend if soccer wasn't an option. Don't get caught up with what your teammates are doing and where they are going. Don't just pick a school because it is the first one that offers you a chance to play soccer, but take the time to find a school where you will fit in and can succeed on and off the field.

As an alum of McLean Soccer, what moments in training or games do you remember?

I remember going to the FC Delco tournament one of my first years at McLean. It was the first time we had travelled as a team and it was exciting to compete together at a higher level. Playing at the ECNL showcases over the last few years has also been memorable. The showcases are always a time to become closer with teammates and play amongst teams and coaches from all over the country.

Who were the McLean coaches, when you were young to now who influenced you the most?

Even though Jamil Faryadi was only my coach for one year, he influenced me the most during my entire time at McLean.

Jamil took a team that was struggling and made us understand the importance of taking every opportunity seriously. He is an understanding coach. Yet he always held us accountable and pushed us to become better players and people.

He truly cares about his players and has continued to look out for us throughout our careers at McLean.

What soccer specific advice is important for McLean players to understand? Is it technique, tactics, etc.?

At a young age, technique should be the number one focus. Building a skill set while young and taking the time to make you better as an individual player will create the foundation necessary to succeed later. An understanding of the tactical side of soccer will come with time, but only after developing individual technique.



**Washington
University
in St. Louis**



Naomi Jaffe
Positive Focus



Naomi Jaffe
Cornell University

What made your McLean Soccer experience special?

What makes McLean Soccer special to me are my teammates, especially the other three girls, Cam, Emily and Camila, who have stayed by my side all 9 years we've played at McLean together. We've been through everything together, the good and the bad times, and the bond we share will never be broken.

What are you looking forward to most in college soccer and why did you choose your university?

I chose Cornell because I will be both athletically and academically challenged there. I also love the girls on the team and the coaches; they've been very welcoming. I'm looking forward to playing games against other Ivy League schools and making lifelong friendships with my teammates.

What advice would you give to the McLean kids coming after you about the college process?

Don't rush the college recruiting process and take your time to find the perfect school for you. It's an important decision, but no matter what might go wrong, everything will turn out alright.

As an alum of McLean Soccer, what moments in training or games do you remember?

Our games against FC Virginia, our rival, were very memorable because they were so intense and exhilarating. I also remember my first out-of-state tournament, FC Delco, in Pennsylvania. We were so excited to be playing in a different state and had a lot of fun.

Who were the McLean coaches, when you were young to now who influenced you the most?

Coach Jamil Faryadi has been a hugely influential for me and I have the utmost respect for him. He was the first coach I had who was really tough on his players and it taught me to be

determined and competitive, as well as improved my level of play tremendously. I also admire Coach Clyde Watson, as he has taught me so much about how to play the game. Coach Cindi Harkes is the coach who helped me take my game to the next level and helped me realize I wanted to play soccer in college.

Please tell us the quote that you live your life by, the quote that says to everyone who you are.

"Live life to the fullest and focus on the positive."

What soccer specific advice is important for McLean players to understand? Is it technique, tactics, etc.?

There are a lot of important facets to being a good soccer player, but I think the most important one is the ability to make quick decisions. While having good foot skills, passing technique, and shooting power are all important assets, one can only perform those skills under pressure if they are able to make quick decisions.