

# SPORTS

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## Wetherington: Quality player, person

By Wayne Grandy

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MOULTRIE — Longtime Colquitt County girls soccer coach Jimbo Jarvis calls three-time All-Region soccer player Sha Wetherington “one of the two or three best players I’ve ever had the pleasure of coaching.”

But what made as big an impression on Jarvis was her personality.

“She was such a neat kid,” Jarvis said on Thursday, a day after Wetherington, 22, was killed in a one-car accident in Brooks County. “Always laughing and joking. She had that bubbly personal-

ity and was so popular:

“You just knew there were great things ahead of her. She was a beautiful young woman. It’s just hard to swallow.”

Ken Veilands, who coached Wetherington in 2006 and 2007 at Darton College where she started two seasons and was the team captain as a sophomore, also remembers a player known for her smile and for having fun.

“But she kept everything in perspective,” Veilands said.

Wetherington, who gave up competitive soccer after leaving Darton, graduated last May from Georgia Southern and was returning from a job interview in

Valdosta when her vehicle left the road and struck a tree, killing her instantly.

Wetherington was Duane and Jeanine Wetherington’s youngest child and all three were fine athletes. Heath was outstanding first baseman/pitcher on Colquitt County’s 1997 state championship team and went on to play at Abraham Baldwin College.

Sister Britney was Region 1-A AAAA co-Player of the Year as a senior on the Colquitt County girls basketball team. She excelled at the collegiate level at Kennesaw State.

Sha was a promising diver in the Moss Farms program before

concentrating on soccer. She was a first-team All-Region player in 2004, 2005 and 2006 and scored 13 goals as a senior.

“She was well-known in the region,” said Jarvis, who once said that opposing coaches “always wanted to know where No. 7 was on the field.”

And Jarvis said current Lady Packers who may not have known Wetherington, certainly knew of her. Jarvis often used her as an example of the way things should be done.

“I’d say, ‘This is what Sha-bird would do.’ Or, ‘This is the way

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## Wetherington

Sha-bird would have done it,” Jarvis said.

Veilands said he had talked to Wetherington last week when she asked if she could use him as a reference on a job application.

“That was a no-brainer,” he said.

And he remembers that when Wetherington arrived in Albany, the

program was attracting what he called “high, high-level players.”

“But she was one of those players who just worked her tail off and earned her way in,” Veilands said.

“She just came in and proved herself.”

For obituary information, see Page 2A.