

Maria Zarrella

Class of 1993 - Cheerleading, Gymnastics & Track



One could have guessed it to be a harbinger of outstanding things to come within Maria Zarrella shattered school records during her first Stoneham High School gymnastics meet as a freshman.

The Class of 1993 graduate smashed the Spartans' records for All-Around score, vault and floor exercise during her very first meet, and went on to etch her name in both the Stoneham High School and Middlesex League gymnastics record books during her four years.

The determined gymnast combined power, grace, athleticism and grit into an unbeatable package that won a mind-boggling for Middlesex League MVP's in four years and placed her first in the Middlesex League meet during her freshman, sophomore and senior seasons. As a junior, after enduring the entire regular season with a stress fracture in her foot, she was forced to sit out the League Meet but returned to compete at the State meet.

When the dust had settled on Zarrella's tumbling time at SHS, she had set Middlesex League and SHS scoring standards in the vault (9.05), balance beam (9.30), floor exercise (9.60), and uneven bars (9.05) as well as All-Around score (36.20).

Zarrella led a pair of undefeated gymnastics teams during her time as a Spartan, capturing four All-Star honors. She was named to the Globe All-Scholastic gymnastics team twice and the Boston Herald All-Scholastic team in her sophomore, junior and senior seasons.

"Maria came in here as a freshman and took command of the Middlesex League," said Zarrella's gymnastics coach, Cindy Carbone Hart. "She took the All-Around title as a freshman from a senior and never looked back."

Zarrella was also a cheerleader in the fall and excelled in the 100M dash, 4X100 relay, long jump and high jump during the spring track season. She was named a Middlesex League All-Star her senior year.

She earned High School All-American honors after her senior year, and spent three more years on the gymnastics team at Northeastern University, where she earned ECAC All-American honors. Maria resides in Stoneham.