Sydney Wallace leaves her mark in a Lancer kit.

*Senior finishes her career adding more accolades* *to already long list*

Sydney Wallace would be the last person to say anything about the awards that she’s received. She shyly smiles anytime she is asked about them, not trying to draw any attention to herself.

She garnered that attention to her craft on the field in the best way possible by recently capturing Big South Defensive Player of the Year honors for the second year in a row which halted the five year run of goalkeepers to win the honor.

Even with these trophies in her case, the Fredericksburg native prefers to look at things from a team-first perspective.

Wallace said, “I don’t really care about awards to be honest. A lot of people come up to me and they’re like, ‘Oh my gosh, you won this,’ and I’m like, ‘Oh yeah it’s just an award you know.’”

Todd Dyer is the first and only coach in Longwood women’s soccer history, founding the program in 1993, and holds Wallace in the highest regard.

“She’s probably one of the best players we’ve ever had in the program. If not THE best, easily one of the top two or three,” said Dyer. “Aside from her natural ability, which is tremendous, she is a physically gifted athlete.”

Dyer continued, “She’s probably had one of the most significant impacts on our program in the entire 25 years, but it’s been under the radar because she is quiet, she is a defender, a lot of people would just miss how special she has been.”

Wallace’s quiet nature and her role as a defender belies her statistical impact. She amassed a total amount of 6,824 minutes played in her career and added 6 goals, but what’s most telling is the scoreboard. With Wallace defending, her team earned an overall record of 46-29-10 and a record of 21-12-7 in the Big South Conference.

Due to her reserved personality, Wallace was not a flamboyant player on the pitch.

Dyer said the only challenge Wallace faced was in being vocal and “coming out of her shell.”

“It’s just not in her nature, so if she struggled with anything it was just that, being louder and a bigger personality on the field,” said Dyer.

“It doesn’t come natural to her being the center of attention or the big voice or personality in the room. She could always back it up with her actions and if I had to choose on worth, give me the actions and we will try to get some words in there as well.”

Fellow senior Paige Robertson has played alongside and been close friends with Wallace since the days of elementary school, and the deep ties between the two are simply undeniable.

“We played travel soccer together, middle school soccer together, high school soccer together, and then college. We got really close when we got to college just because we were roommates freshman year, sophomore year, junior year, and now senior year,” said Robertson. “I know that we will be friends after college and probably for the rest of our lives.”

According to Robertson, Wallace is a great person first and that helped shape her into the soccer player she is today. Robertson always keeps one specific moment with Wallace near and dear to her heart.

“When I scored my first goal of the year against Richmond her and Kelly Almeida were like the first two people I wanted to hug, because she’s been through these four years with me and she knows how hard it’s been for me,” said Robertson. “She was right there and so happy for me, so that’s probably a moment I’ll probably remember for the rest of my life.”

Wallace’s storied four-year career has come at a price as it has taken a toll on her body.

Wallace said, “I have had a lot of injuries, but I just play through them. Like knee injuries, ankles, I have really bad ankles but I just don’t tell anybody and I just keep playing through because my travel coach once said, ‘You’re not hurt unless a bone is sticking out of your body.’”

Wallace doesn’t plan on playing soccer after college because her body is “done” and she “wants to take a break.” While being unsure on what she fully wants to do, she has an idea in mind.

Wallace said, “I think I’m going to start off as a fitness instructor and see where I’m going to go from there, because my major is kinesiology.”

For Wallace, she hopes to be remembered as a team-oriented player, and a person who can be looked up to by her peers.

Dyer has high hopes for Wallace going into the next stage in her life. “I want her to get anything and everything she wants in life and if that means not playing, let’s do something else, then good for you.”

Wallace joins a senior class of Kelly Almeida, Annie Boros, Amber Hodges, Kathryn Miller, Paige Robertson, and Sheyenne Stretz.