



NJSIAA TRAILBLAZER

The impact of Title IX on the sport of soccer is unquestioned, just like the powerful impact of New Jersey players on the national and global women's scene within the game.

One of the many examples is Tobin Heath, who was a NJSIAA state champion prior to her graduation from Ridge in 2006, and then went on to international greatness competing for the United States Women's National Team.

She began playing soccer at age 4, and thrived as a youth player in Basking Ridge. Heath was a part of the Ridge team that won the NJSIAA Group 3 state championship during her sophomore year, and the Red Devils were runner-up the following season. She was a three-time Parade Magazine All-America and was considered the No. 2 recruit in the nation as a senior. Her local impact was so great that there is a Tobin Heath Field at Pleasant Valley Park in her home town.

She committed to the University of North Carolina prior to her junior year, and after arriving there, she continued to excel. She was a Freshman All-America on the 2006 team that won the NCAA championship, and was a First Team All-America during her final three seasons, including the last two in which the Tar Heels won NCAA championships.

She was one of just three active college players chosen to play for USWNT at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, where she won her first gold medal. The other came in 2012 in London. She also competed at the Olympics in 2016 and '20, where she was on the USA team that won the bronze medal.

She played on the USWNT World Cup sides which won were a runner-up in 2011 and champions in 2015 and 2019. She has totaled 36 goals and 43 assists while making 181 appearances for the national team.



TITLE IX⁵⁰
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Heath has also had a long and distinguished pro career, playing in the United States (where she won two league championships playing for the Portland Thorns in the National Women's Soccer League) as well as in England and France.

Now 34 years old, she's still an active player, and was most recently acquired by the Seattle-based OL Reign in the NWSL.

She was involved in the crusade by the USWNT players to receive equal as their male counterparts, and they reached a settlement with USA Soccer last month to achieve that.

Afterward, Heath said it was one of the greatest accomplishments in her career.

"I think this is the thing we are most proud of because it doesn't just influence change from a sporting perspective," she said in an interview. "It influences huge change toward equality for the whole world."



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