

McMahon alum honored by ECSU Hall of Fame

By Andy Hutchison
Correspondent

Soccer has always been a big part of Jason Brasher's life. The 1987 Brien McMahon alum helped his high school team to postseason tournament success before moving on to compete at Eastern Connecticut State University. Now 41, Brasher continues to play soccer on a weekly basis, competing in the Shoreline Amateur Soccer League's First Division in the 40-and-older age group.

Brasher made such an impact at Eastern, becoming the school's third 100-point scorer before graduating in 1991, that his collegiate soccer accolades keep rolling in. He was recently selected for induction into Eastern's E-Club Hall of Fame. Brasher will be honored at the E-Club Hall of Fame Reception and Induction Ceremony on Oct. 24 at noon at the Betty R. Tipton Room at the Student Center.

"It's a great honor. I feel like I had a pretty good career. They called me one day and said I might be nominated and I had to fill out a nomination form," Brasher said. "I was pretty psyched."

Brasher, 5-foot-11, 155 pounds, says he remains the same size he was since going off to college. However, lot changed for him on the playing field in a hurry. A midfielder in high school, Brasher went on to be a forward in his collegiate playing days and turned out to be a scoring star. He was never a big goal scorer until beginning his collegiate career and then finding the back of the net seemed to come naturally for Brasher, he said.

He compiled 105 points in 79 career games at Eastern. To date, only four Eastern players have reached the 100-point plateau. Of course he was a pretty successful player at McMahon. After all, Brasher was recruited by his soon-to-be collegiate soccer coach, John Fitzgerald, Eastern's all-time leading scorer.

"It was great back then. McMahon was somewhat of a powerhouse at soccer," said Brasher, adding that he won an FCIAC championship in his senior

season in the fall of 1986. Brasher also reached two state tournament semifinal round games in his high school days. "I had very fond memories of McMahon."

Brasher also has some pretty good memories of his days at Eastern. He scored twice in his collegiate debut. "From the first week, the ball just went into the net for me. I scored two goals in the first game and it just kept going," he said.

The goals keep coming in the Shoreline league as well. "That's quite a good feeling when you put the ball into the back of the net," he said.

"I've been playing soccer pretty much every season since I was five years old," said Brasher, who plays with fellow McMahon alums, T.G. Diamandis and brother Cam Diamandis in the Shoreline league.

"I do it because it's something I enjoy," Brasher said. "I keep playing and my body feels great. I think if you just keep playing your body accepts it. At this age, I think if I stop it'll be hard to pick it back up again."

Brasher has been fortunate enough to stay healthy throughout his playing career. He started in 73 of his 79 matches at Eastern, missing only one, and either scored or assisted on nearly 40 percent of his team's goals.

Brasher is an athletic director, teaches physical education and coaches youth sports teams at The Montessori School in Wilton. He coaches cross country, soccer and basketball, in addition to the running club at the school. Brasher, who was a Rowayton resident while at McMahon, also coaches in the Rowayton Soccer Association. He lives in Bridgeport with his wife Veronica and their sons, up-and-coming soccer players Jaquin (9) and Diego (3).

Tickets for the Hall of Fame induction are \$45 and must be reserved in advance by contacting E-Club Hall of



Brien McMahon alumnus Jason Brasher was elected to the Eastern Connecticut State University Hall of Fame after a standout soccer career in the early 1990s.

Fame co-chairmen Dr. David G. Yeo at 860-465-5166 or yeo@easternct.edu or Scott Smith at 860-465-4326 or smithsc@easternct.edu.