

## Colin Pope Plays for Norwich

By Laurie-Jean B. Gauthier

The following is from an interview that I did with former TSA Phoenix Colin Pope. Pope attends Norwich University and plays for the Cadets on the men's soccer team. Pope was the all-time leading scorer at Sharon as a three-year varsity player.

L-JBG: How has this year's season gone so far for both your team and you individually?

Pope: Currently we are 4-3-1 overall and stand 2-0-1 in the GNAC (Great North Atlantic Conference).

I scored my first collegiate goal in a game against Johnson State Beavers on September 15. I average 30 minutes of playing time per game.

L-JBG: What is the biggest difference between D-IV high school soccer and NCAA D-III college soccer?

Pope: The intensity of the game at this level is 10 times that of the high school game. It's a totally different game.

L-JBG: What have you had to do (changes/adjustments and/or improvements) in order to contribute?

Pope: My touch. I've had to work on it. The tempo of the game is so fast that a one-touch is needed and there is no time to think about what to do, you must just know what to do. What your aim is. So a one-touch is absolutely necessary.

L-JBG: Are there any major differences in coaching styles between your high school coach Rob Stainton and your current coach, Kyle Dezotell?

Pope: That's a tough one. I've been very lucky to have two great coaches, and it's really too hard to distinguish any differences. I've learned a lot from both of them.

L-JBG: What advice would you give to high-schoolers who hope to play at the collegiate level?

Pope: Get in shape. Run. Focus on one-touch. Work on your game year round.

L-JBG: What is something you

could tell prospective students and athletes that they might not already know?

Pope: Be prepared to run. Running was not a big part of my preparation at the high school level. But here at Norwich, it is. College soccer is a totally different game compared to high school.

L-JBG: Why did you choose Norwich University and what is your course of study?

Pope: I'm studying architecture (in the studio until 1 a.m. every night). It's something I have been interested in since I was young. I like that it's a five-year program. Proximity to home (Tunbridge); and I get to play soccer. It offers me the whole package.