Vanessa Maia made the transition from scholastic soccer to a collegiate center midfielder during her first year at Rutgers-Camden. She tied for the club lead with seven assists, added four goals and finished second on the team with 15 points. She also took the bulk of the team’s corner kicks and was the Lady Raptors’ playmaker in the middle of the field. Perhaps her biggest corner kick came in the first round of the ECAC Metro Tournament (Nov. 7), assisting on the winning goal by Jessica Ramirez as the Raptors edged St. Joseph-Patchogue, 1-0, for the first post-season win in their program’s history.

Maia played in 22 of the Lady Raptors’ 23 games as a freshman, starting 20. She made her first collegiate start in the season-opening game against Eastern Mennonite (Aug. 31) at the Franklin & Marshall College Tournament. The next day she collected her first collegiate point, notching the assist on Lindy Iannacone’s game-winning goal as the Raptors edged Delaware Valley College, 2-0, in the tournament consolation game.

Maia’s first collegiate goal off a restart at Arcadia University (Sept. 12) gave the Raptors life after falling into a 2-0 hole. Rutgers-Camden rallied to tie that game, 2-2. Three days later, she scored the team’s lone goal on a penalty kick as the Raptors rallied for a 1-1 tie against conference rival Rutgers-Newark.

Maia ran her scoring streak to four games with single assists in losses to Rowan University (Sept. 19) and Kean University (Sept. 22). She scored her next goal in an 11-0 victory over Medgar Evers College (Oct. 8) and then had the game-winning assist on Brittney Mancine’s goal in a 3-0 victory at Albright College (Oct. 8).

Maia notched a pair of assists in a 3-0 conference win over William Paterson (Oct. 13) and scored her final goal against Staten Island in a 3-0 win Oct. 22.

In addition to her soccer abilities, Maia is a member of Rutgers-Camden’s club lacrosse program, is the Student Governing Association Vice-President and is active with the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

A four-year soccer letterwinner at Union High School, Maia was an All-Union County Third Team player in high school. She also won a state and regional championship while playing for her U-16 club team, the Pasco Thunder.

A Biology major with a Psychology minor at Rutgers-Camden, Maia plans to become a doctor.

Vanessa is the daughter of John and Fatima Maia of Union.

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**Maia’s Rutgers-Camden statistics**

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