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Nwobu finds success at Wagner

by LOIS ELFMAN

When sprinter Miracle Nwobu was searching for a college track program where she could continue to grow as an athlete and also excel in the classroom, she decided to stay close to home on Staten Island and attend Wagner College.

Nwobu started running competitive track her junior year of high school to give herself a good extracurricular activity that challenged and inspired her. Her talents were obvious and she fielded offers from college recruiters. The decision came down to a choice between Ohio State University and Wagner, and she chose the latter.

“Wagner had a nursing program that I wanted to pursue, so it was a good fit for me,” said Nwobu, a junior, who runs the 100, 200 and 400 meters and relays. “During the school year the coaches are understanding. They work with my class schedule.”

The transition from high school to college track was challenging. Nwobu described it as a love/hate relationship her freshman year, but she found her footing. Lifting, conditioning and rigorous practices are hard, but she sees her times dropping as she puts in the work.

Nursing education is intense, but Nwobu said she’s learning every day. She has already begun clinical study and she looks forward to becoming a nurse and working with diverse populations.

“I’m open to learning other people’s cultures,” she said. “I hope people would correct my mistakes and let me learn.”

Unfortunately, Nwobu didn’t get to participate in the Penn Relays last weekend. At past Penn Relays, she got to meet one of her favorite track athletes, Sanya Richards-Ross. “I took a picture with her my senior year of high school, which was pretty cool,” said Nwobu.

Being a student-athlete has taught her discipline, prioritizing, time management and how to accept responsibilities. “Going out to the real world, I know how to take care of business first,” she said. “Through the years I’ve done this sport, I’ve grown to love it.”

She’s looking forward to the Northeast Conference Championship this weekend. Nwobu has been building race by race this outdoor season. The ECAC Championships begin May 11, and Nwobu also hopes to qualify for the NCAA regionals.

“It’s been good. Every time I race my times improve, which is something every athlete looks forward to,” said Nwobu. “I’m looking forward to a great next race.”

