Senior midfielder Esmie Gonzalez was a worrier who would even go to toilet breaks. Four years later, this senior soccer player has broken the school record for career shots and has consistently helped lead the Redhawks to victory.

Gonzalez has been on a tear since joining Southeast soccer in 2016. Right out of the gate, she became a consistent offensive force for the Redhawks during her freshman season.

Gonzalez’s interest in soccer began when she was just four years old watching her dad play. “I always go to his games,” Gonzalez said. “I knew that I wanted to go play like him.”

Despite hailing as an all-around high school career player, Gonzalez wasn’t sure if she would play soccer in college. “Honestly, I didn’t think I was going to college,” Gonzalez said. “I was training with some rough stuff in high school and didn’t think I was going to make it, but my coaches thought I could be able to play.”

Gonzalez said her high school coaches sent her soccer videos out, and South Hills High School assistant coach Heather Nelson reached out to her and recruited her to play for the Redhawks.

“Thank God I went to school here (at Southeast),” Gonzalez said. “I think it’s being here that made me a better player. The girls are very nice. It’s a family-oriented space, the coaches are amazing. It’s a great fit for me.”

On the field, Gonzalez became an immediate starter at Southeast and led the team in assists (5) while scoring six goals and earning Second-Team All-Ohio Valley Conference honors.

In her sophomore season she scored 15 goals. Heading into her senior year, Gonzalez already has some of the best career numbers in Southeast history. She has broken the school record for career goals with 316 career goals (25). On Sept. 11 this year Gonzalez broke the school record in assists with 104 but has added to her record since then, and is at 106. “When you pass a shot at 40 yards, it’s like a bullet,” Gonzalez said. “It’s always nice to see the ball go in.”

Gonzalez’s leadership role has increased over the years, and she has grown into a different player since freshman year. She said she feels more mature now, and as a senior, she doesn’t have to worry as much and just wanted to relax.

“I could give advice to my younger self,” Gonzalez said. “That’s the best memory I have ever had.”

Gonzalez’s play has naturally made her a leader on the team, and she uses her leadership to help build the younger players on the team.

“By the time I started playing, the girls were very young. It’s a great fit for me.”

“I took the ball down the middle of the field, and I saw [Lexi Grote] wide open in the box. I passed it to her and she took it from there,” Gonzalez said. “That’s the best memory I have ever had.”

Gonzalez said she looks forward to playing in the Ohio Valley Conference and breaking the school record for career goals. She said she feels more mature now, and as a senior, she doesn’t have to worry as much and just wanted to relax.

“I could give advice to my younger self,” Gonzalez said. “That’s the best memory I have ever had.”

Gonzalez’s play has naturally made her a leader on the team, and she uses her leadership to help build the younger players on the team.

“When you pass a shot at 40 yards, it’s like a bullet,” Gonzalez said. “It’s always nice to see the ball go in.”

Gonzalez’s leadership role has increased over the years, and she has grown into a different player since freshman year. She said she feels more mature now, and as a senior, she doesn’t have to worry as much and just wanted to relax.

“I could give advice to my younger self,” Gonzalez said. “That’s the best memory I have ever had.”

Gonzalez’s play has naturally made her a leader on the team, and she uses her leadership to help build the younger players on the team.

“When you pass a shot at 40 yards, it’s like a bullet,” Gonzalez said. “It’s always nice to see the ball go in.”

Gonzalez’s leadership role has increased over the years, and she has grown into a different player since freshman year. She said she feels more mature now, and as a senior, she doesn’t have to worry as much and just wanted to relax.

“I could give advice to my younger self,” Gonzalez said. “That’s the best memory I have ever had.”

Gonzalez’s play has naturally made her a leader on the team, and she uses her leadership to help build the younger players on the team.