



Go After Your Goals

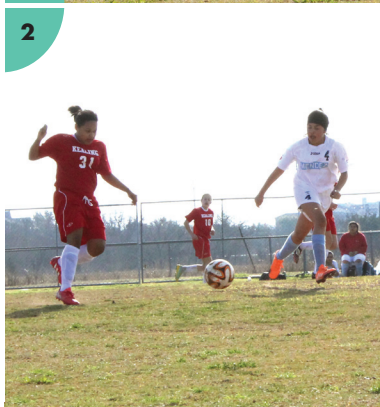
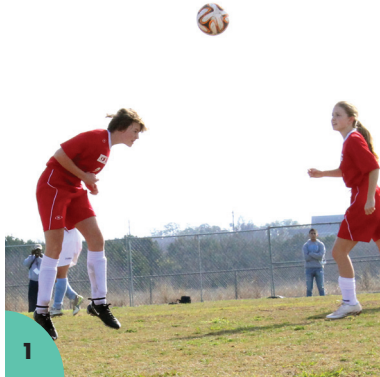


Go for the Gold

1. Tracking the ball, Victoria De La Cruz (8) sticks with it til the very end while the goalie worships her mad skills.
 2. Slip-n-slider Sophia Takvorian (7) shows she isn't afraid to get those goalie socks dirty for the good of the team.
 3. Lined up to protect the goal, Mallory Graham (8), Aleah Haight (8) and Sophia Takvorian (7) know that safety lies in numbers. Sophia said, "It's really nice to know that you can always count on other members of your team"
 Photos by Abby Rindfuss

The Beautiful Game

1. Mid-air, Isabel Cartwright (8) delivers a perfect header while Margaret Savage (8) moves downfield for support in a tough rout against Mendez Middle School.
 2. Racing towards the ball, Valentina Riddick (7) needs her speed to win this ball. Photos by Abby Rindfuss



Alive and Kickin'
 1. Eyes on the prize, Olivia Griesmer (8) twists around to follow the ball. Photo by Fedor Aglyamov
 2. In the heat of the chase, Rachel Winbigler (8) is focused on beating her challenger to the ball. Photo by Abby Rindfuss
 3. Bending to adapt to the play, Kimmy Wilson (8) knows how to follow the rapid pace of this sport. "You're always on the move whether you have the ball or not," Kimmy said. Photo by Fedor Aglyamov

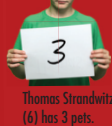
Soc(cer) It to Me
 Ready for anything, Ananya Venkateswaran (7) waits for Megan Ramsey's (8) controlled pass upfield. The ability to anticipate a player's move, is almost as important as having the speed and agility to get there. "I love the adrenaline during soccer games." said Megan.



Treyvon Johnson (6) has 3 siblings.



Thomas Strandwitz (6) has 3 pets.



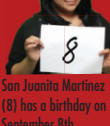
Cristian Castro (8) has a brother who is 1.



Shawn Belcher (8) won a pedal car race when he was 6.



San Juanita Martinez (8) has a birthday on September 8th.



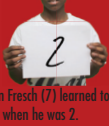
Michael Clark (7) has 1 sister.



Isabella Demoss (7) has known her best friend for 7 years.



Sean Fresh (7) learned to talk when he was 2.



In 7th grade, Zoltan Freedman (7) ate 14 pieces of pizza.



McKenna Everett (8) has 8 pets.



Anna Harrod (6) has 5 people in her family.





Refuse To Lose

It's all about girl power on the soccer field

These girls' goal? To stop yours. With socks up to their knees and feet like cannons, the girl's soccer team is ready to blow the competition away, and they do that by staying adaptable.

There's a reason that ball is spherical. It can roll in any direction and bend any which way. You can take your set plays and throw them out the window. "Soccer's a team sport because you just couldn't do it by yourself! You need people to go score, you need people to protect the ball, and you need people defending," said Mallory Graham (8). These three jobs are pretty much the basis of the entire game. Written out like this, it seems pretty simple. Just score, protect, defend. But once the ball hits the field, no one knows what's going to happen. You just have to go with the flow, as cheesy as that sounds.

It takes a lot to deal with the spontaneity of the sport, but some special soccer player lingo helps a lot. When you're channeling your inner Messi

to drill the ball downfield, it's hard to tell what opponents may be lurking behind your trail. "When someone's coming up and you don't see them because they're behind you, everyone yells "MAN!" or "MAN ON!" because you're about to get tackled." said Marilyn Ruiz, a seventh grade teammate. And while it might look a little weird (you should all be imagining a bunch of teenage girls screaming "MAN!" on the field), it gets the job done.

At the end of the day though, these girls take a break from their constant butt-kicking and just enjoy each other's company. "Being with my friends is really satisfying," said Aleah Haight, another eighth grade teammate, "and we really build off of each other." So, in conclusion, what we've discovered today is that the best part of being on the soccer team is actually being part of the soccer team. They're one team, and they have one dream.

Story by Lucia Melendez



Fake Out

Centering herself, Mia Czarnecki (8) is prepared for anything that the opponent throws her. Whether it be a step-over, a roulette or even an elastico, she's ready. Mia's honed her skills with outside of school practice and more than eight years of training. Photo by Abigail Rindfuss



Fast and Furious

1. Fighting for the ball, Elena Humphreys Lucas (8) looks like she's ready to rumble for this tackle. 2. Mid-sprint, Anna Frey (8) races victoriously away from her opponent with the ball in her possession.

Photos by Fedor Aglyamov 3. As much as these girls wish it, passes aren't always served on a silver platter. Maya Ferede (8) expertly controls a fly away ball against Fulmore. Photo by Abby Rindfuss 4. No one can keep Whitney Waldinger (7) down. With a literal skip in her step, she dances across the field to chase down the ball. Photo by Fedor Aglyamov

<p>Elena Humphreys Lucas (8) moved back to Austin when she was 5.</p>	<p>Luka Sylliaosen (6) has been to Arizona 8 times.</p>	<p>Jason Collins (6) has 9 friends.</p>	<p>Sarah Morgan's favorite number is 7.</p>	<p>James Walker (7) has 5 pets.</p>	<p>Patrick Fox (8) has an IQ of 0.</p>	<p>Harriet Butler (8) went to Harry Potter World when she was 9.</p>	<p>Kaya Fagerstrom (7) has played violin for 8 years.</p>	<p>Caden Cooper (6) has 3 siblings.</p>	<p>Mr. Shaaf has more than 8 Yankee Candles.</p>	<p>Zen Farris (7) has one brother.</p>
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