

深谷市立豊里中学校 3年 松村 (女)

Matsumura (F) 3rd grade

Toyosato Junior High School

Three in One

“Neymar” “Neymar” , the Brazilian fans shouted on top of their voices. The young super player was determined to give his fans his all, his very best. His performance was outstanding and he was scoring the goals for his team. Brazil was winning. They were headed for the finals. They were confident that with Neymar in their team they would retain the world cup. They had put their hope on a good football machine. Unfortunately the accident happened. The game board changed, and the Germans took the cup with them to Europe.

The fans were in shock, they were bitter, angry and confused. How did we lose like this? Where did our team go wrong? How did the Germans play such an organized and super game? The only answer that they could come up with for their many questions was TEAM WORK and ORGANIZATION. They forgot that to win the game having a strong player is a plus. Having Neymar, a strong player in the team, made the rest of the players feel more confident and relaxed. Unfortunately they failed to prepare as a team, on how to win with or without him in the team.

When I was an elementary school student, I had a similar experience. I joined a club that was mostly made up of boys and a few girls. The boys were stronger players and we girls got very limited time in the field. I did not like the feeling of being a weak player. One day, our coach announced to us that other teams had agreed to form an all-girls team. Finally we could compete against other girls' teams. My heart jumped with joy. I wanted to stand up and do my happy dance. Finally I would play and compete with my equals. Girls like me. The girls were friendly and I was able to make friends with them almost immediately. The practice was interesting and fun. They were all better players than I had expected. They were strong players just like the boys.

Watching the girls play like that motivated me a lot. I was not a strong player but with them I felt more confident. With them I felt like our team was invisible and better than any other team. We were all strangers but we needed to learn team work to win the matches. The strong players had to work well with us weaker players. Everyone had to take her part and make sure she delivers if our team was to win. I had the girls call my name many times. They passed the ball to me many times too, we were all very careful to make sure that every open space was covered immediately. I finally had a chance for a try. I was overjoyed. I learned that sometimes playing with strong players installs confidence. But the team work is what wins the games. And the togetherness and friendship is what makes the games interesting.

I'm now a junior high school third grader. And next year I will join a new soccer team in high school. I hope my team will have all three in one. Good team work and organization like the German team and good players like Neymar. I hope we will win many matches both locally and nationally. In the future, I hope you will all be cheering me as you watch me and my team on TV.

Thank You!