

Mia Hamm



Pre-reading

Questions:

- Who is Mia Hamm?
- What do you know about her?

Definitions:

- Ceremony – an act or series of acts carried out in a specific manner
- Bone marrow – a soft substance that fills the hollow center part of bones

Reading

15 Mia Hamm is the most well known women’s soccer player in the world. Over her
30 seventeen year career, she scored a record 158 international goals. Hamm won the U.S. Soccer
46 Female Athlete of the Year Award five **consecutive** years. She helped the U.S. soccer team win
two World Cups.

49 Hamm also helped the U.S. soccer team become Olympic champions! The team won gold
63 in 1996 and 2004. At the 2004 Games, Hamm was chosen to carry the U.S. flag during the closing
82 ceremonies. She was the first soccer player ever given this **honor**.

93 Mia Hamm was born on March 17, 1972, in Selma, Alabama. She was the fourth of six
110 children. Her father was a pilot in the air force. His job took their family all over the world; in
130 fact, Hamm moved more than seven times in her life.

140 Hamm was introduced to soccer by her brother, Garrett. He joined their family through
154 adoption when Mia was eight years old. He was one of Hamm’s heroes. In 1997 he died of a rare
174 bone marrow disease. In 1999 Hamm started the Mia Hamm Foundation. It is a non-profit
189 organization that raises funds and awareness for bone-marrow disease and young women’s
202 athletics.

203 While growing up, Hamm played on boys’ soccer teams. She learned to be an aggressive
218 player. Her love of the game grew and grew. She became the youngest woman to ever play for the
237 U.S. national team. In 1987 she joined the team at the age of 15.

251 Throughout her career, Hamm was very aware of the impact she had on youth. She was
267 (and still is) a **role model** for young athletes all over the world. She has strived to be a better
287 player and a better person both on and off the field. Hamm retired from soccer in December, 2004.

305 Today she continues to encourage youth through her public speaking. She tells kids to,
319 “Try to make the right decisions... learn from your mistakes and celebrate your small successes...”
334 That’s good advice for all of us!

Understanding

1. What does the word **honor** mean in this story? _____

2. How old was Hamm when she retired? _____

3. Why did Hamm create the Mia Hamm Foundation? _____

4. What does the word **consecutive** mean? _____

5. What made the 2004 Olympic Games extra special for Hamm? _____

6. What is a **role model**? _____

7. Why is Hamm such a famous athlete? _____

Writing

Option A: Summarize this story in your own words.

Option B: Write about an athlete you admire.
