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Ms. Manku

English 1

Unit 2: Nonfiction Unit Project

Building My Dreams: The Journey to Becoming a Soccer Player

I knew what I wanted to be when I first kicked a soccer ball. Developing into a great soccer player is like building a house: first, a strong foundation must be laid; then the difficulties that arise can be overcome; and finally, the finishing touches added. Every step has been significant in laying the foundation on which my abilities and love for the game have developed. This journey has taught me that success is built over time with patience, hard work, and a strong foundation.

A sturdy foundation holds up every strong house, and my soccer journey started with mastering the basics. I still remember the nervousness that ran through me when I joined my first youth team at seven years old. The fresh smell of grass and sneakers on the field filled me with excitement. However, I quickly learned that enthusiasm alone wouldn't make me great at soccer. I needed to acquire one skill after another, brick by brick. I spent countless hours in the backyard, practicing dribbling, shooting, and other foot skills. Over time, my foundation strengthened, and I gained confidence, understanding that developing as a player would take consistent effort and time.

As I improved, I faced new challenges, like testing each beam in a house under construction. My first competitive season was especially tough. I played against opponents who

were faster, more mature, and more talented than me, and I often felt defeated. After a particularly rough game, I even considered quitting. However, instead of giving up, I sought help from older players who coached me on improving my speed and agility. Slowly, I noticed myself getting stronger, with each success becoming a “bolt” holding my house together. I realized that growth comes through challenges, and overcoming each obstacle strengthened my resolve.

With a solid foundation and a sturdy frame, it was time to add finishing touches. I joined my high school varsity team and a competitive travel team, each game providing an opportunity to put my skills to the test. I remember one championship game against our biggest rivals, where my team and I were under immense pressure. We were losing, but instead of breaking down, we rallied together, and I scored a crucial goal to tie the game. The crowd's roar felt like a housewarming party, celebrating our teamwork and determination. This experience taught me the importance of teamwork—just like a building needs support beams, a soccer team needs players who trust and rely on one another.

The journey to becoming a soccer player has been long and challenging. From mastering the basics to overcoming setbacks and understanding the value of teamwork, each phase has contributed to building my dream. I am proud of the foundation I’ve laid and the structure I’ve built, knowing that it will support me as I continue to grow and evolve as a player. With the strength and resilience I’ve gained, I am prepared for any challenge that comes my way, confident that I won’t crumble for anything next.