

Text 1 Who is Brandi Chastain?

A Soccer Superstar

The United States and China were tied 4–4 in the final game of the Women’s World Cup soccer match. More than 90,000 fans packed the Rose Bowl in California, where the game was being played. Another forty million people were watching on TV. All eyes were on Brandi Chastain, who was about to take her turn in the penalty kick shoot-out that would decide the winner. The ball flew into the upper right corner of the net. She had scored a goal! The U.S. team won 5–4!

Making that final goal to win the 1999 World Cup may well have been the highlight of Chastain’s career as a soccer player. But it was not her only triumph. She had been a soccer star in high school and college. She played on a winning World Cup team in 1991. At the 1996 Olympic games, when the U.S. women’s team won the gold medal, Chastain played every minute of every game. Soccer was at the center of her life.

Unfortunately, there were no women’s professional teams in the

United States for this talented athlete to join. In 1993, Chastain played for one season on a professional team in Japan. She was voted the team’s most valuable player. But when she returned home, she could not continue playing soccer as a professional.

Then at last, in May 2000, a United States professional league for women was formed. The Women’s United Soccer Association (WUSA) set up eight teams. Women from the 1999 World Cup team were assigned to different teams in the new league.

Brandi Chastain was assigned to play for San Francisco. Would she mind playing against her former teammates? Not likely! As usual, Brandi Chastain welcomed the chance to play against tough opponents—and win.



- 1. When Brandi Chastain made the most famous goal of her career, she was playing against —**
 (A) China. (C) Japan.
 (B) her former teammates. (D) San Francisco.
- 2. What can you tell about the 1999 U.S. World Cup team from this article?**
 (F) Members of the team had been playing together for many years.
 (G) Everyone expected the team to win.
 (H) The players were not professionals.
 (J) It was the first U.S. team to win the Women’s World Cup.