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# THE PAYATAS PAPER

A STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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# I AM A PLAYER OF PAYATAS FC

BY ROSEANN, 18

Here in Payatas there are lots of traditional games. Just about everywhere you'll see kids playing them in the streets. Some of the more popular games for those who are really into sports are basketball and volleyball. We didn't really have a solid idea about football back then.

I still remember the time when I first saw my sister kicking a ball around in our community basketball court. Turns out a group of people came by to teach football. I was surprised with the sight of it, but at the same time curious, so I signed up for the training. The more I played, the more I enjoyed it. I trained and joined tournaments in nearby

cities. After some time I eventually became part of the Payatas Football Club. I realized that there were so many opportunities in football especially for us girls. Most of the women here in Payatas either work at home or marry at an early age. In football, we were given a chance to work towards our dreams, to go outside and show what we have to offer. In the eight years that I've been playing football, I've gotten so many things from it. I was able to go to different cities, represent the Philippines in international tournaments, and meet a ton of friends as well.

In 2018, I was one of the nine players who played for the Philippines in the Street Child World Cup in Moscow, Russia. We went against India, England, and Mauritius. It was challenging, but with our hard work and by God's grace, we were able to reach the semi-finals. We lost to Brazil with the score of 1-0, but we still felt victorious because we made our countrymen proud.

This time around, I want to be an instrument for the younger kids to start building into their future. This is why I decided to be a youth coach for the kids.

My main responsibility now is making sure that I'm a good role model to the kids here in Payatas. More and more kids are showing interest for the game and are starting to attend our trainings. I think the secret is that we treat each other as family. The kids go to us free to just be themselves and that establishes trust from both ends. They then start to bring in more of their friends so it gets really exciting.

When the news broke about a virus spreading, we had to stop our trainings, we got sad for a moment but all of us haven't lost our hope. We know there will come a time that we will all get back on the field. We will get through this together as one family, as one Payatas FC. This won't be the last you'll see of us. We'll be back!



## ARTISTS' CORNER



BY JUSTIN, 10

## WITHIN ARM'S REACH

BY REGINE, 18

My name is Regine, I am one of the players of Payatas FC. I started playing football when I was just 9 years old. Before I knew about football, my life was very different. I used to spend most of my time in the streets. I didn't really have anything to do and nothing to entertain myself with. My life revolved around school, home, and the streets.

When the weekend comes and there are no things left to do for school, I bond with my family, but more often I

hangout with my friends to play. We are fond of going to different areas in our community to look for a place where we can play basketball. Sometimes when we see other kids playing games in the streets, we just join them too. That was pretty much my routine before football came to my life.

When I officially joined Payatas FC, so much has changed in me. I feel happy and free every time I enter the field. With all the tournaments I joined, I was able to collect my own set of football equipment. I first went outside the country at the age of 15. Later on, I played as a national team player in Vietnam and in China, I also made history for Payatas FC as their first ever player to score an international goal.

Football taught me so much, not just on the pitch, but also outside-in real life. Before, I didn't have a proper routine and didn't engage much with other kids. Now, I became more disciplined, followed a routine, and I'm able to connect with people better. One of the things I'm most thankful for is that I also get to support my own education now since I get an allowance.

It's been nine years since I first discovered football and I believe I've come quite far already. To this day, I still strive to improve my skills with every week that goes by. And by playing and giving my best every time, I hope to inspire other kids to pursue and realize their dreams as I did mine.



I STARTED PLAYING FOOTBALL JUST OUT OF CURIOSITY. I ENJOYED IT SO MUCH THAT I EVENTUALLY WENT ON WITH IT. I REALLY LIKE THIS SPORT BECAUSE WHILE I GET FAR ON THE PITCH, I ALSO GET FAR IN LIFE. I'M LEARNING AND ACHIEVING SOMETHING AT THE SAME TIME.

-Arlene, 14

## WORD SEARCH

E	C	X	N	G	X	J	Y	S	A	N	S	R	W	A	E
E	D	O	L	J	U	J	T	N	F	A	H	O	W	G	C
S	C	A	A	L	A	P	O	F	G	I	J	S	L	K	Y
Q	H	P	J	C	N	R	W	J	I	E	P	E	E	E	O
B	C	T	I	A	H	B	B	C	V	L	F	A	R	F	J
X	D	Z	M	C	C	R	Q	J	Z	P	J	N	F	T	N
T	W	M	A	H	C	I	O	A	E	C	U	N	J	M	E
E	I	O	A	T	F	Q	L	Y	Y	N	Q	D	E	N	R
K	C	O	V	H	Y	F	A	E	I	E	I	L	R	M	O
Y	R	I	F	P	L	G	C	G	G	U	A	G	O	O	L
E	F	U	Q	Y	M	Q	B	E	R	N	A	L	E	N	E
E	K	E	A	E	H	T	L	A	I	P	A	K	K	R	C
E	U	I	K	C	U	E	O	E	Z	K	P	U	E	N	M
T	S	S	P	L	U	I	O	G	F	Q	D	L	J	K	L
S	D	T	Y	D	I	X	F	H	I	V	E	R	S	J	P
H	N	J	T	O	L	J	L	N	P	C	D	D	B	X	J

### PAYATAS FC WOMEN'S TEAM

1. ALTHEA
2. ANGELICA JADE
3. BERNALENE
4. COACH RONA
5. COACH ROY
6. KIM
7. LEIAN
8. LOREN JOYCE
9. MELANIE
10. REGINE
11. ROSEANN