

GIRLS LIKE SOCCER TOO!!!



An interview - 3'31 (track 39)

Olivia Kramer is a 13-year-old American girl. She lives in France, and she loves to play soccer.

Olivia, do you play on a girls' team or a boys' team?

Well, both. At school I play on a team where boys and girls are together. But for my club I play on a girls' team.

What's the difference between playing on a mixed team and playing on a girls' team?

There's a big difference. First, on a mixed team with boys and girls, even if the boys are nice, they don't pass the ball to the girls. And when someone makes a good pass, the boys congratulate each other, but not the girls. That's kind of annoying sometimes.

And on a girls' team?

Well everyone is friendly towards each other. Even if some players aren't as good as the others, the coach tries to let everybody play.

Do you feel that girls are less competitive?

No, it's not that. They do want to win as much as the boys. But they won't be as aggressive. And if they don't win, they won't start yelling and screaming the way the boys do.

What's it like being a girl on a boys' team?

Well, right from the beginning you get the feeling that the coach doesn't think you're as good as the boys. And that's not very encouraging. Also, the boys are very insulting. They say things

to kick." When there are lots of boys who aren't very good either. Both of those things are really annoying.

So do you prefer playing on a boys' team or playing on a girls' team? Playing on a girls' team is better than being the only girl on a boys' team. But when a mixed team is about fifty-fifty, boys and girls, then there's usually a good atmosphere.

What do your friends think about you playing football?

Well, the first time I tell them it is always a big shock. It's like, "You play soccer, man that's weird!"

Do you think it's weird for girls to play soccer?

Well it depends where you are. In America and Great Britain, there are lots of girls' teams. It's considered normal for girls to play soccer.

Why do you think that's true?

Well in America, there are professional soccer teams for women. You can even see their matches on television. So that is an example for younger girls to show them that they can play. But in France it is considered something from outer space.

Did you see the film *Bend It Like Beckham*?

Of course!

And what did you think about it?

I loved it because it shows that girls play soccer!

Can you tell us a little bit about the film?

It's the story of an Indian girl who lives in London and plays soccer. But her parents really don't want her to. They think that girls aren't supposed to do sports, especially not soccer.

Do you have any friends whose parents don't want them to play?

Well, my best friend, Melissa, wanted to join my team. But when she asked her father, he said, "Never. That's for boys, not girls, I don't want my daughter to do a boy's sport." That really made me mad.

So do you have any message for girls who are interested in soccer?

Yes: try it, you'll see, it's great!