39. Soccer's Deadly Weapon: Mia Hamm by Cheryl Block

A [1]She's been called "the most dangerous forward on the field." [2]Mia Hamm, high-scoring forward for the U.S. team, has been one of soccer's brightest stars. [3]Her foundation, the Mia Hamm Foundation, is dedicated to funding research for bone marrow diseases and to developing sports programs for young women.

B [4]Mia was born March 17, 1972, in Selma, Alabama. [5]Since her father was a fighter pilot with the Air Force, her family moved often when she was growing up. [6]Her dad coached and refereed soccer games. [7]Mia started her soccer career playing with her two older brothers and three older sisters. [8]With six children in the family, she learned early how to hold her own.

C [9]By the time she reached her teens, Mia was an experienced soccer player. [10]At age 15, she was recruited as the youngest player ever on the U.S. Soccer Federation women's national team.

D [11]Mia attended the University of North Carolina, graduating with a degree in political science. [12]During the five years she attended the University before graduating, she led the school to four NCAA soccer championships. [13]In her third year of college, however, she took a year off from the college soccer season to play in the first FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) Women's World Cup Championships in China in 1991. [14]Mia scored the game-winning goal in their first match, and the U.S. team went on to win the Cup.

E [15]In 1994, Mia was named U.S. Soccer Female Athlete of the Year. [16]As Mia says, though, "My motivation is not awards but just to get better every year."

F [17]Mia won her first gold medal at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996, even though she played with a severely sprained ankle after injuring it in the first match. [18]In the final match against China, more than 75,000 fans packed the stadium to watch the United States win the gold medal. [19]In 1999, the United States women's national team won the Women's World Cup for a second time, hosting the world's best attended women's sporting event with nearly 100,000 spectators. [20]This was a significant change from the 500 or so spectators who had watched the U.S. team play when Mia first joined them as a teenager. [21]Little did those early soccer fans know that they were watching an athlete who would become the U.S. team's all-time leading scorer with 107 goals so far, and one of the soccer world's greatest players.

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DIRECTIONS: Choose or write the best answer to each of the following questions using the evidence presented in the passage. When required, list specific sentence numbers or paragraph letters from the story to support your answer.

1. Based on paragraph B, how did Mia's family help to develop her interest in soccer?

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. Mia won her first Olympic medal
   A. while still in college.
   B. after she graduated from college.
   C. while still in high school.
   D. before she joined the U.S. women's national team.

   List the numbers of the 3 sentences that best support your answer. ____, ____, ____

3. Mia's personal goal for playing soccer is to
   A. win as many awards as possible.
   B. always strive to improve.
   C. play to be recognized.
   D. do only what's necessary.

   Give the number of the sentence that best supports your answer. ____

4. Sentence 17 suggests that Mia is a person who
   A. puts herself first.
   B. is easily discouraged.
   C. craves attention.
   D. does not quit.

5. Why is Mia considered the U.S. team's all-time leading scorer?

_____

_____

Give the number of the sentence that best supports your answer. ____

6. Why was the attendance at the 1999 Women's World Cup significant?

_____

_____

Give the number of the sentence that best supports your answer. ____

7. Based on this passage, you could conclude that Mia
   A. has contributed to the growth of women's soccer.
   B. is best at playing goalie.
   C. is determined to win as many awards as possible.
   D. has a desire to one day coach soccer.

8. Based on paragraph F, you could conclude that interest in women's soccer has
   A. decreased.
   B. stayed the same.
   C. increased.
   D. varied.

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