## 9<sup>th</sup> MY MICHIGAN HERO

My soccer coach is more than just a coach. He's a happy person who helps make my life simpler and more efficient. My coaches' name is George Moni. He is an amazing person with tremendous knowledge for the game and for helping us as players become better people. He knows how important our growth as young athletes is but, even more, he knows how important we are as people. He has taught me how to remain calm in tight situations on the field and in real life. He gives me the mental strength to get through those struggles. George Moni is my hero because he makes the game of soccer and my life more simple.

My coach has been in pro soccer and has been involved in Europe where things aren't handed to you. When he was a young man, he had to work for recognition by his coaches and his teammates. He has told us that if you want to continue to play this beautiful game, then you are going to have to put in more work than your other teammates who are competing for the starting spot on the team.

When my team lost a game that we were dominating, my coach told us that in America we focus on the result of the game, when we should be focusing on the quality of us as players and as a team. We should focus more on whether we were better than the last time we stepped onto the field. We can also use this advice for our daily lives by treating others the right way and not worrying about what other people think about us. I think this is how we should think and not overthink what we are called to do by God. My coach is my hero because he is one of the reasons for who I am today.

A hero is someone who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities. I would say George Moni fits those qualities because of the work he has put in when he was in Europe playing soccer and when he was in Michigan teaching it. He told us that he has been coaching many generations of soccer, and he notices when a soccer player has a strong mentality and a willingness to learn and become a better soccer player. He coaches us and tells us to "play simple," meaning don't overthink the situation,

play the way you face, and have trust in your teammates. I like this advice because it teaches me not to overthink life and the struggles it provides, but to do things the right way. If that's treating people with respect or giving someone a compliment; it all has a good effect. As a player on his team, I have realized how much I have learned from him on the field and in my life. This is why George Moni is my hero.

