

Usain uses blazing running skills to score 2 goals in pro soccer debut

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 10.19.18

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Image 1. Usain Bolt (right) of the Mariners controls the ball during a preseason match between the Central Coast Mariners and Macarthur South West United at Campbelltown Sports Stadium on October 12, 2018, in Sydney, Australia. Photo by: Matt King/Getty Images

Usain Bolt was a famous runner. He is from Jamaica. It is a country in the Caribbean. It is between North America and South America.

Mr. Bolt now wants to play soccer.

Mr. Bolt played in a game October 12. He played with the Central Coast Mariners. The team plays in Australia. Mr. Bolt started as a forward. Forwards score most of the goals. He scored two goals.

"It was brilliant," Mr. Bolt said after the game. "It took a lot of weight off my shoulders. (It took) that first goal to relax you because I missed an earlier chance. It was a great feeling I was happy about it."

Mr. Bolt is the fastest runner in the world. He ran in the Olympics. He won nine gold medals. Mr. Bolt has practiced with three other soccer teams.

One-time Great Runner Turns To Soccer

Mr. Bolt talked to fans in a video in May. He said he liked soccer. He wanted to be on a team. He stopped running races in 2017.

Mr. Bolt said that the teams and coaches have seen how he plays. He hopes one will pick him for their team.



Mr. Bolt's jersey number was 95. His number is short for his running record. He ran 100 meters in 9.58 seconds.

His game did not start so lucky.

He had a hard time running in the right places. A shorter player jumped better than him. Mr. Bolt got kicked too.

Later, Mr. Bolt headed the ball. A header is when a player hits the ball with his head. He almost scored.

"Keep Trying"

The coach talked to him before the game. He said, "You will get chances. Don't get frustrated if you miss, it's a part of the game." Mr. Bolt had to keep trying. "I need more games to get better and to know where to be."

Later in the game, he got a ball. He scored!

Then, he scored again. Players on the other team knocked one another over.

It is a good start for Mr. Bolt. He is tall and fast. No one knows when Mr. Bolt will play next.

Quiz

- 1 What is the section "One-time Great Runner Turns To Soccer" MAINLY about?
- (A) why Mr. Bolt decided to stop running races
 - (B) why Mr. Bolt decided to hit a header in the game
 - (C) what Mr. Bolt did and wore in his first soccer game
 - (D) how Mr. Bolt likes to talk to his fans in videos
- 2 What is the article MAINLY about?
- (A) the nice things a coach said to his soccer player
 - (B) the Olympic gold medals won by Mr. Bolt
 - (C) a soccer team called the Central Cost Mariners
 - (D) a famous runner who now plays soccer
- 3 Which answer choice is a section title?
- (A) "Usain uses blazing running skills to score 2 goals in pro soccer debut"
 - (B) "Usain Bolt was a famous runner"
 - (C) "Keep Trying"
 - (D) "You will get chances"
- 4 Choose the selection from the last section of the article that shows how Mr. Bolt's coach helped him.
- (A) He said, "You will get chances. Don't get frustrated if you miss, it's a part of the game."
 - (B) Later in the game, he got a ball. He scored!
 - (C) Then, he scored again. Players on the other team knocked one another over.
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Answer Key

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