

















CONTENTS

THE GOLDEN BOOT	7
THE GENES FIT	23
IN-THE-NET STARS	37
HOW FAR CAN THIS KID GO?	49
WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF FOOTBALL	59
GUTEN TAG	77
NO PAIN. NO GAIN	89
THE GLOBETROTTER	107
KNEES, FEET. ANKLES & THE WORLD	117
RIO CALLS	135
GOAL. GOAL. GOOOAAAL!	147
BOLTING INTO THE RECORD BOOKS	161
THANK YOU FOR BEING YOU	175
AMAZING FACT FILE	189
SAM'S TIMELINE	191
GLOSSARY OF PEOPLE	195
GLOSSARY	207









So, do you want to know what it feels like to be one of the world's best soccer players? Well, imagine this...

It's Sunday 8 May 2022, and you're a long way from home. Yet, you are home. Or sort of. Such is the life of being a professional athlete that you have had many homes away from home – Sydney, New York, New Jersey, Chicago, and now Chelsea,



or more precisely the Kingsmeadow Stadium in Norbiton, which is in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, London, England. That's a long way from Fremantle, Western Australia, where you first kicked a ball. So much has happened since your childhood.

Now, you're all grown up and fans are yelling your name!

Come on Sam! Come on the Blues!

They seem so close to you – it's as though you're in a gigantic shoebox whose four walls of crowded faces is closing on you. Of course, this is not true because you, your teammates, and the opposition have the floor all to yourselves. It's a grass floor, mown in meticulous strips of lush green grass, that soaks up the sunlight on a boisterous spring afternoon.

Come on the Blues!

It's Round 22, the final game of the Women's Super League (WSL) Season.



