



*Helena, the shirt nine.*

Helena was a very funny girl, she could not bear the idea of staying at home. She liked the street, the games and she did not want the dolls. She was not like the girls her age. While her friends organized an afternoon tea to play with their dolls, Helena was playing in the street with the boys. It was all day like that, hide and seek, police and thief, but what could not miss was the afternoon of football. It was incredible the way she had to play, she was the typical attacker that everyone wanted to have on the team. Over the years Santista, his nickname from an early age, was creating responsibilities and football was no longer his first plan. His father, Aldair, did not want Helena to see football as a professional career, he did not see the ability his daughter had and always said, "You can not become a player, you have to be born with that ability." This was a phrase that annoyed her a lot, so over time the girl who had the dream of being a soccer player "left" the soccer and began to work in studies, that was what her father thought. Aldair did not know was that every day, after class, Helena went to the football field to play ball with her friends and told her father that she would

stay in school for the extra lessons. Many times Joao Pedro, an old neighborhood resident and very experienced in football, was present in the simple games in the field, but he also observed that Helena, Marcos and Antônio could have a great chance to act as professional soccer players. As João had a great experience in soccer he assists the training in the fields and was very demanding, he wanted perfection when playing with and without the ball. It was for this requirement that after three months of much training the Arsenal FC team won for the first time the regional mixed championship. Helena was very happy and surprised, taking the medal home her father was annoyed to know that the girl had participated in the championship and would not be going to extra classes as she had said, but the excuse of Santista convinced his father. She said that the games were held on Saturday mornings and so her father did not see her leaving, since he worked every Saturday morning, and he had not missed the extra classes. His mother, Claudia, always supported her and saw no problems in playing football. It was she

who often concealed Helena in training during the week so that her husband would not find out. Soon after the championship the girl became even better known and everyone in the region commented on how good she was playing, besides the amount of goals she scored. Helena took on even more of a taste for the sport, and the idea of following it as a professional career had not yet come out of her mind, she just had to think of a way to convince her stubborn father. One day during a training session at CDC Taipas, the beloved João came across a very unexpected visit. The renowned Andressa Alves, a player of the Brazilian team, was in the archery watching the training. When she finished, Andressa addressed John and greeted her, during a very friendly conversation between the two Andressa asked: "Who is this girl? She plays a lot." And João Pedro explained that she is a girl from the neighborhood taipas who always played with the boys and was one of the main pieces to win the regional mixed championship. Out of curiosity Andressa Alves was also a resident of Taipas and it was there where the roots of her passion for

football were. When Helena left the locker room and saw that Andressa was there she was impressed and very happy, but the surprise came when the player of the Brazilian team asked for the number phone of Helena and said that she would try to indicate her for the training in the team of São Paulo FC. When she went home, Santista barely believed in what had happened and was very anxious to get a return from Andressa. The week was ticking by and no phone call had arrived. Helena was already losing her hopes and decided to forget everything that had happened and to continue with her life, until on Friday Andressa Alves calls Helena's cell phone and says "I got a training session in São Paulo for Thursday of the next week , get ready". Helena's emotion was so big, she could not contain it, but she had to stay normal so that she continued to train hard and strong. João Pedro that week got even stronger in training, until the big day arrived. That Thursday Helena left school and went straight to the Sao Paulo field, she was very anxious. She tried to stay calm and give her best on the pitch, but was not



very confident, since the girls from São Paulo played a lot. During the training a surprise for the technician. 1,2,3 goals !!! It was the attacker they were looking for. At the end of the game Leandro Diniz, coach of the team, gave the news that Helena would be the new player of the team and congratulated her. She could not believe it, she was very happy. When she got home Helena told her parents the news. His father Aldair disliked the idea, but after a long conversation he accepted the idea and said "I'm sorry, daughter, I just did not want to see you hurt, because football is a very uncertain career, but I have to admit that you were born with this gift and today has achieved a wonderful achievement. Go ahead". There was nothing better for Santista to hear those words coming from her father's mouth. Soon after the girl called Andressa Alves and said: "I got the vacancy on the team, I do not know how to thank you so much." And this was a previous history of the 9 shirt of the current player of the Brazilian national team, one of the biggest goalscorers Brazil has ever had. Never stop dreaming and, most important, trust yourself!