

# Joseph's Soccer Story\*

Mark Isiofia and John Hurst

Hi! My name is Joseph, but everyone calls me Joe. When I was younger, I played soccer, and I was the best around. I loved to play, and I never wanted to stop. But one day something terrible happened.

I was running down the field during a game when I tripped and broke my leg. I went to the hospital, and the doctors told me I would never play soccer again. It broke my heart.

With the cast on my leg, I couldn't run or even go outside. All I could do was sit on the couch and eat all day.

But one day when I was fourteen, I was eating a pizza and watching a soccer game on TV. It made me feel sad because even though my leg was better, I had gotten too fat to play.

\* Rwandan "football" is called "soccer" in the U.S.

That was the day I decided that I was not going to be fat anymore.

I started running every day. At first, I could not run very fast but as time passed, I got faster. After a few months, I joined a soccer team again. At the championship game, a scout saw me and asked me to go professional. Now I am a star player for the New York Red Bulls soccer team!



Mark Isiofia is in 8th grade student at Rise Academy. He enjoys playing soccer.



John Hurst is a freshman at Indiana University. He loves to travel and has lived in India.