

Passionate footballer, Nathania



Nathania John K, our 12-year-old daughter is pursuing her football dream by joining the Padukone Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence from 15th June 2019. This Academy, the first of its kind in India with 7 sports facilities under one roof, has a scientific and holistic approach to each game. She had her trials with the U13 boys and the Greek coach, Petros was impressed. She will be moving to Bangalore in June.

Nathania has been an active child since a young age and loves sports. Her passion for football started at the age of 8, although she used to play with the ball in our lawns since the age of 3. Her passion drives her to watch the European league matches late in the night by setting an alarm to wake up at 12.30 am. She is constantly updated on the world football news which involves transfer news and the like. She can rattle off details about a minimum of 300 football players with their profiles. Lionel Messi is her favourite player and her favourite team is Barcelona. She has read Messi's biography and has 20 scrap books with pictures & article on Messi. She is so passionate that she did a school assembly on 'football' which traced the history of football and texture of balls that evolved over time in different countries.

We, as parents, took her football passion seriously after she was selected as the first ever Official Match Ball Carrier (OMBC) from India for the FIFA World Cup. She was selected by Sunil Chhetri, the then Indian football captain from over 1600 kids. A skill video and practical testing at the FCB Escola Ground, Delhi were part of the process. Nathania, the only girl in the shortlisted list was top of the list. She was the OMBC for Brazil Vs Costa Rica match at St Petersburg on 22nd June 2018.



Nathania's dream is to play for the Barcelona women's team. If she needs to make a career in the field of football, this is the right age to be trained in a scientific manner. We think that the CSE Academy is the right place to nurture her dream with all facilities like a gym, sports lab, sports psychologist, sports nutritionist, etc. She can also play other support and recovery sports like swimming, basketball and badminton. She will get opportunities to play matches every week which will be awesome to improve her talent. We believe that following her passion will provide her enough opportunities to grow and evolve as a person, with necessary life skills to lead her life.



Nathania will be self-studying through online tutorials to compensate her learning which would have otherwise happened in a school. She will be registering for the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) once she turns 14.

We would like to solicit your support in raising funds for pursuing her football career – the academy, kit and travel while she goes through this process. If you know of friends or organizations that would like to pitch in, please direct them to <https://nathaniajohn.com/donate/> (more information on her, on her blog). At the moment, we need about Rs. 7 lakhs annually to support her sports career.

Warm regards,

Annie & Mathew

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