

Mt. Bethel alumna and soccer standout Talia Staude (8th grade class of 2015) has been named a member of a 21-person roster that will represent the United States at the Under-17 World Cup in Uruguay this month. This a tremendous honor for Talia and her family, and we are exceptionally proud that her path to the World Cup included MBCA.

Laura Quiza, who coached Talia in both soccer and basketball is not surprised by Talia's achievements. "She was just one of those athletes that excelled in anything she did," she said. Coach Quiza also said Talia holds the distinction of being the only fourth grade student who was asked to play up on a middle school soccer team. "It was around spring break and we were going to be missing a few players so we had permission to bring her on," she said.

Next fall, Talia will head to Charlottesville, where she is committed to playing soccer at the University of Virginia. She graciously took time away from her busy practice schedule to answer a few questions for us.

1) How has a faith-based education prepared you for this level of play?

I know that God has a plan for each of us and one of my favorite verses is Jeremiah 29:11. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." In a process that can be extremely stressful I have learned to live in the moment and trust HIS plan. In doing this, it allows me to concentrate on my team, my coaches and what is happening on the field and I think that makes me a better player overall.

2) What are you most excited about as you prepare to represent the United States in front of a global audience?

I am most excited to finally show the world how hard our team has worked to prepare to play at the World Cup. We all feel very honored to wear the U.S. crest on a team where the TEAM is the superstar. We fight for each other for 90+ minutes, and I think that will show in how we perform.

3) What is a favorite MBCA memory of yours?

I have so many, MBCA was an amazing part of my life. Of course, all the NAML championships, my teammates and coaches, the bus rides, it is very difficult to pick one. The pep rallies were always a good time; you never knew what Coach Hall or Mr. Barber would do.

4) How did you decide on the University of Virginia?

For me it was the whole environment but the coaching staff was a huge factor. Their passion and commitment to the game and to their players is second to none. I wanted to play in the best atmosphere and have the opportunity to train at a different level every day. My teammates made me feel like I was part of their family immediately, and I am looking forward to competing for ACC and national titles with them. The athletic and academic culture at UVA is contagious and I can't wait to be a part of that! Go Hoos!

The USA kicks off a challenging Group C on Wednesday, November 14, against Cameroon (1 p.m. ET), faces Korea DPR on Saturday, November 17 (1 p.m. ET), and wraps up the group stage against Germany on Wednesday, November 21 (4 p.m. ET). All of the USA's matches will be broadcast on Fox Sports 2.

Please keep Talia and her teammates in your prayers as they travel and compete. We are proud of you, Talia!



To read more about the U17 roster, click [here](#).