

The 90th Minute

**A documentary film by
Jun Stinson**

TRT:01:23:35

UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism

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Project: The 90th Minute

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Jun Stinson

PART I: FC GOLD PRIDE IS THE TOP TEAM IN THE WORLD

01:00:00

Black screen

01:00:03

FC GOLD PRIDE PRACTICE @ CAL STATE EAST BAY

Players scrimmaging on field

Player 1

Ali, come back in!

Player 2

Right, right, right. Again.

Players scrimmaging on field

SOUND: Practice

Ali

It's just such an amazing experience to be able to play soccer for your job.

Kim

Being able to spend time with my teammates and get to know these people that are so good at their craft. That's something that's really precious to me.

ROSIE

Stepping out on that field and... and playing that sport that you love is ... it's just... you know a great feeling and something that I will cherish forever and not want to let go of.

MS of player pans out to WS IF field

MUSIC: Latin music

SOUND: Game announcers

01:00:40

INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

WPS league highlights

Narrator

Ali, Kim and Rosie play on FC Gold Pride in the Women's Professional Soccer League, the top women's soccer league in the world.

01:01:06

<TITLE> THE 90TH MINUTE

<DIRECTOR'S CARD> A film by Jun Stinson

01:01:14

ESTABLISH THE PLAYERS

Black screen and then Bay Bridge at dawn

SOUND: Wind. Players voices during scrimmage

Kim, Rosie and Ali at practice

ARCHIVAL ROSTER: Photo and description of players

SOUND: Practice

ALI

I had a kind of confidence going into it. And then once we started playing, I just... I definitely wasn't at the same level as a lot of the players but they just helped me and supported me and... and basically forced me to improve and it exceeded expectations and was above and went above and beyond anything I could have imagined going from college to basically one of the highest levels in the world for professional soccer.

ARCHIVAL ROSTER: Roster of Ali. Highlighted parts: New Zealand National Team, 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, Player of the Year.

Kim sitting on grass looking at tickets.

KIM

The feeling of a new league coming back was really exciting. I just felt like this time it was something that I wasn't gonna take for granted and I wanted to make sure that I at least gave it my best shot

ROSIE

Each WPS team is... rosters 18 players and then you have 4 developmental players... so it was definitely hard having that status because you know practicing everyday and you know working hard come game time when everyone's healthy and there you can't play, you're not rostered. But it's made me stronger and ready for anything that comes my way.

ARCHIVAL ROSTER: Roster of Rosie. Highlighted parts: Pac 10 First Team selection, Pac 10 Freshman Player...

Verite of Gold Pride players shooting at goal and chatting.

01:02:44

ESTABLISH THE WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

Players doing penalty kicks on goal, laughing

MUSIC: Latin guitar

SOUND: Players chatting, laughing

Animated Map

NARRATOR:

The Women's Professional Soccer League was launched in 2009 with 7 teams including the Bay Area's Gold Pride and others in the Bay Area, LA, St. Louis, Chicago, Washington DC, New Jersey and Boston. By the end of the first season, the league was growing with new teams in Atlanta and Philadelphia.

MUSIC: Transition

Roster shot of Marta Vieira Da Silva and Christine Sinclair. Then pan out to entire team.

ALI

Having Marta the best player in the world and Christine Sinclair, definitely another top striker. And you know a bunch of US players. I think there was this kind of Dream Team idea and hope for us.

MUSIC: Transition

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE: Marta highlights

NARRATOR

Gold Pride is home to Marta Vieira Da Silva, considered the best female soccer player in the world.

Ali

Getting to know Marta was one of the greatest things, just such an amazing player and such a great teammate.

Marta practicing penalty kicks during FC Gold Pride practicing

NARRATOR

Marta came with a half a million-dollar price tag. Even though the average salary in the league is 30,000 dollars and developmental players like Rosie earn as low as 6,000 dollars.

01:03:52

PLAYERS HAVE TO ADVERTISE THE TEAM

Players are huddled around FC Gold Pride staff listening to directions, CU of players faces

GOLD PRIDE STAFF

So after the game ends I'm going to need you to sign the WPS championship game balls that are used in the game and the, all your jerseys.

Players getting interviewed by reporters.

ALI

For women, we have to promote ourselves and promote the team and try to get people to come out. We do... we don't have a great fan base and the league is new and we moved venues and there was a huge huge kind of necessity for us to... get fans.

Players signing jerseys and balls.

Ali

Definitely there is a lot of girls doing extra you know blogs and videos and really trying to get our name out there.

ARCHIVAL PHOTOS: FC Gold Pride players meeting girls in the community

ROSIE

We would drive all over the place just you know, to have that one on one with the kids with the parents with different club teams, you know, just trying to get them at our games to support us in any way.

NARRATOR

Soccer is growing quickly in the United States. Over three million youth play the sport and over 48 percent of them are girls.

01:04:55

PREPARING FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP

Players training

SOUND: Players chatting, training, breathing, laughing

ALI

We basically were on such a high from how well we had been doing and just winning so many consecutive games and... and trying to break some of the LA Sol's records from the previous year. I think we just... basically we just won the regular season with a few games left, that was a huge high point. And then, we were just getting ready for the championship.

Players running and clapping on field

SOUND: Clapping

FC Gold Pride office

ILISA – GENERAL MANAGER

For these young girls who get to see these players. And look up to them and want to become them. Even though we know they won't necessarily become women professional athletes. But they can become something like that. I think is very powerful and very important for us to have so...

Photo of Ilisa's daughter. Pan right – photos of Ilisa's family, player cards, photos of Ilisa's daughter

ILISA

My daughter, I think she just has these opportunities that she didn't have before in her imagination. Her imagination originally was just around this whole idea of being a princess and being Cinderella and now she can be this professional soccer athlete. I think that's really beautiful. I think it's something that we need in society.

01:06:02

2010 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Fans at the game, FC Gold Pride players walks through frame. Philadelphia Independence players walks through frame.

SOUND: Announcer and fans chanting

MUSIC: Techno

ANNOUNCER: And your 2010 Regular Season Champions FC Gold Pride!

SOUND: Cheers, clapping

FC Gold Pride walks onto field

ANNOUNCER: And Defender from Pacific Palisades, number 3, Ali Riley.

Fans hold up photo of Ali, Ali runs on field, fans cheer, crowd WS, Marta scores and runs toward fans.

SOUND: Cheers

ANNOUNCER: Marta! Goal. FC Gold Pride!

SOUND: Cheers

Shots of fans, players run across field, Gold Pride Scoreboard read 4-0, fans post game hugging, shaking hands, getting interviewed, trophy ceremony.

KIM

It was clearly an amazing experience winning 4-0 in the championship.

Kim and other players celebrating.

SOUND: Cheers

ALI

It was amazing winning the championship. It was such a great great feeling and just really well deserved I think. So the season was pretty much just going up and up the whole time.

PART II: FEMALE SOCCER PLAYERS HAVE WORKED HARD BUT HAVEN'T MADE IT YET.

01:08:01

HOW ROSIE STARTED PLAYING SOCCER

ARCHIVAL PHOTO: Rosie as a baby with her sister and dad.

ROSIE:

Every morning I would wake up and since I was little, watch soccer with my dad on the weekends at 6 o'clock in the morning.

ARCHIVAL PHOTOS: Rosie as a girl, Rosie's childhood team, Rosie holding a trophy with sister, Rosie heading the ball as a teenager.

ARCHIVAL NEWSPAPER: Headline: Tantillo: Coach calls her one of the best in the US - The Daily Trojan

ARCHIVAL VIEWBOOK: Rosie on the cover of a USC Soccer Viewbook

And he always told me, he was like, "Oh you know... you can be like them one day if you work hard... and you know.... keep watching soccer, keep playing, keep dedicating yourself." So every morning on the weekend I would get up, watch soccer and pay attention to like the positions I played. And I... I stuck to one player and watched them play and see what type of things they'd do off the ball, with the ball.

SOUND: Ball being kicked

Verite of Ilisa doing drills in a park with three other players.

SOUND: In the distance we hear one player say Nutmeg's turn. Then we hear Rosie breathing.

ROSIE:

Ready. Go.

Players spring across the park.

ROSIE:

Once high school hit I had to decide what sport... stick with a sport it's... it'll pay off in the long run. So I was like you know it's soccer. I've been playing my whole life. And I love it. And I knew that high school was very important as far as like wanting to get a scholarship to college and play at the highest level at that time. Whenever weekends came and my club team didn't have a tournament or games I would always guest play with other teams in San Diego and LA. If I didn't want to proceed in soccer and excel in it I don't think I would have put that much time... extra time in it.

Rosie and the two other players hop a fence and leave the park.

SOUND: Shaking fence, players jumping to the ground.

01:09:37

1999 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP/TITLE IX COMES TO FRUITION

MUSIC: Guitar underscore

ARCHIVAL PHOTO: Ali playing soccer as a girl with yellow ribbons in hair, Ali running after a ball a few years later.

ALI:

1999, I guess I was 11 or 12. I must have been 11 and we actually, my parents and I went to the final. And it was so, it was just so inspirational and that was just the highest level of women's soccer I had ever seen. And just how athletic the women were and how much fun they had and playing on the international stage with you know, the Rose Bowl with all the girls, all the families just in red white and blue. And um... tattoos on their faces and just totally decked out in USA gear.

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE: David Letterman – The Tonight Show

Our first guest scored the final two penalty shots which led the US Women's Soccer Team to victory in the 1999 World Cup Tournament. Ladies and Gentlemen please welcome two of your US Women's World Cup Champions Brandi Chastain and Mia Hamm.

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE: Katie Couric – Good Morning America

Without a doubt this is the lasting image of the World Cup. Brandi Chastain on her knees after kicking the game-winning goal.

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE: KABC NEWS

Mia Hamm: You know young boys being in the crowd just as much as young boys I think says a lot about where this game is going.

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE: DATELINE

Reporter: There are moments and you don't get them very often which are rightly called transcendent. Even rarer to see them coming like we did this one. So that in the days leading up to this a veteran sports reporter can look at you and say.

Christine Brennan: We haven't even begun to see what this is gonna mean.

Reporter: Christine Brennan of USA Today.

Christine Brennan: This is a much bigger issue than just sports.

ARCHIVAL MAGAZINE COVER: Sports Illustrated

ARCHIVAL MAGAZINE COVER: Newsweek

ARCHIVAL MAGAZINE COVER: Time

ARCHIVAL MAGAZINE COVER: Sports Illustrated

ARCHIVAL NEWSPAPER COVER: The Orange Country Register

ARCHIVAL NEWSPAPER: The Colorado Gazette

ARCHIVAL NEWSPAPER: The LA Times

NARRATOR

The media coverage during the 1999 world cup showed how Title 9 had finally paid off. The 1972 Federal legislation required gender equality in schools across the country and forever changed girl's access to sports.

ARCHIVAL PHOTOS: Kim as a girl with her family, Kim as a girl with soccer team and mom, Kim as a girl playing soccer, CU of Kim's face as a girl, Kim playing soccer in college

KIM YOKERS:

My mom coached me from the time I was little as I said 'till the time I went to college. And a lot of the reason that she was so passionate about coaching and being involved with soccer was she played on her own women's team that was pretty good... When she was young, they didn't really have sports for women in the same way that they do now.

01:11:41:00

THE FIRST LEAGUE IN THE WORLD BEGINS AND THEN QUICKLY FALLS

MUSIC: Techno underscore

NARRATOR

The energy coming out of the Women's World Cup led to the first fully professional women's league in the world called the Women's United Soccer Association. It was another landmark in the history of women's sports. But despite high hopes interest dwindled and the league went under after three years.

01:11:59

KIM'S LOST OPPORTUNITY

MUSIC: Techno underscore

KIM

The year I graduated from school, that league folded. It was no longer viable.

ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE: Kim playing soccer at UC Berkeley

SOUND: Echoing crowd and ball kicks

I was talking to my coach and you know, I think I would have been a pretty high draft pick and I could have played for one of those teams and I was excited about that possibility. And then just nothing came of it. So it was a really strange feeling to have put so much into my playing. And so much heart into, you know, building toward this dream and then when I graduated it just wasn't even possible.

ARCHIVAL NEWSPAPER: Article and photo of Kim in *The Daily Californian*.

01:12:35

FC GOLD PRIDE FOLDS

Ali playing soccer with Stanford men's team. Then Ali typing on her computer in a kitchen.

SOUND: Ball is kicked. Distant voices from scrimmage.

ALI

I got back to Palo Alto about a month after the championship and then actually on Halloween I basically was getting some weird phone calls and texts and I wasn't really paying attention until finally my dad had called me so many times and I picked up the phone and he just said he found this article on the Internet.

KIM:

My teammate had heard on Big Soccer dot Com or some... a couple of these Websites that there were these articles that are team's folding.

ROSIE:

So I was like, oh FC Gold Pride... that's my team?

KIM:

Just feeling a little bit like, okay, we're not valued very much if we don't even have this information. And this is... this is our livelihood right now.

Ilisa in office being interviewed by a KRON's Vernon Glenn

REPORTER

And you can just look at me... Is this kinda like batter on the 9th, two outs, two strikes on the batter kind of a situation?

ILISA:

Yes, but it's soccer (laughs awkwardly.) It's women's pro soccer. Yeah. This is it. We're a team that's ready to fold. We're looking for an investor. It's last minute and uh nothing's come through yet. So the team's definitely in peril.

Marta bobble head, Gold Pride sign on door that says "Let's get it done!"

ILISA

We've had a lot of attention about the plight we're in and word's been getting out but we haven't had anybody come forward and say that they would be interested in being a minority owner or an owner of the team. So without that, it's... it's not going to be around.

KIM

The part that was, that was really, has been frustrating for me playing pro soccer. Is that always kind of feeling like a lack of control, or lack of like access to information and that sort of thing.

CU of framed newspaper article: Golden opportunity in women's league demands frugality, WS of framed newspaper article in hallway, balls on shelf

KIM

So I'm on the phone calling teammates and seeing what they think and what they've heard and they're asking me. And we're all a little bit just at the mercy of whatever's happening with this league structure that's trying to form.

Gold Pride roster with photos of Kim, Ali and Rosie.

Shots of empty stadium and office

SOUND: Wind

ILISA'S VOICE-MAIL

Hello, this is Ilisa Kessler, General Manager from FC Gold Pride. I would like to thank you, our fans who supported us through the past two years. And helped us win the 2010 WPS championship. It is with deep sadness that FC Gold Pride shuts its doors in the Bay Area. The community has been wonderful to us. If you are a season seat holder, in the near future, we will issue refunds on any payments or deposits made toward your 2011 season seats. So if you have any questions please leave a message here or e-mail us at info at FC Gold Pride dot

com. Thank you so much for your support and keep supporting WPS and women's sports. Take care.

Ilisa working in the office alone, shot of white board of things to shut down

NARRATOR

The Washington DC Team that was also about to withdraw was saved by a wealthy backer in the 90th minute.

PART III: MAKING SENSE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE TEAM AND FIGURING OUT WHAT'S NEXT

01:16:02

WPS MEDIA CONFERENCE CALL

White board listing "Things to Shut Down"

WPS COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR (AUDIO)

Hello media, thank you for joining us today for this WPS 2011 season update conference call. So we're set to begin. Um, in light of yesterday's news about six teams confirming for the WPS season and another looking to shore up funding over the next month.

SOUND: Light sound from kitchen

Kim cooking in kitchen

VOICE 1 - (AUDIO)

You know, these players in my opinion. They deserve so much more than they get, that's no doubt. They work as hard as an NFL player.

VOICE 2 - (AUDIO)

Um, I think we all know that if the NBA wasn't around the WNBA would have folded a long time ago. Is there any kind of help coming from Major League Soccer or the US Soccer Federation as far as support monetarily?

VOICE 3 - (AUDIO)

Well we work obviously very closely with the US Soccer Federation and have open dialogue at the team level with their local MLS markets. But there is no financial support that we're receiving from either of those sources.

Kim playing soccer with a men's team

SOUND: Rain falling on grass

NARRATOR

Less than one month after Gold Pride folded, the Chicago team announced that they would suspend operations. Officially leaving six teams left in the league.

WS of Kim zooms into a MS of her

KIM

I guess a little bit of the feeling is just that if one more team folds, this league is definitely not gonna happen.

Kim running on the field

KIM

After playing two years in the league, I feel like that experience should be more valuable. But it's not. That's just the way it is right now. It's valuable. But there's only six teams. So for me personally it's a little bit frustrating because I feel like I deserve to be in the league but I'm not being offered a whole lot.

01:17:40

YOUTH SOCCER IS BIG IN THE US

Rosie coaching girls soccer practice

ROSIE

Right foot cruyff. Then the next time is left foot cruyff. Right? So it looks like this. Inside outside, inside outside... just keep the ball going diagonal. Not straight, going diagonal, get to the cone. Cruyff behind the leg and then you're doing the same thing coming back. Inside outside, inside outside... Good more diagonal. Good Sid. Do the cruyff before the cone so you don't run into each other.... Good... good Angelie... again...

ROSIE

Soccer is so big right now, as far as youth soccer. There are so many kids involved in this sport. But once it comes like supporting a team? There are... fans are just not willing to come support us.

Rosie coaching girls, girls running after ball, CU of Rosie's face

ROSIE

You hear so many parents say "Oh look the... FC Gold Pride. My daughter wants to be there and she loves you guys and one day she wants to be a professional soccer player. Well if you don't support us then she's not going to have that dream..."

Dusk at girls' soccer practice

SOUND: Girls at soccer practice

ROSIE

Everybody's out. Dribble the balls back and grab some water. All the balls there. All the balls down there.

01:18:57

ALI HAS OPTIONS

CU of Ali's face

ANNOUNCER:

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. The National Collegiate Athletic Association and Stanford University welcome you to Laird King Cagen Stadium.

SOUND: Game sounds.

Ali's twittering at the game, and then later talking to her friends on the sideline.

FRIEND 1:

Where are you going? Do you know?

ALI:

I don't know yet. I need to talk to Kirby about it!

SOUND: Typing

FRIEND 1:

Where do you want to go?

FRIEND 2:

Philly?

FRIEND 1:

Philly.

ALI:

Western New York Buffalo Team, Philly, Boston and New Jersey.

FRIEND 3:

(Laugh) All the teams?

ALI:

Um, Marta?

FRIEND 1:

She's gong to go home. Hang up the cleats (laugh). I'm done.

FRIEND 2:

I'm gonna retire (laugh).

ALI:

She... they were still doing qualifiers this past week.

FRIEND 2:

Oh, okay.

ALI:

I've been e-mailing her.

FRIEND 2:
About what?

ALI:
Where are you going?!

FRIEND 3:
Marta! Call her Martie.

ALI:
There are still a lot of stuff up in the air. I think a lot of people are waiting.

01:19:43

ALI SIGNS WITH FLASH

ALI
Aaron?

COACH AARON LINES:
Yeah.

ALI
It's Ali Riley.

COACH AARON LINES:
Ali Riley, how are ya?

ALI:
Good. How are you?

NY FLASH COACH:
Good, good. Thank you. Thanks for returning my call. What's going on Ali?

ALI
I finally came up with my decision. And I committed to Buffalo. That's the new expansion team. It's called Western New York, The Flash. So I am going to... I finally have my contact in so I'm gonna sign it and send it back. So that'll be official.

NY FLASH COACH:
(Laugh) Great. Congratulations. We're super excited about you signing with us.

ALI:
Yeah me too.

01:20:17:10

KIM AND ROSIE TRYING TO HOLD ON

MUSIC: Acoustic guitar and Percussion

JUN

Do you think at all that your career might be finished? Like, is there a possibility?

ROSIE:

Um, yeah. I mean it's a possibility of course. Do I want to accept it? No (laugh). Do I want to finish? No. No I still have at least a couple more years in me physically. And I would just... anything... like even if a team said, "hey come play with us but we don't have any money." I'd be like alright, I'm there, wherever you need me just tell me where to be.

Kim gets in her car. She's inside her car driving.

SOUND: Car noise.

KIM (VO)

I feel like soccer has always been a part of my life and always will be and um, I know I can play at a high level for you know, quite a number of years more. Even though I'm maybe on the older end of some of the players. I'm still 28... pretty... pretty young (laugh).

Shot from the car of a residential neighborhood

I mean I go through different periods of times where sometimes I just want to be done with it, with trying to play because... particularly because of just the lifestyle it requires of you to be ready to do anything or go anywhere and that sort of thing. So, you know, at certain points I'm going to have to make decisions in terms of no, I'm not willing to go to Atlanta and get paid nothing just to play. Um, but I don't think I'm at a point where I'm trying to decide, okay I'm done with soccer or I'm not done with soccer.

Kim coaching in gym. Ends on girl stopping soccer balls.

SOUND: Gym ambi

KIM

You guys stay behind the game even though she's not getting it there every time. Stay behind the gate.

SOUND: Buzzer, gym ambi

Shot of Kim coaching from above.

KIM

Even though she's not getting it there every time, stay behind the gate. You're coming in. One v. one. It's the last minute of the game. Make your move. Look up. You better score it, you better score it. Yes! Game winning goal!

01:22:12

UPDATES

Childhood soccer photo of Kim

KIM UPDATE

Kim turned down an offer from Atlanta. She is working with California coaches to create a new business model for professional soccer

Childhood soccer photo of Rosie

ROSIE UPDATE

Rosie got a job as an academic advisor for an online university and coaches high school soccer.

Childhood soccer photo of Ali

ALI UPDATE

Ali plays for the New York Flash with Marta

WPS update

4 of the 7 original teams in the league have folded.

01:22:52

CREDITS

Home Video of Ali Riley playing soccer as a kid.

01:23:32

MUSIC: ends