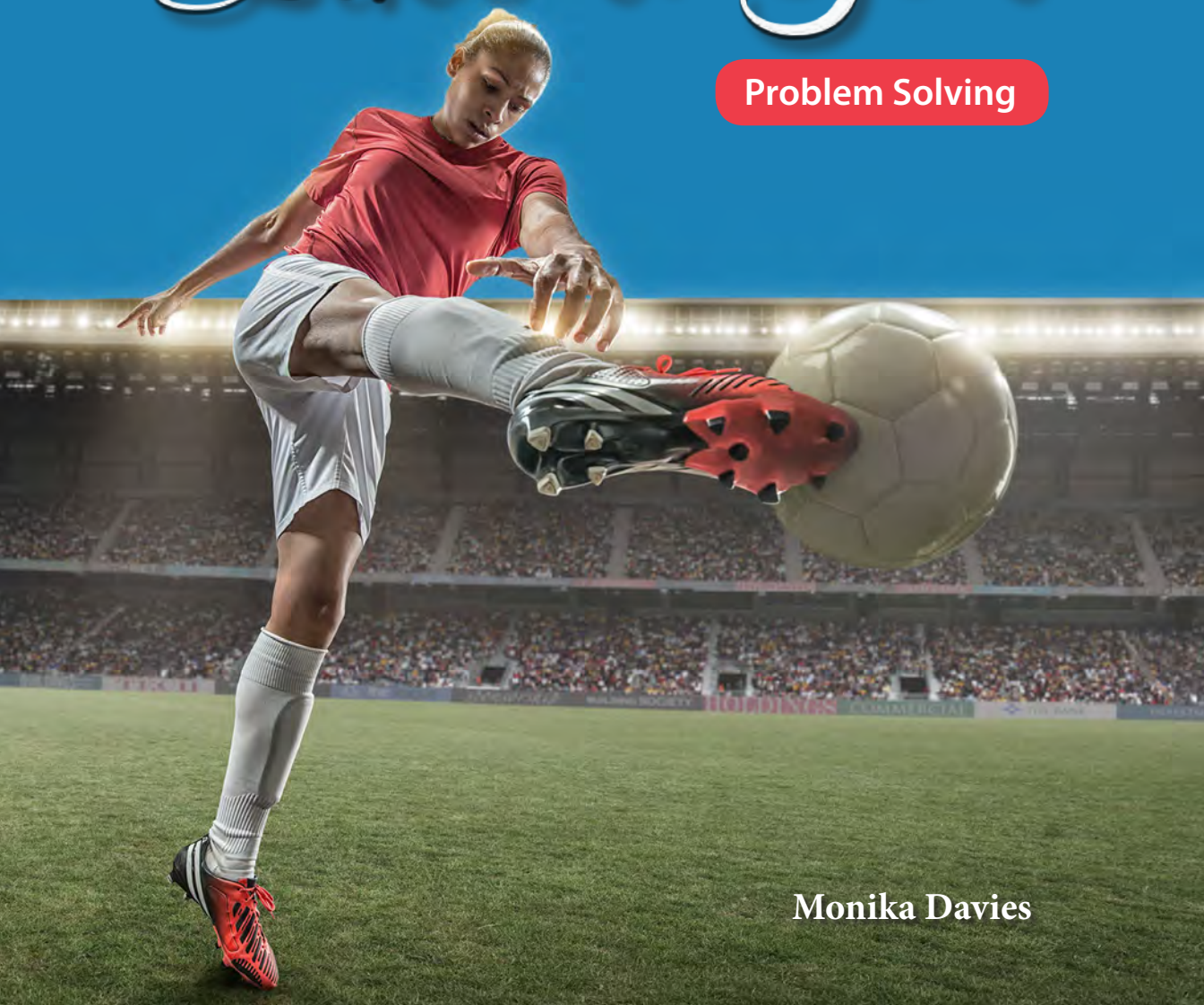
Spectacular Sports

Playing Like a Girl

Problem Solving



Monika Davies

For teachers' inspection ONLY

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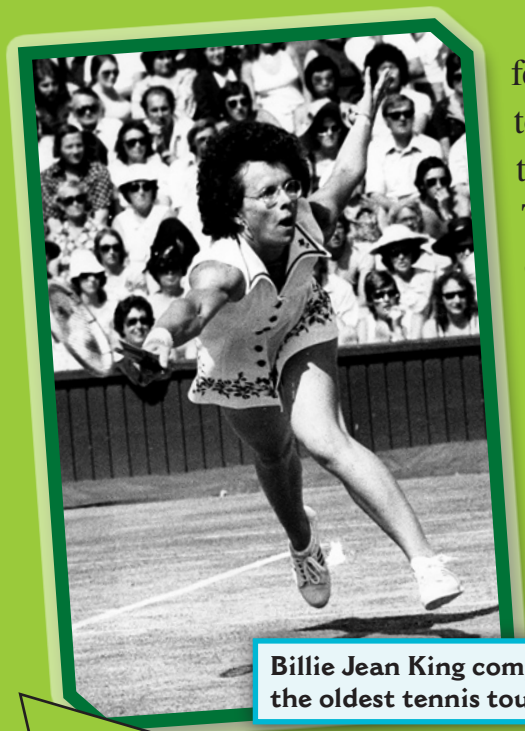
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Play Like a Girl

"This is the century of women."
—Billie Jean King

When you hear the phrase "you play like a girl," what do you think it means? Do you think it is a compliment? Some of the greatest athletes in the world are women. Yet, it can be a challenge to find news articles about female athletes. There are many more reports about men's sports.

Female athletes are some of the toughest people out there. Every day, no matter the sport, they train. They learn. They work. They strive to be better than they were yesterday.



Billie Jean King competes in 1975 at Wimbledon, the oldest tennis tournament in the world.

Explore any sport, and you will find female players that have taken that sport to new heights. Some still compete today, while others played decades ago. These athletes have taken the old insult of "playing like a girl" and have turned it on its head. They have grit—passion and perseverance that help them achieve their goals.

From soccer to tennis to basketball, there are amazing female athletes competing every day.

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Sprinters leave their starting blocks.

LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Before a game, every athlete creates a game plan. The same should be true for every mathlete trying to solve a word problem (that's you!). Match each description to the correct step of this problem-solving plan.

1.	Think	**A.**	Read and reread the problem.
2.	Plan	**B.**	Determine whether your solution makes sense.
3.	Solve	**C.**	Show the solution to the problem.
4.	Check	**D.**	Decide which strategy to use.

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Rising Soccer Star

> "When someone tells me I can't do something, I'm going to always prove them wrong. That's what champions do."
>
> —Carli Lloyd

It's 2015. Over 750 million people are watching the biggest soccer game of the year. They are hoping for a win. They are also hoping for a star player to rise up. Enter Carli Lloyd.



Carli Lloyd maneuvers past her opponents in the 2011 Women's World Cup.

Lloyd, a five-foot-seven midfielder from Delran, New Jersey, was born in 1982. Lloyd kicked her first soccer ball at the age of five. Her parents thought she might be a good ballet dancer. But, Lloyd knew she was meant to be a soccer player. She has been kicking goals ever since.

Yet, Lloyd's road to soccer stardom has had speed bumps. As a young player, she was cut from the U.S. Women's National Team. Lloyd was disappointed. She thought about quitting.

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Lloyd maintains possession of the ball at the 2012 Olympic Games.

LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Itzel and her sister have won numerous medals for playing soccer. Itzel has 18 medals. Her sister has 12 medals. If they hang the medals in 2 equal rows, how many will be in each row? Plan how you will tackle this problem. Then, estimate to check that your solution is reasonable.

Think	**Plan**
Solve	**Check**

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Then, Lloyd met her trainer, James Galanis. He knew she had talent. But, she needed to be fully committed to improving her skills. The pair began working together. Slowly, Lloyd got stronger—and faster. She soon regained her position on the U.S. team. Her debut on the world stage was in 2005. Since then, she has played for the U.S. soccer team as a center midfielder.

The 2015 World Cup final was a pivotal moment for Lloyd. It was turning into a game for the history books. In the first 16 minutes, Lloyd scored 3 goals. This was the first World Cup **hat trick** scored by a woman! It was a strong start for the U.S. team. Japan's team never recovered.

Lloyd's team ended the game with a 5–2 victory. Her hat trick was a vital part of the win. She won the Golden Ball Award for her performance.

Lloyd is on her way to being one of the world's best soccer players. Remember her name—you will surely hear it again!



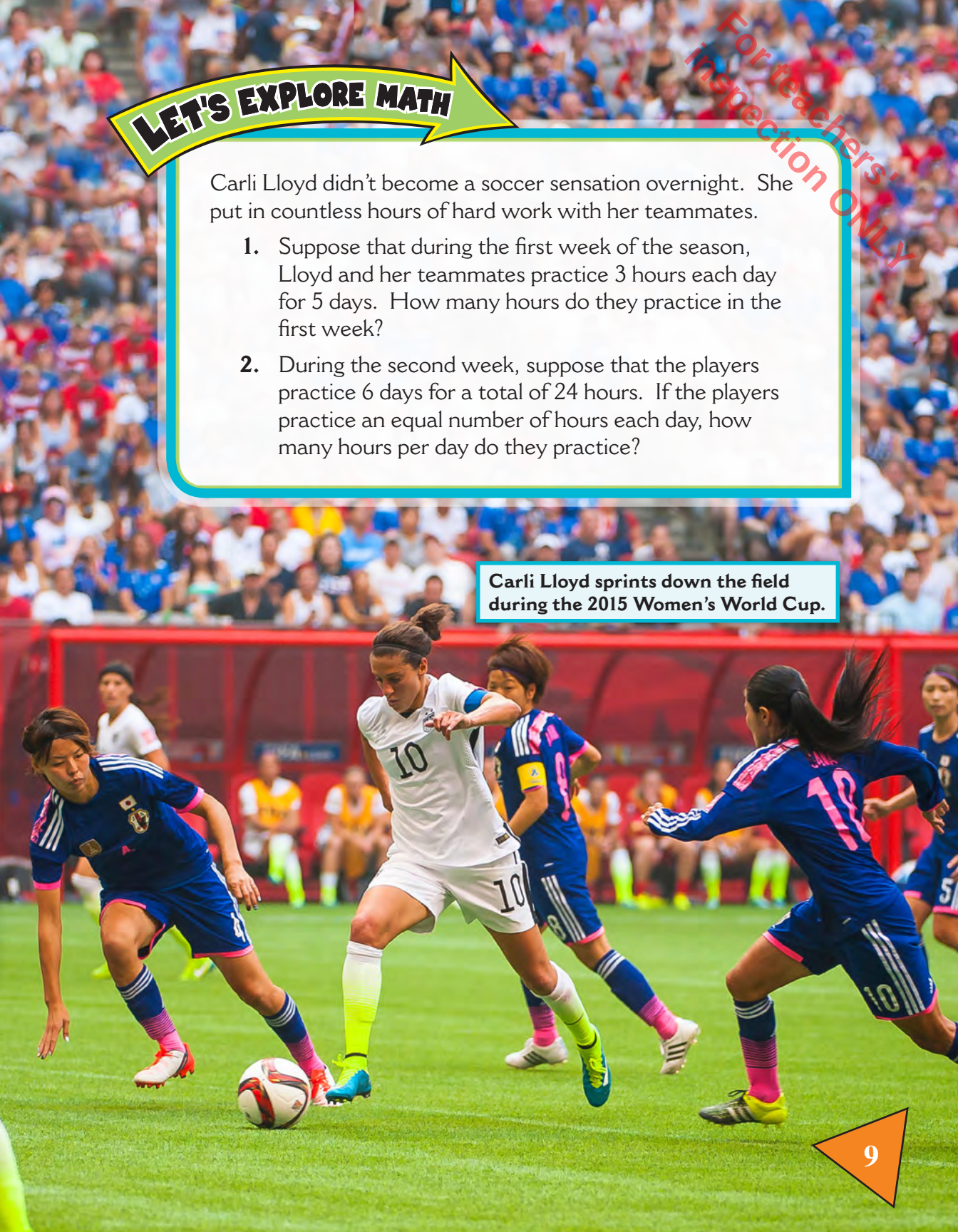
Lloyd is awarded the Golden Ball at the 2015 Women's World Cup.

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Let's Explore Math

Carli Lloyd didn't become a soccer sensation overnight. She put in countless hours of hard work with her teammates.

1. Suppose that during the first week of the season, Lloyd and her teammates practice 3 hours each day for 5 days. How many hours do they practice in the first week?
2. During the second week, suppose that the players practice 6 days for a total of 24 hours. If the players practice an equal number of hours each day, how many hours per day do they practice?



Carli Lloyd sprints down the field during the 2015 Women's World Cup.