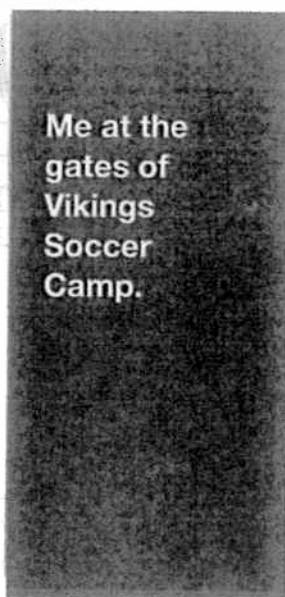
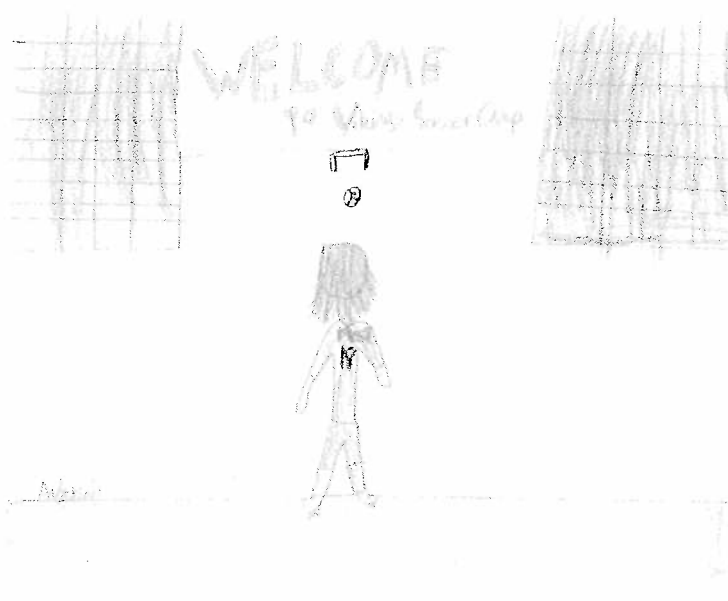


## Making Friends at Vikings Soccer Camp

By Antonio Quadra

Do you believe in love at first sight? To me that's Vikings Soccer Camp. Vikings Soccer Camp is important to me because I get to meet new people from all around the world and see people I only see once a year. They have popsicles, soccer, fun and more. What else could I ask for from Vikings Soccer Camp?

The first thing you do at Vikings Soccer Camp is introduce yourself to your group, say what your favorite food is, and what is a hobby you have. Making new friends is one of the points Vikings Soccer Camp emphasizes. Meeting new people at Vikings Camp is easy and hard. When a coach introduces you to a new person it is easy to meet them but when you attempt to introduce yourself by yourself it's hard. However, when you do introduce yourself it feels fantastic. An example of me introducing myself to someone is when I introduced myself to my friend Jonah. When I first saw Jonah playing soccer he was very good. I shyly asked if I could play with him. With a big smile on his face he said, "Of Course!!!" Some other friends I've met over the years at Vikings are Erel, Joey and Elias. All these people I mentioned are still friends of mine to this day.



Even kids from other countries come to San Francisco and do this camp. The foreign kids always tell stories that they have learned from their countries to the other kids and the coaches. Sometimes they tell stories about bears or snakes, but the stories change every year. A few countries that kids have come from are Eritrea, Germany, Nigeria, Spain, Italy, and Russia. Not only do the kids come from other countries, but the coaches as well. For example, one of my favorite coaches named Owen Rochee comes from Ireland and only comes to San Francisco to coach this camp.

Saying goodbye is the hardest part of the whole experience. In the last hour of the last day of camp the counselors give out two popsicles to each kid. For some reason the pencil shaped popsicles they give out at camp taste better than the ones I buy outside of camp even though they are the same kind of popsicles. When the clock strikes

4:00 p.m

it is very silent. After a while of silence everyone gives out their phone numbers to each other so they can keep in touch. Then after the phone numbers are given out everyone leaves the camp.

If you have not noticed yet, I love this camp. It means so much to me and brings back many memories. Without this camp I would be bored for most of the summer. All the things I have talked about in this essay add up to one word "magical." Now do you believe in love at first sight?

