

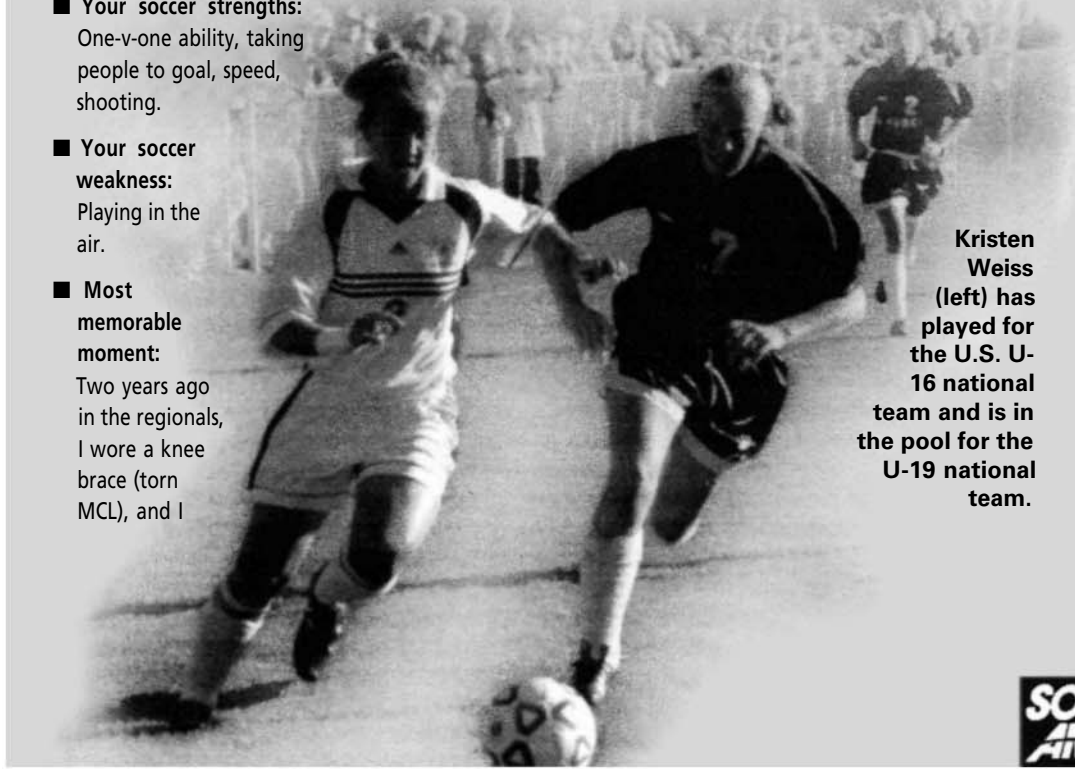
PLAYER PROFILE

Kristen Weiss

- **Age:** 16.
- **Residence:** Brecksville, Ohio.
- **Position:** Forward.
- **Teams:** U.S. U-19 and U-16 national teams; Internationals Soccer Club U-17; Walsh Jesuit High School (junior).
- **Individual honors:** Two-time NSCAA High School All-America; three-time all-state.
- **Team honors:** Walsh Jesuit finished fall season ranked No. 1 in national NSCAA high school poll; Internationals won WAGS tournament and are two-time regional champs.
- **Route to national team:** I started playing ODP last year. I was surprised to get picked for the national team because during the second identification event I was injured and only played one game. I guess they liked what they saw.
- **Differences between high school and club soccer:** In high school you play a lot of nobody teams, while in club soccer you compete at higher levels. High school soccer has a different kind of excitement, because you're with kids you see every day.
- **Differences between U-16 national team and U-19 national pool:** Playing against college kids, you have to be quicker, tougher and stronger mentally and physically. I have to play like I'm 19, even though I'm not.
- **Your soccer strengths:** One-v-one ability, taking people to goal, speed, shooting.
- **Your soccer weakness:** Playing in the air.
- **Most memorable moment:** Two years ago in the regionals, I wore a knee brace (torn MCL), and I

couldn't move. Then I got a new brace before the finals. I scored three goals, and we won, 3-0

- **Least memorable moment:** Freshman year, losing the high school regional semifinals in a shootout.
- **Best travel experiences:** Going to Florida with the national team.
- **Best advice:** "Big players play big in big games."
- **Biggest influences:** My family and my Internationals coach, Zdravko Popovic.
- **Best parts of soccer:** The team aspect: being with friends, winning and losing together. Also, the game is so unpredictable — you always have to be on your toes.
- **Worst parts of soccer:** The offside rule — a lot of referees don't call it well. Also, penalty kicks in big games. That's a bad way to lose.
- **Soccer goals:** Make the full national team, and maybe make a living playing soccer.
- **Favorite school subject:** Math.
- **Hobbies:** Listening to music, traveling, spending time with my friends.
- **Family:** My dad, Michael, is vice president of a nutrition company; my mom, Darlene, is a registered nurse; and my sister Stephanie, 18, goes to the University of Dayton.



Kristen Weiss (left) has played for the U.S. U-16 national team and is in the pool for the U-19 national team.

