

FROM ACROSS THE SEA

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THE STORY OF AN EXCHANGE STUDENT IN A NEW WORLD.

Coming to America and getting used to an environment that is completely new to you can be hard to fit in at times, especially coming to a school with different people and cultures. This has been junior Inga Raddum's experience so far, but she has found a place to fit in the soccer field.

"I'm from a really rural area in Norway in a town named Toten, so even just Des Moines seems big to me," Raddum said.

Raddum has been an exchange student since August. She has been playing soccer for 11 years, so she feels confident about her skills. Raddum can't wait for the spring season to begin.

"Soccer is my favorite because I feel like I'm good at it, and I'm excited about playing the matches this season," Raddum said.

She has also been a great addition to the team, and wishes to play as defense.

"I believe that she will help our team improve as a whole," girls' soccer coach Jeremy Morrow said.

Raddum hasn't only been playing soccer, she has used her time in the U.S. to have new experiences outside of her comfort zone.

"I played volleyball this season and I've been doing IHSSA and soccer, but volleyball and drama are completely new to me," Raddum said.

Raddum has impressed the people around her with the motivation she has in the things she does.

"Inga is impressive, she does sports, drama, plays soccer on the weekends and gets good grades. It blows me away because I don't have that kind of motivation," senior Ezra Halter said.

Raddum is doing better than she had expected.

"I learned that I could do just as well as the students here and I did not expect that," Raddum said.



She's enjoyed her experience so far. As girls' soccer gets ready to start playing, she is practicing and balancing her other extracurriculars. Being an exchange student may be difficult, but Raddum makes it look easy.

"It's been really great. Everyone has been so nice and helpful, it's been a good experience overall, our soccer team is going to win this

season," Raddum said.



Raddum exercises during team conditioning. Marquez Photo