

# YACINE ZABI



AGE: 19

COUNTRY: Algeria

HOMETOWN: Ain el Beniane Algiers

POSITION: Center Half



**STORY:** Yacine Zabi grew up in a poor family in Algeria with his parents, his three younger brothers and an older sister. His father was a construction worker who always insisted on providing an education to his son, even though he had an intellectual disability. In addition to receiving an education, at 12 years old, Yacine enrolled with Special Olympics, where his life began to change. Yacine attended training sessions and played in games with Special Olympics Algeria. It was a proud moment for him when he was able to score a winning goal playing football for Special Olympics and was able to bring his Special Olympics medal home to wear proudly in his neighborhood.

Since starting to play football with Special Olympics, 19 year-old Yacine is now very well-known in his hometown of Algiers. Yacine has been playing center half as a footballer for seven years now. He now has the goal of becoming the very best football player ever, like his favorite football star Messi. Yacine loves to win and is constantly encouraging his fellow teammates to victory. Although he likes to score goals, he knows how to play in the midfield and work to distribute the ball to his teammates so that everyone has the opportunity to achieve.

Besides football, Yacine also participates in floor hockey with Special Olympics and played with his team at the Special Olympics World Winter games in Japan in 2005. He also enjoys watching television and playing video games, but more than anything enjoys his time with Special Olympics. He is very excited to participate in the Unity Cup.