

PEDRO CECENA RUIZ

AGE: 35

HOMETOWN: Nayant

COUNTRY: Mexico

POSITION: Goalkeeper



STORY: Pedro is a goal keeper from Mexico who has been playing football for 25 years. He loves to defend the football and believes that playing goalkeeper is and the best and hardest part of the game. After moving to live with his aunt and uncle, Pedro joined Special Olympics, which he says revived his life.

Pedro is now not only a great footballer, but he's also a taxi driver! He loves driving people around in Mexico and telling them about his experience with Special Olympics. He tells his passengers about the medals he has won, the places he has traveled and all that he has accomplished. The 35 year-old also mentors younger and incoming athletes in training to help enforce the Special Olympics code of values.

His coaches boast about his tremendous skill as a footballer, but also about how Pedro is very responsible, disciplined and always ready to work. He is a good athlete, but they say a better person. His favorite team is Chivas de Guadalajara and his football dream is to watch a football match live from Chivas. Someday he would like to meet famous players that he looks up to, like goalkeeper Luis Ernesto Michel of Chivas of Guadalajara. He is excited about the chance to play on the same field in South Africa as famous footballers.

Special Olympics has given him the means to be more independent and responsible. He also says that his life has become happier overall by belonging to Special Olympics, so he is very proud to represent Special Olympics at the Unity Cup.