

## NO HANDS ALLOWED



# David Beckham



*Rebecca Thatcher Murcia*



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Printing 4 5 6 7 8 9

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data  
Murcia, Rebecca Thatcher, 1962-

David Beckham / by Rebecca Thatcher Murcia.  
p. cm.—(A Robbie reader. No hands allowed)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 1-58415-384-9 (library bound)

1. Beckham, David, 1975—Juvenile literature. 2. Soccer players—England—Biography—Juvenile literature. I. Title. II. Series.

GV942.7.B432M87 2005

796.334'092—dc22

2004024611

ISBN-13: 9781584153849

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**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** The following story has been thoroughly researched, and to the best of our knowledge, represents a true story. While every possible effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the publisher will not assume liability for damages caused by inaccuracies in the data, and makes no warranty on the accuracy of the information contained herein. This story has not been authorized or endorsed by David Beckham or anyone associated with David Beckham.

PLB2,29,30



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## CHAPTER ONE

# GOOOOOOAL!

David Beckham had just turned 23 years old and he was on the world stage. As a player for the English soccer team, Beckham was competing in the 1998 **World Cup** in France. England had to play its third match of the **tournament** against Colombia, a strong team. The game was in a stadium in Lens, in the north of France. There were more than 38,000 fans in the stadium, and millions more were watching the game on television.

About 30 minutes into the game, England was winning 1-0. The team was given a **free kick** about 30 yards away from Colombia's goal.



David Beckham celebrates his goal against Colombia at the 1998 Soccer World Cup in Lens, France.

Four members of Colombia's team formed a wall between the ball and the goal. Colombia's tall goalkeeper was crouched, ready to grab any ball that passed the wall. Most of the other Colombian players were over to one side, expecting Beckham to pass the ball.

Beckham backed away from the ball. He took a short run and kicked. The ball curled up over the wall of players. It bent into the upper left corner of the goal. The Colombian

GOOOOOOAL!



goalkeeper made a big dive toward the ball, but he fell to the ground with empty hands. Beckham had scored his first World Cup goal!

England went on to win the game 2-0. It was one of Beckham's many amazing moments on the soccer field.

Beckham is famous for his career as a soccer player. He is also well known for his looks, his fashion sense, and his marriage (MARE-ij) to singer Victoria "Posh Spice" Adams. But he is most famous for bending **corner kicks** and free kicks. He kicks the ball very hard and seems to be able to put it exactly where he wants it.

Beckham now plays for one of the best soccer teams in the world, Real (RAY-al) Madrid in Spain. He is very, very rich. But it has not been easy. He has worked hard to become the star he is.



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