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Trailblazers of the Field: Lily Parr and Mia Hamm

Imagine this. Back in the early 1900s, women playing soccer was like a superhero movie. It just didn't happen. But Lily Parr from England didn't care about rules. Born in 1905, she kicked off her soccer journey at 14 and joined the Dick, Kerr Ladies team. Boom! She scored 980 goals in her career! That's like scoring in every game for years. Lily's powerful left foot and killer accuracy made her a soccer machine.

But Lily was more than a superstar player. She was a rule-breaker. When the soccer bosses banned women's soccer in 1921, she didn't back down. She stood up for what's right and showed everyone that girls can play just as well as boys.

Jump ahead a few decades, and here comes Mia Hamm, born in 1972 in the USA. She's like the superhero sequel to Lily Parr's story. Mia was crazy about soccer from the start. At just 15, she joined the U.S. national team, already breaking records.

She's the all-time leading goal scorer in international women's soccer. Can you imagine scoring 158 goals in 275 games? It's like being a soccer wizard. But Mia wasn't just about scoring soccer goals. Her passion made everyone notice women's soccer. When people thought soccer was only for guys, Mia said, "No way!" Her awesomeness led the U.S. Women's National Team to World Cup victories and Olympic gold medals.

Both Lily and Mia were determined to change the game for girls. Lily was the fierce rebel who tackled old-school thinking, and Mia was the modern-day superhero who took soccer to new heights. They weren't just about soccer tricks; they were about kicking down walls and fighting for equal rights. Lily stood up when the world wanted her to sit down. Mia stood up when people said, "You can't." And both said, "Watch me!"