



FIVE MINUTES WITH...

HOPE SOLO | ENJOYING THE JOURNEY
TEXT BY: KEITH W. STRANDBERG

Since bursting onto the national

and international scene 12 years ago, American soccer champ Hope Solo has become a force in the world of sports and beyond. Combining her extraordinary talent with success on and off the “pitch,” Solo has been featured on television, magazine covers, cereal boxes and more. Now, the goalkeeper and two-time Olympic gold medalist is joining forces with Seiko.

COMPETITIVE SECRETS

What is her secret to success? “I have had to overcome so much,” Solo says. “So, I constantly want to push myself to be the best goalkeeper I can be, and I think that drive is what allows me to play with such passion.”

Solo always knew that she wanted to be a soccer player. “When I was 12 years old, I was assigned to write a paper about what I wanted to be. I wrote in capital letters that I wanted to be a pro soccer player, even though, at that time, there was no professional soccer league in the US!”

Solo’s first watch was a colorful quartz piece with a famous Swiss name. “When I was a teenager, I had a pink Swatch

that was so cool,” she remembers. “My sister bought it for me when she was in New York City shopping. I still have it.”

UNITING FORCE

Coincidentally, Solo was shopping for a watch to celebrate her 100th international game around the same time she teamed up with Seiko. “Seiko approached my agent, and we decided to work together,” she says. “I think Seiko’s watches are beautiful. They are about strength and beauty. They are elegant, not too flashy or over the top. I’m wearing

classic and timeless watches from Seiko’s Sportura and the Coutura collections.”

Solo won’t be wearing those watches on the field, however. And she says her perception of time during play depends on what’s happening in the game. “As a team, we are very consistent, and we know that the goals are going to come,” she explains. “But time seems to go faster or slower, depending on whether we are ahead or behind. We recently scored the latest goal in the history of the World Cup; as soon as it was scored, that was the end of

the game. Against Korea, when we started to fall apart a little bit, despite a 2-0 lead, time seemed to go so slower, and they came back and equalized.”

THE JOURNEY

Solo says the match she is proudest of is the 2011 FIFA Women’s World Cup final, which her team lost. “When we won the gold, I thought winning was everything,” she says. “Fast forward to the 2011 World Cup—we didn’t win, but we played beautifully, and we entertained people all across the globe. Women’s soccer went mainstream. At the end of the game, walking up to one of my friends on the winning Japanese team, I was genuinely happy for them. That was one of my proudest moments, because I realized that there is much more to the sport than winning, there is the journey, and I appreciate every moment of it, not just the end result.”

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Seiko Coutura with ceramic bezel and bracelet links

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—HOPE SOLO
AMERICAN SOCCER CHAMPION



Seiko Coutura, \$475