

I am pleased to write this recommendation on behalf of Francisco McKinley.

Francisco is a strong student, but what I would like to draw on and speak to on his behalf, is the experience I had coaching Francisco on the soccer team. Francisco began expressing interest in playing soccer last winter. He approached me about playing at the end of class one day, and I told him both of our goalies were graduating so there was a big need there, and opportunity for him to compete for that spot. Goalie is a position that is hard to just pick up, and also comes with a great deal of pressure. We laid out some plans for the offseason, and from the first workout, Francisco brought a workmanlike approach to everything he did out on the playing field and in the weight room, and he earned a spot on the varsity soccer team this past August in addition to maintaining his spot as an All-Conference kicker on the football team.

In a relatively short period of time, Francisco clearly became the best option at goalie. He is athletic and able to make diving saves, but has also worked tremendously hard on his technique and footwork. He was a sponge, always asking questions on what he can do better in different scenarios and situations, soaking up the feedback. He picked up everything we threw at him and beat out others who had been playing the position for several years. In addition, Francisco was an effective communicator on the field and quickly gained the trust and respect of his teammates. He became one of the team's leaders by how he conducted himself on and off of the field. He genuinely wanted to do whatever he could to get better, and more importantly, help the team succeed. I have been blown away by this young man's commitment, fortitude, and the manner in which he has worked himself into becoming an excellent goalie.

Francisco is a competitor. He is someone who you can trust will do what is necessary when faced with a challenge or task. He exhibits the characteristics of an individual who is willing to put forth the time and effort to succeed in all of his endeavors. Francisco has a great deal of potential to achieve the goals he sets for himself, and your program would find him to be a true asset to its team and community.

Sincerely,

Palmer Bowman  
Social Studies Teacher  
Men's Soccer Coach  
Orange High School