**You are going to read an article about a female footballer. Five sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-F the one which fits each gap (1-5). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.**

## FOR MEN ONLY?

Mexican Maribel Domínguez is a football miracle. Known as Marigol because of her impressive record of 46 goals in 49 matches, she can play as well as any man, and better than most. Maribel's obsession with football started when she was a child. _____ When her family moved to a poor area of Mexico City, nine-year-old Maribel didn't mind, since their house was near an empty lot where the neighbourhood boys played her beloved sport. They allowed her to play with them only because she pretended she was a boy by keeping her hair short. The group was amazed by the talents that she demonstrated. They called her Mario.

"I tricked them for years," she confesses. "They only found out I wasn't a boy when they saw my picture in the paper because I'd got into the sub-national women's team. _____ They were pretty shocked."

Maribel later signed a contract to play for Celaya, a Mexican men's national league team. _____ Expecting a yes, Maribel was stunned when FIFA refused to allow this mixing of the sexes. They stated that "there must be a clear separation between men's and women's football. There can be no exceptions." It was clear that arguing would be useless. "I just wanted to be given the chance to try," said Maribel. "If I had failed, I would have been the first to say I couldn't do it. But at least I would have tried."

It was a difficult decision for FIFA, and the incident caused a public debate about women in sports. _____ Most men believed that allowing mixed teams, however talented the women, would cause a change in the atmosphere of a traditionally male game. In addition, the incident reminded people of the fact that women's sports are often neglected financially in favour of men's sports. This is a shocking situation which should be corrected.

After the setback, Maribel signed to play for the women's team of FC Barcelona and then for UE L'Estartit. She was one of the first foreign women to be given a licence to play in Spain. _____ Maribel revealed that her dream has always been to coach the Mexican national team and her plans for the future include promoting women's sports by starting a football school for girls in her native Mexico.

**A** They had to ask for special permission from FIFA, the international governing body of football, to allow her to join the team.

**B** It's the best thing that can ever happen to a footballer – the very best.

**C** They went to my house and asked my mother if I was really a girl.

**D** She has also played professionally for other teams including the Chicago Red Stars and the UAEH Panteras.

**E** Some people felt strongly that they should have let Maribel join the men's team, while others felt that it would have been a mistake.

**F** The youngest of ten siblings, she preferred playing football with her brothers to playing with dolls with her sisters.

LIVEWORKSHEETS