

CARMEL, INDIANA

NATALIE RUSSO



QUICK FACTS

AGE: 28

LOCAL TEAM: Circle City Rollers

OCCUPATION: Web Designer for Yellow Pages

ABOUT NATALIE:

Indiana athlete Natalie Russo never really wanted to participate in Power Soccer. In 2001, she and her brother went to a summer camp where they featured Power Soccer one afternoon. Russo thought it sounded silly and opted to go swimming instead. Her brother, however, played and had the time of his life. Russo left camp never trying Power Soccer.

When it came time to start teams in Indiana a few years later, Russo still didn't want to participate, but her mother told her that she "had to play until they found enough people." It only took only two minutes of playing until Russo was hooked. Over her 10-year Power Soccer career, she has found herself a part of three different Team USA's. "I've been so fortunate to have such a great power soccer career," Russo said.

Russo's obstacles weren't noticeable. She made the 2007 team, but didn't get to play in any of the games because she was chosen to be one of the team alternates. That was hard since she put in "all the hours of training."

Russo tried out for the national team again in 2011, but this time failed to land a spot on the team at all.

"When talk about tryouts for the current Team USA came about, I wasn't sure if I wanted to risk putting myself through that heartbreak again," Russo explained. To conquer her fears, Russo was more determined this time and knew she had to practice harder as national competition has been close in recent years.

"I felt I had become a much better player than the years before, so I put everything I had into making the team," Russo realized. "I am so grateful and proud to be a part of it."