

“What Youth Soccer Has Meant To Me”

Soccer has always been a huge part of my life from the time I first started playing when I was five years old. I have not only enjoyed playing soccer all of these years, I have also learned about teamwork, sportsmanship, and working hard to achieve goals.

I have learned that sportsmanship is playing fair, being able to take a loss or defeat without complaining, or winning without gloating. Good sportsmanship is a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. A good sportsman must have respect, integrity, and good judgment. Respect is showing high regard for coaches, officials, opponents, fans, administrators, self, team, and the club or school you are representing. Integrity is having the inner strength to be fair and courteous during athletic events, to play according to the rules, acting positively and honorably not only to your team, but to your opponent. Good judgment is choosing worthy goals; setting priorities in accordance with team, county, state and national rules and leading others to follow these rules.

During my youth soccer career I have always tried to set obtainable goals and I strive to achieve these goals. Some key qualities that are needed to reach goals that have been set are perseverance and self-discipline. Perseverance is being persistent in pursuit of worthy objectives in spite of opposition, difficulty, injuries, handicaps or discouragement, and exhibiting patience and the fortitude to try again when confronted with mistakes or failures. Self-discipline is demonstrating hard work and commitment to purpose, regulating yourself for improvement and

refraining from inappropriate behaviors, maintaining self-control at all times, and doing your best in all situations.

Teamwork is working together for the good of the group. One of the main aspects of teamwork is good judgment. Good judgment is choosing worthy goals and setting priorities in accordance with team. My club team, Royals '84/85, has always tried to work together as a team so that we can do well in league play, state tournaments, and other major tournaments.

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