

What Youth Soccer Has Meant to Me

by John T. Argo

When I was five years old, I had a very limited knowledge of soccer. I did not understand the game, and I had absolutely no interest in playing. However, my mother knew that it was a great source of exercise, and, against my will, she signed me up. Little did I know that I would develop a love for the game that would last a lifetime.

Soccer taught me the value of competition. I learned how to win and lose with dignity and respect. Soccer also taught me dedication. I learned that it takes hard work and perseverance to reach your goals. Over the years I have applied this knowledge to other sports and to school, and I have always been successful.

In youth soccer, I soon realized that I would not always be on the best team with the best players. My dad told me if I could come home from a game, look in the mirror, and know that I gave it my best, nothing else would matter. I learned not to despise players better than myself but to use them as an inspiration to make my game better. Then I started playing classic soccer and those better players were now on my team. When we started traveling to play out of state teams, the experience raised my game to an even higher level.

Looking back, I realize what an impact youth soccer has had on me. The lessons I learned, and the friendships I formed have helped shape who I am. For this I will always be grateful.