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### What Youth Soccer Has Meant to Me

Soccer, the world's game, the beautiful game, my game. For fourteen years, I have given soccer my time, effort, and even money. But now, as I am moving beyond youth soccer, I can see all of the things that soccer has done for me.

First and foremost, soccer has been a source of friendship throughout my life, and continues to be so today. Many of the guys I played with on the Mustang Tigers when we were five, now play with me at school, where we are friends, teammates, and in many ways brothers.

In addition, soccer has taught me how to work with others. This sport cannot be won by one person, or even a few, but is a game that is played by one team. A team who must work together, always striving to reach the same goal. Like many other aspects of life, soccer requires teamwork and individual sacrifice.

Soccer has also helped me to become a leader on my team, in my school, and in every aspect of my life. The social skills which I developed on the field have helped me as a team captain, as well as in my daily life. The friendships I have made while playing have helped me learn how to relate with people from every walk of life.

However, I believe that the most important lesson that soccer has taught me is to never give up. No matter what the score is, and no matter what obstacles life throws my way, I must continue to play and to live to the best of my ability until the final whistle blows.