

**What Youth Soccer has Meant to Me**

I have played soccer for nearly 10 years. I have played in every position from forward to my calling, goalkeeper. I have many great memories of playing soccer. My team has won state championships, we've traveled through several states, and I have been inspired to attend camps all over to improve. I do all of these things and have stayed with soccer because of many great memories. There is nothing I love to do more than go and kick around a soccer ball. I may be in the worst mood, but going and playing soccer makes everything better. I have met some of my closest friends and have learned many life lessons just through playing this sport. For instance, my most fervent memory of soccer is when my coach let me practice as goalkeeper one day just because ours was absent. I did rather well, better than our starting keeper, and she told me if only I were taller she would play me in goal. This was not fond news for me since I had done better at goalkeeper than any other position I had ever tried. So, out of my strong will to prove my coach wrong I went to soccer camp at OSU. While there I decided rather than go to the foot skill camp I had signed up for, I would just go with the goalkeepers to their camp. While there I improved quite a lot. When I came back my coach decided since I had worked so hard at camp she would let me play one game as goalkeeper in a tournament we were in. We ended up winning the tournament, our first ever tournament win ever, and I have played goalkeeper ever since. As I have demonstrated, youth soccer has meant a lot to me throughout my life. It has taught me lessons, made me friends, and has bestowed upon me pure enjoyment that I experience nowhere else. Without soccer I wouldn't be the person I am today.