

“What Youth Soccer Has Meant To Me”
Matthew Clark

Muhammad Ali many times said, “Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee.” Muhammad Ali is considered to be the greatest fighter to ever step into the ring. I bet one’s asking, “What does Muhammad Ali have to do with youth soccer?” Ali has everything to do with the youth of today’s world. He proved if you work long and hard enough toward your goal you can achieve anything you set your mind to. Ali has given me hope, to one day achieve my goal of becoming a great soccer player, but Muhammad Ali did not start at the age of seventeen. He started working toward his goal, becoming the greatest fighter ever, at a young age. When I’m asked what youth soccer has meant to me, I’m reminded of Ali and his dream. Youth soccer has provided me with the opportunity to reach my goal. Besides providing me with the opportunities to reach my goal, youth soccer also taught me many lessons in life. Youth soccer allowed me to learn the true meaning of team play, long before many others. Youth soccer provided me with a non-competitive atmosphere to learn the game of soccer. The lasting memories and videotapes of my friends and I, many of whom I still hold a relationship with now, are those in which I will cherish forever. These are the multiple reasons I would encourage a child to play youth soccer, but youth soccer will always be the place and time in which I started to achieve my goal.