

What Youth Soccer Has Meant To Me

I began playing soccer at the age of four on a recreational team in California. When I was in 5th grade my Dad was given a job in Oklahoma to start building homes. He took the opportunity and we all picked up our things and moved half way across the country. I was extremely sad that I had to leave all of my friends behind. After being here only two months I joined a recreational team here and decided to start my new life. At that time in my life soccer was just a game to me, although I did not realize it would become a way to find friends and fit in with people in this new state. Up to this day I am still friends with two of the girls and one of them has been my best friend for eight years. Today soccer is not just a game for me, it is a lifestyle. With my involvements in soccer I have learned so many valuable life lessons, some of which have taught me how to turn negative situations and make them into positive ones. In soccer you develop into a well rounded person that has many important characteristics such as dedication, dependability, and leadership. I can still remember not being able to go to sleep Friday nights, anxious for Saturday morning to be here with the game. It was one of the best feelings in the world and I still feel that way before every game. Throughout my years of playing soccer it has been a common interest with me and my family. We have become really close and being able to share the memories is something we all will never forget. The companionship you have being involved in soccer is irreplaceable. I have met life long friends that have grown up with me and we have all been able to share the ups and downs in each of our lives. Soccer has taught me to stand out and be a leader and to always strive to be the best I can. It takes hard work to balance church, family, academics, soccer, and just life in general. Soccer has taught me the value of teamwork and helped me to realize that there are many different girls with a wide variety of backgrounds, but everyone leaves that behind and plays together on the soccer field to achieve the same goal. I have learned to be a good listener and accept constructive criticism and use it to make me a better person and player. As you can see I have many thanks for what youth soccer has done for me and especially what it means to me today. It is definitely a lifelong memory. Soccer not only is a game with dribbling, kicking, passing, and skills, but it is my life and I am excited that next year I get to take it to the next level and play at the college level on a scholarship at East Central University. I also hope one day I can give back everything I have learned and make another child's life full of memories and experiences that I have been blessed with.