

"What Youth Soccer Has Meant to Me"

My childhood can be summed up in one popular phrase: "Eat, sleep, play soccer." As a young kid all I wanted to do was play soccer. I was one of the only girls in a league full of boys. It forced me to be one-step ahead and be that much tougher. I looked forward to every practice and game because I loved the competition. I quickly grew to love it; it was my passion. It has taught me so many life lessons that are not just applied on the soccer field, but to my everyday life. I learned how to be coachable and to take criticism as something not to belittle me, but to build me and make me grow. I learned that everyone comes from different backgrounds and have different God given abilities and to respect those differences. To be an encourager that glues the team together rather than single them out and cause division among my team. It has meant building many relationships with coaches, teammates, and their parents. I am so grateful for my soccer friends because they have become my family, not because of blood, but because soccer is the common denominator. It has meant having people there by each other's sides through births, weddings, divorces, and even deaths. Now it means going to college and continuing my career on a partial scholarship. Soccer has become more than just a game. It is my family, my pride, and my future.