

What Youth Soccer has Meant to Me

Youth soccer has been a large part of my life. These past ten years have meant learning about teamwork, perseverance, and having fun.

Soccer has taught me that teamwork is playing the type of game that benefits the team instead of the individual. To play soccer you must have great teamwork because it is the ultimate team sport. Every player on the field has a job that is just as important as the player next to him.

Perseverance is wrapped up in one acronym that I learned from my coach, STANCE, which stands for Strength Through Adversity No Complaints or Excuses. I have played every sport with this simple acronym as my motto. In soccer the times when I thought of this acronym the most were in tournaments. Being part of Parma '86 and Padova '86 meant playing in the semi-finals and finals most weekends. Since those are your fourth and fifth games of the weekend, you have to push yourself to get through the game no matter how exhausted you are.

But the greatest thing about youth soccer is that it's fun. Teamwork and perseverance are great lessons, but without soccer being fun, it wouldn't be the great sport that it is. All the trips to out of state tournaments are some of the greatest memories I have from soccer. Staying in the hotels and running around with the rest of the team have meant many good times. Teamwork, perseverance and fun have been what youth soccer has meant to me.