

- FCSA College Scholarship 2003 Application -

“What Youth Soccer Has Meant To Me”

As the youngest of four children in my family, I grew up on a soccer field watching my older brothers and sister play soccer. Soon, it became my time to take part in the great game of soccer.

Throughout my 13 years of playing soccer, I have learned teamwork, the art of competition, the rules of the game, determination, listening to advice from others, accepting responsibilities and being accountable, leadership skills, accepting defeat and enjoying winning, and how to play soccer in different types of weather – hot sun, rain, snow, and the Oklahoma wind.

Running, eating the right foods, staying physically fit, and keeping my mind active and focused on playing the game helped me care for myself as I grew and matured into a young adult. The skills and responsibilities I have learned playing soccer also assist me in the classroom and in the various school organizations in which I participate. They have enabled me to prioritize my tasks, lead groups in various tasks, and encouraged me to forge ahead despite any obstacles that I will face in diverse situations.

Some of my greatest memories revolve around soccer. I remember as a child I loved halftime at my soccer games because all of the parents would bring oranges, apples, drinks, and a variety of other snacks for us to munch on while we were waiting for the second half to start. Another vivid memory I have occurred when I was playing club soccer. I remember hurting my arm during a tournament, but despite the pain I came back to play the next day. When I finally returned home from the long weekend tournament, I found that I had broken my arm. Wearing a cast and thick padding, I soon returned to the soccer field to play once again.

As I play my last year of high school soccer, I have become a leader on my team by being selected a captain. I know that even if I don't continue soccer by playing at the college level, I will never forget what it has done for my life.

There are many wonderful memories and a shelf full of team pictures, uniforms, trophies, medallions, and ribbons from playing the game I love so much, but perhaps the greatest prize is becoming the person that I feel that I have become because of my participation in soccer.

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