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“What Youth Soccer Has Meant To Me”

I’ve tried basketball and cross-country, but nothing compares to the thrill of being on the field with twenty-one other players, eager to smash each other’s team. Soccer gave me mental exercise, persistence, and most of all enjoyment.

Soccer is a mind game; it requires quick and precise reactions, while basketball uses set plays, and cross-country utilizes strictly running endurance. To contribute to the teamwork, I constantly act and react to the ball. Even though I may be losing a game, it requires all my mental concentration to make it through all ninety minutes. Furthermore, perseverance to push myself to the limit at practice or during a game helps me improve my skill and game play. When my legs become jelly and my body hits the grass, that is when I know I have given my all. Finally, the greatest gift soccer bestowed on me is pleasure. Soccer gave me spirit to help me get through the rough and stressful times in my life; soccer gave me friends, practically an extended family; and soccer gave me the time of my life. It will always be a part of me. Just last year, I was cut from my team, but this did not put me down. I still hangout with all the friends I made from soccer, and currently I am playing high school soccer despite the disappointment of not playing for a club team.

With these three gifts, it added up to an improved mental capacity, strength to push myself, and enjoyment to help out with my school studies. They gear me towards a much more enjoyable living and prosperous career in the future.