

## **“What Youth Soccer Has Meant To Me”**

Youth soccer was the start of a wonderful hobby in my life. When I first started playing soccer (U-6, EFC Dragons '84) it was just for fun, but now it has become a lifestyle that I still enjoy. I met many of my friends on my first team and the teams we played against, and I am still friends with them and continue to play with them. If I did not start at such a young age, I would not be the player I am today (U-18, EFC Royals '84) and might not be playing at all. It was the beginning of my learning of the skills and knowledge of the game. Because it was a good environment I was in, I continued to play and grow as a player and a person. Soccer has also helped me in my later life by keeping me occupied. Because I am so busy with soccer, it has helped to keep me away from things that could bring me down and has kept me out of trouble. It has also given me the opportunity to visit many interesting places all the way from San Diego, California to Cocoa Beach, Florida (U-16, MWC Parma '84. first place) to participate in some great tournaments. On the trips I was able to experience many great things that I might have missed out on if I did not play soccer. Maybe the most important thing youth soccer has given me is the chance to get an athletic scholarship to attend college. It is not a huge scholarship but is enough to allow me to go to St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. In all, youth soccer has given me the opportunity to make the most out of my life.

Sincerely,  
Jordan Leach