

## What Youth Soccer Has Meant To Me

As I reflect on the time I spent playing soccer as an adolescent, I mainly recall the recognition my team and I received. But, the things that have helped shape me the way I am today were the little things done by those around me. Some of these little things were my Dad challenging me to play better and my first year Classic Coach telling me to try and juggle a ball fifty times. I set out to be the best player I could, and this ambition and drive installed a "never give up" attitude in me. These things helped teach me the meaning of responsibility and high character. Without these traits, I don't know how I would have had the nerve to try new things to better myself, not only as a soccer player, but also as a person. I believe I have built lifelong relationships with most of my teammates and coaches. Even though my teammates and I will go our separate ways in college and life, we will still be able to rely on the past times we spent playing soccer and having fun on the weekend at tournaments.

The most important trait I have learned in youth soccer and have applied to my life is teamwork. Even if Ronaldo tried to play by himself against a particular team, he couldn't win because soccer is a team effort. It is the same way in life. A team or small group can probably achieve a better result if they work as a unit and not as individuals. I have learned that there is nothing wrong with asking for help.

To summarize, youth soccer has helped teach me responsibility and the meaning of character. Most importantly, I have learned teamwork and how to work and achieve as a unit. Youth soccer has truly helped prepare me for the next challenge in my life, a college education.