

“What Youth Soccer Has Meant to Me”

Beau Porter

Youth soccer has played a major role in my life. It has given me so many wonderful opportunities such as traveling our beautiful country for soccer tournaments and meeting other athletes while building wonderful relationships.

Our club team in Norman has traveled to the Atlantic Ocean twice and the Pacific Ocean once in this last year alone. The trips and memories that soccer has brought to my life will never be forgotten. I also made many wonderful friends all the way back from recreational soccer in Norman along with playing for the Royals in Edmond, Celtic in Norman, and I built many wonderful relationships with the guys on the 86 ODP team. The experiences that you share when teaming together with other athletes to achieve a common goal are indescribable. It teaches us how to work together, how to handle confrontation, and most importantly how to react to defeat. **Winning a game is always fun but the real learning takes place from a loss. You learn from your mistakes and try to correct them for the next time; it is life's ultimate lesson.**

While youth soccer presents many fun opportunities it has also taught me to always push myself to be better than I am and to never stop succeeding. It helped me realize no one is perfect so there is always room to improve. Youth soccer has only been good to me and I wouldn't change my life for the world.