

What Youth Soccer Has Meant To Me

By Brian Rayner

I started playing soccer when I was very young; at that time I thought that it was just a game, but soccer is much more than that. It helped me to make friends that I still have to this day. Youth soccer taught me many different values of life; including teamwork, sportsmanship, and hard work.

Although youth soccer has taught me so many valuable life skills, the most important thing that it did was created an environment where I could just have fun with my friends. Going to play games every Saturday was the high point in my week; practice being a close second. Even when my team suffered a tough loss, it was still very enjoyable since my teammates were at my side.

Youth soccer brought me closer to my father, since he was my coach for several years. My father was there at every practice and every game helping me gain skills and pushing me to do my best. When I decided to play competitive soccer he was still there giving me helpful tips. He still is there at every game watching and cheering me on today.

Through all the years that I played soccer I learned the importance of hard work, sportsmanship, and teamwork. Soccer places an emphasis on all three of these priceless skills. Everyone on your team must work together and play hard if you wish to play well and win. One player can't do it by themselves. Youth soccer teaches many life principles that will stay with players for the rest of their lives.