

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

By Stephanie Sawyer

Youth soccer has been a part of my life as long as I can remember. I have learned many things from this incredible sport. Among these things, I have learned dedication. This aspect alone has set the basis for every other thing in my life. I have also learned camaraderie. I will never forget some of the things my teammates and I did on our many road trips. Patience is a very important virtue that I have acquired playing soccer. I remember the day that I finally learned a trick called The Rainbow. My coach had worked many times with me on this and was so proud when I finally nailed it.

I have experienced a multitude of emotions playing the game. I have experienced the glory of winning championships and the sorrow of losing to a stark rival. Nervousness was a symptom that seemed to linger at all my big games. I have felt a sense of pride in others that I never thought was possible. I have unfortunately experienced unbelievable disappointment, all I have to say is "own goal." Every player experiences it but it still seems to eat you up inside. Even though I have experienced some hardships while playing the game, the good times far outnumber the bad ones.

The most important thing that soccer has done for me is help further my education. After many years of playing competitive soccer, it is now time for me to take that next step that I have dreamed about forever. This fall I will attend Southern Nazarene University on a soccer scholarship. I will encounter many new experiences but I will never forget the old ones. This is what youth soccer has meant to me.