

“What Youth Soccer Has Meant to Me”

By Shelly Sims

The higher I go in my level of soccer the more appreciative I become when I reflect on the youth program I have been a part of. I am a senior in high school with plans to play in college at the Division 1 level. I know, however, that I would not be in the position I am in today if I had not been offered the opportunities that I was offered on my youth club team.

Being part of a youth club team has provided me with not only the exposure to be seen by college coaches, but also to different styles of play from across the country. This kind of exposure has helped me to grow and develop as a player. I also have been fortunate to play for coaches that are very knowledgeable and passionate toward the game. The knowledge I have taken from my coaches has made me mature in my vision of the field, and expanded the creativity in my play. Their passion has driven the teams I have been a part of to play with heart, which has helped us to experience success.

Along with coaches, I have come into contact with a variety of players in youth soccer. From the different soccer players, many of which have been my teammates, I have developed many close relationships. On the

field, we have depended on one another, held each other accountable and encouraged one another. Then off the field these qualities have held great importance as well. The relationships I have made in youth soccer I am confident are life lasting friendships.

Finally, youth soccer has been an impacting experience on my life. I have had opportunities I would otherwise not been offered. I have grown as a player and I have built many friendships.