

What Youth Soccer Has Meant To Me

By Mike Tinsley

Youth soccer has played a huge role in my life and still does today. I don't remember a time in my life that I didn't play soccer, so to say that soccer is an important part of my life would be an understatement. I began playing soccer when I was five years old and loved the game from the very start. In the next several years I played basketball, baseball, and soccer, but always knew that soccer was my sport.

Soccer has been a huge influence in who I am. I've learned many things through my years of playing soccer. It has taught me lessons, such as how to be a winner, a good loser, and how to be a good sport. It has taught me what hard work and dedication mean, not just on the field, but off the field as well. Most of the close friends that I have, I have met through soccer. It has given me the opportunity to travel and gain experiences that I could have never had if I wasn't playing soccer. The year my Celtic 84 team traveled to Regionals in Georgia was the highlight of my soccer career. I couldn't believe that I had the chance to go play against some of the best teams in the country. By being involved all four years in high school soccer at Norman North, I feel it has helped me stay directed and involved.

As anyone can see, soccer has been a very important part of my life so far. It has been the game I love, taught me many lessons, introduced me to many people, and allowed me to travel and to have experiences of a life time. At one point I felt soccer was my identity and represented who I was. But now I realized that soccer has just shaped and made me to be the person I have become.