

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

Twelve years ago, as a young soccer player just starting out, I couldn't wait to get on the field and play just like my big sister did. I wanted to make friends and find a sport that I would have fun playing. Little did I know how much of an impact soccer would have on my life.

As a young player I learned how to cooperate with those around me and to have patience with the teammates that I had a hard time getting along with. I made new friends that I was able to enjoy and eat oranges with at half time of every game. I developed a love for the game and most importantly, I was thoroughly enjoying every moment of it.

As I developed as a player and a person I learned life lessons that are very dear to me now. I learned how to work hard and I saw the benefits that it had not only for me but also for my whole team. I became very competitive and loved to win but I also learned to be a gracious loser. In dealing with multiple injuries I quickly learned discipline and perseverance. I have learned time management as I have tried juggling my soccer schedule and schoolwork. My closest friends are those that I have met through soccer. Most importantly, soccer has kept me away from drugs, alcohol, and other substances that would impair my ability to play to my fullest potential. Without soccer, I would not have become the person that I am today.