

The effect that soccer has had on my life

Soccer has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I started to play when I was four years old for a small AYSO team. AYSO was the best thing for me at that time. When I was in elementary school I also played for our school team. This was a great experience because it allowed me to play with my friends that I studied with all day. In 1997 my family moved from Birmingham to Huntsville and that's when soccer changed for me.

Huntsville brought to me club soccer. AYSO was just played within the city, but club was played all over the state. I immediately jumped onto the team. Club soccer was so much different than what I was used to. We practiced to be better, we traveled a lot more, and it was a whole lot more competitive. I played for the Kicks, Huntsville Soccer Club, Vestavia, and Banzai during my club career. I learned a lot of life lessons on those club teams that I still carry with me today.

I learned to be a leader in the past years by being a captain on the soccer field. Being a captain has taught me leadership skills and responsibility that I use everyday. The leadership skills that I have learned have been carried into the classroom. Whenever there is something to be done, I always want to be the leader of the group and be able to organize the whole thing. I have also learned that I need to be responsible for my own actions. Since the team or the group is in my hands, if they mess up others look towards me for answers and I have to be responsible. It is very important that you don't push the responsibility onto someone else.

The most important life lesson that soccer has taught me occurred this year on Huntsville High School's soccer team. This is my fourth year to be playing for Huntsville High School and I have made friends with the guys on the team and I respect them. This year a senior decided he wanted to quit half way through our season. He never came to the team and told us, he just told the coach and went his own way. Every player on the team was furious with him. The lesson I learned this year was that if you start something in life and you commit to it, then you can't quit or respect is lost. That player lost every bit of respect that the soccer players had for him. That action of his let me know that if I quit something that I have started, there will be respect that is lost. I want people to respect me for who I am as a person. I don't want people to look at me as the guy who quits. This lesson I will carry on forever.

Soccer has affected me in my life. It has taught me leadership skills that I wouldn't have gotten anywhere else. It has taught me responsibility. Most of all it has taught me never to quit on something. Without soccer I wouldn't be the person I am today. Soccer has gotten me through a lot of hard times and it has taught me a lot. I don't know where or who I would be if soccer wasn't a part of my life for the past thirteen years.