

What does Soccer mean to me?

Yanusa

Soccer means a variety of things to me. It transcends its category of simple sport into a passion, a transcendent experience. Soccer is extremely frustrating and still extremely gratifying. Sometimes it feels like I'll never get better, never master a trick, never learn to shoot with strength and accuracy. I may not have the accuracy down but have found my strength and power. Soccer is my reminder that with time, dedication, and practice, anything is possible. It sounds cliché, but it's true. I feel on top of the world when I'm playing soccer. Good soccer. After having such a good year this year, I have realized that my team is equally important. Having a good team, make soccer practice and games a million times better. As a freshman, the team was constantly fighting. The underclassmen were scared of the seniors and two girls basically ran the team. The overall attitude is completely different and I think that our attitude is what enables us to continually overcome our setbacks and persevere. We are a family. My team means to me, having someone to always lean on.

Our girls soccer team means the world to me. We have finally created a team with skill and trust. We are not only a team but a newwork. We train, cry, laugh, scream, win, and lose together. Soccer has taught me a lot about responsibility and commitment. Through all four seasons my skill as well as confidence has improved.

Each and every girl on this team is amazing. Each one is not only a soccer player but a girl with great personality and charisma. Being on a team has given me a second family and doing something this often, that I love, makes it even greater to share it with these girls.

I will always love soccer and remember my team the best senior year. This is my final and last chance to play with this team so I will make it count.

Along with my teammates ~~and~~ ^{my} coaches have been outstanding. We have coaches who have a heart in the game and believe in us. That is all I could ask for.

Love, Alex C.

My Team and Me

Sierra

I would first of all like to state that although my title implies I personally have a team I strongly believe we are a team. The team is not mine to have and hold, to boss around or even to drag around with me like a baby blanket. The team is a "we", an "us" and an "ours." Therefore, we are the team.

Our team is made up of some 20 odd female student-athletes. We work hard or slack off all day in school to be freed at 2:50pm Monday through Friday. Then we live our separate lives for another hour and a half or so to be happily forced together by ~~our coaches~~ our coaches. This undescrivable union of ^{the} players, the field and the soccer ball is - to some of us - the only thing we look forward to. ^{to} sitting in class. ~~to~~

We set aside all our differences: race, style, opinion, religion, values. We set these dangerous weapons aside and come together to play the sport we love as a family. Our team is a family, closer than most, that allows for each member to be weighed down with the same responsibilities, expectations, ~~and we~~ I know that I have to make

sacrifices, on a personal level, to make my family succeed on and off the pitch.

So, you ask me what my team means to me but, the better question is what doesn't my family mean to me?

Futbol

Soccer is a global sport, yet I happened to be born in a country where football takes precedence over this beautiful game. Despite this, I chose soccer when I was nine.

Soccer has always been fun for me because of the friendships that I have made and the life lessons that it has taught me. It is one thing to rely on yourself, but when an entire team is counting on you it creates a deep sense of closeness and trust between the members.

After having played three years of high school soccer, I have experienced different dynamics within the team. Each season brought its own triumphs and disappointments. Each season also brought its own lessons.

This year's season was my favorite. The whole team dynamic has dramatically changed for the better. The girls actually are what a true team should be. The overall positive attitude and positive team work that I have experienced has made my season a really great one.

Though I quit soccer for two years, I am so happy that I joined again and that I was able to be part of such a great team.

I ♥

Olivia Cancro

Soccer

Olivia

When I look at our team in retrospect, we look ~~like~~ like a real team. Our team is a family. ~~I~~ I know all of my teammates and would take a tackle for them at any given time. My favorite quote from the movie was "play for the team not the individual", because it really shows how this game is not about one player, and showing everyone how good you are, but making your team look good, and showing everyone how your team works together to make things possible. If I could spend all year with these girls, I definitely would, and it is going to be heartbreaking when the seniors, Alex, Sierra, Yareis and Paul leave, because not only are they some of my closest friends, but they add such great skill, commitment, joyfulness, and most of all a great sense of unity among the girls. I will always play for my team, and empower each one of them because they are all equally amazing, and they deserve to be on a team that fully appreciates them! I LOVE MY TEAM!!

😊

Soccer means to me means success, friendship and courage. Soccer is a game of chance and heart and the fact that I'm able to play and survive in such a sport has helped boost my confidence because I went from thinking that the only sport I would ever be comfortable in would be volleyball. I was able to prove people wrong and I feel help open the barrier between the athletes of both sports. I see that successes I've had in soccer have motivated me to succeed in other areas of my life. I know I'm not the fastest, strongest or most skilled but I play because it makes me happy. It makes me really happy only to see the successes of myself and my teammates. When I see that I can pick up another player by saying a few encouraging words or by flashing a smile I will do that because we really are like a family.

AC

To me, soccer is all about the feeling amongst the team, the friendships, the people you come to know, to love, to be able to rely on. Coming into Taos High, I already knew a lot of people, but was still slightly worried about fitting in, finding my place. Starting soccer before school began, made all of these worries vanish. The first day of soccer everyone was welcoming and warm, and somehow willing to cope with my lack of skill. Throughout the season I have grown close with almost every player on our team on countless bus rides, fun dinners, and at practices. I believe our time playing soccer together has brought together a group of people that may never have been friends otherwise. Seeing each other work hard, overcome challenges, and improve greatly has created relationships deeper than possible on the superficial "acquaintance" level. Additionally, the support shown by everyone on varsity when they were spectators, motivated us incredibly and made my appreciation for them grow even bigger. Whenever I was able to practice with the varsity players, despite being intimidated, I felt accepted and their support and encouragement helped me to improve immensely. I hope to go to the

United World College next year so I will most likely not be here. If so, I know I'll remember this team as a family whom I grew to love and helped me to enjoy soccer. Before this year, soccer was more of an obligation. My team was coached as a lost cause, negatively, and was not enjoyable. Tao turned that around for me, providing always entertaining, funny bonding moments. Thank you all, I love you and will miss you!

♡ AC

Brandie Hogsett

To me soccer means hardwork and teamwork. When I play soccer I self-motivate myself by thinking of people I do not want to let down. I play this sport for myself but I try hard in it for the people I love. My main goal in soccer is to try my hardest and make my coaches and my team happy. My whole team is like my family. I have my parental figures who teach me and care for me, I also have many older and younger 'siblings'. My little soccer family is a great thing in my life. We are all pretty close and we care for each other. When I felt devastated after the first game against Santa Fe Prep my teammates were there to pick me up. I was so worried that I let them down and that I disappointed. They did not get mad but comforted me instead. I love my team this year. They are all great girls who will go far.

Zoe Larson
10/29/09

Zoe Larson

This is my first year playing any sport. I have never really played soccer at all or performed as an athlete. I have never realized how much effort teams pour into their games. Never before have I played to near exhaustion but still pushed myself. I have played hard at practice then went directly home to write an homework till I fell asleep. I have now learned I wanted to throw up and still chase the ball. I have felt single physical exhaustion for the first time in my life. I feel strong because of this. I feel like the soreness in my muscles as a badge of effort. I have worked hard enough to improve myself. I knew that my own skill in the sport was limited but I liked to just be on the field. I love to try. I love to be part of a team as we pass the ball like an orchestrated concert (or at least it feels like it sometimes). Even when we don't perform the best it motivates me to do better. And to reach the bubbly feeling of playing like a well oiled machine.

So far this year I have learned quite a bit about the game & the skills. I have grown from the newbie who didn't know what a sub was & played as a 12th player to part of a team who knows that you play with all players and sits out when you tell me that I'm a sub. For shorts. I love the adrenaline of just being on the field.

I've only played soccer for a few years, really. It's not something I've grown up doing since I was barely able to walk, like I know is the case for some of my teammates. I grew up drawing and ice skating. I took up a lot of different hobbies and activities since, like soccer, violin, and ballet. I'm the kind of person that likes to be busy, and wishes they had all the time in the world to dedicate to any activity they find passion in doing. I love all the things I do; the problem is how can I do them all?

So, I allot my time and try to focus on doing the things I love best and working hard to improve in those areas. I choose to dedicate quite a bit of my time to soccer (at least for the season, that is, and whenever I can otherwise is great, too) because, primarily, it is challenging; but also because I love the team dynamics and the opportunity to stay in shape. Our team really is like a family, and I really enjoy spending time with the girls and receiving the constructive, encouraging, and thoughtful attention of the coaches. The challenge that soccer poses is also something I can hardly refuse or step down from. It takes a huge amount of hard work and dedication to improve in soccer. I think that finding^{ing} inspiration to dedicate yourself, having a positive attitude and mindset, setting goals and working to achieve them, and being a helpful part of a team are all necessary in soccer, to be a ~~real~~ player. It's important to see yourself as an ingredient of a larger recipe. Eggs are good, but they also make so many other things

better. For me, soccer is a chance to be part of a team, a way to challenge myself, to stay in shape, and to do because I love it, even though there are a lot of other things I could dedicate my time to.

Soccer's Inner Meaning

Playing soccer with such a diverse group of girls is spectacular. Soccer is all about commitment, perseverance and simply enjoyment of the sport. This sport is enhanced by all of the talent and positive people on the team. The sport itself may be the reason we joined, but the people on the team are the reason we stay.

Commitment to the team is crucial to it's overall success. When a group of people join together and participate in one activity for about fifteen hours a week, a sense of unity is created. However, this is not obtained without the commitment and dedication of each and every individual. If every player did not show up for practice or games, then the team would be in a much different dynamic than it is now.

Another key aspect to a successful team is perseverance. When we play games, if the play or score is not to our liking, we change it. We do not give up and call quits. We always fight to the end because, in a game, you can always reverse roles and dominate or score numerous times to eventually win.

Fun is the main reason most people play soccer. Without the thrill of how you will play, who will win, who will score, who will start, etc., there would be no excitement. Thus, since soccer entails all of the preceding aspect, the sport is enjoyable and a great to unwind from a stressful day. Everyone on this team started out playing because they thought it would be fun. As time progresses, we become more wrapped up in the competition but the fun is always there or else we would have quit a long time ago. This aspect of the sport keeps people going all through high school and sometimes even college.

The people on the team really make the sport incredible to participate in. We all have people who we never got along with who were also on the team. However, as we were routinely with them, we grew to like them. Our best friends may have been on the team, but most people branched out and became friends with people in new cliques.

All of this mingling between groups and people promoted one strong, sturdy foundation for our team. As the UNC coach, Anson Dornance, pointed out, the only way for a team to be successful is to have everyone working together. If there was tension on the team, some people may become greedy and sacrifice much needed goals.

The overall experience of soccer has been enhanced so much with the positive personalities of some people on the team. If everyone was always focused on competition and winning, then our performance seems that it would lack. We would be afraid to play to our full potential for fear of making a mistake. Because of these shining people, we are more daring, which, in turn, can lead to a beautiful game.

Soccer is a thrilling, fantastic sport that entails all of the aspects that make someone successful in life. It means being committed, working through hard times and having fun. The traits of the game are magnified by the great spirits on the team that keep you going when you feel the worst. In the beginning, it is about working to win a game. However, after joining a team and working with others, it becomes a way to work with others and play to your full potential. With these ideas in mind, the concept of winning is pushed toward the end of the priorities. It is about playing your best and working as one single entity.

i can find happiness in the feel of a soccer ball
against my cleats

my bare feet

cut grass

and i jump (at the chance to do something right)

find myself staring down at the field

but it's ok

because i double knot ~~my~~ my laces

to keep from falling and

my team is always there to pull me up

every day i realize the importance

of patterns (family & friends)

wax dripping down the side of a candlestick

frost biting etchings on the field

and we practice to remember

rhythms

of the season(s) when i have finally

heard the right word in what my headphones

have fed me on repeat

and i tie on my cleats look around

kick at the leaves rustling on the ground

because i want to rewind but know that

memories can't be set on shuffle

all we can do is build up

like freckles in the sun -

like love in a team / like love for the game

Morika Hensley

I play and love soccer for so many reasons, that it is hard to distinguish between them. When I thought about it for a while though, I was able to find what I believe the most important reasons are for my love of soccer. First, soccer is intellectually stimulating, and so it is extremely rewarding when I figure out how to do something especially difficult. I am the kind of person who loves intellectual challenges because of the "Aha!" moment when the situation is resolved. I also enjoy the aspect of playing with other intellectual people. Secondly, I enjoy the physical challenge. There is always something to improve on in soccer, and that's what keeps it exciting for me. Also I enjoy the fitness part of it, both being in shape and getting in shape in a very fun way. Third, and most important, I love playing soccer because it's social. I love the relationships, as well as competitions I have with the people who I play soccer with. As a general rule, my closest friends are my teammates. I am on three competitive teams, but my teammates here in Tass are my very closest friends. There is not a single girl on the Lake Tigers that I wouldn't want to share a seat with on the bus or to be my partner in a drill. I really admire how everyone respects each other on our team. If someone is having a hard day, everyone comes together to give that person support. I love how we're really a team - we don't care who does.

what "to glorify themselves" as long as it gets done for the benefit of the team. I feel like there's not a lot of ego, and that makes me really happy. Our team might not be the best in the world as far as actual playing, but, at least for the three teams I'm on, this one is by far my favorite. ~~It's the best~~
~~It's the best~~ I'm sad this season is almost over because I've had so much fun with the team this year, and it will never be the same without the best seniors ever.

How Soccer and Our Team is Important to Me...

Tierra L.
10/29

Soccer is one of my top three favorite sports - Soccer, Ski Racing, Tennis. And every year during the fall it becomes my favorite. My goal in soccer is to play varsity during my Junior and Senior year. I would like to play offense and a back-up goalie for the Junior Varsity team.

I began by playing highschool soccer last year, for the sole purpose of cross-training for ski racing. But soon into the season it became much much more. Like they said in the UNC movie - the team quickly became more than colleagues, but more like family. I knew that I could rely completely on any individual on the team, and they could likewise rely upon me.

During the fall season soccer completely took over my life. Between practice, ~~and~~ games, and school work I had barely any time for anything else. I was watching what I ate for soccer. I was living, breathing, eating, soccer. I soon began to discover that soccer was more than a sport - it became a way of life - a religion.

So soccer is a religion, my teammates and my family, my sisters.

This heart is about 20 times too small
So I wonder if it's a coincidence that I can't catch my breath when I'm around you all
You could call this a team
That makes me think of obligation
But I would be obliged to stand by your side
In the ruff tumble of the wind
That always seems to be against us

It's more than a season that holds us together
Because this is a seasoned friendship
More than a game, it's the beginning
This talent runs deep
In the souls of our feet
Or the eco of our scream
It's consuming
So defeat should be stricken from our vocabulary
Because there's nothing to lose when you're complete
Content in the rhythm of our heels
It's contagious
Like an ideal French braid
It's consistent
So if we get a little twisted
Just run your fingers through and start over
Because nothing is more beautiful than patience
Then our potential

What it means to me...

10/29/09

Soccer means a lot to me. It's a sport that I feel I can escape to. When I need something to do or things just aren't going right, I play soccer. I've played a lot of sports, but the one that truly stands out to me is soccer. This sport has taught me very important skills on and off the field. Good character is a key to being a true athlete because bad character sure isn't.

To me, the Lady Tigers Soccer team means so much. ~~It's a team that I love to play for.~~ ~~It's a team that I love to play for.~~ We must all contribute in order to produce. I learn from them and they learn from me. ~~It's a team that I love to play for.~~ We have all become so close through the good and the bad. I help them out when they struggle and they do the same for me. I am there for them, standing in front of the goal when they need it, encouraging them when they're disappointed or unhappy. I make them laugh. They are also there for me even during those crucial times like PK shootouts. I can always see them with fear in their eyes of

me getting scored, that only makes me try harder. I thank them for being there and hope the best for the seniors and upcoming seniors.

MY TEAM & SOCCER

What does my team and soccer mean to me? First of all my team, they are and always will be my friends. They make me laugh all the time, but when it's time to get serious they will tell me what I need to do. I think every individual on my team has there own special unique skill in soccer. Even if things get rough in soccer my team motivates all of us to do better and start playing as a team again. I would do just about anything for my team, cause they like my familia? I'll do anything to protect my familia.

Wow! What could I say about soccer? I guess I could say that it means everything to me, Its what I value. Its my favorite sport no matter what, just because I ~~love~~ to play it. I'll play in the blazing hot sun or in a freezing cold blizzard. Every time I walk onto a soccer field I just feel more alive than ever before. When I feel the soccer ball underneath my feet I feel that I can do so much with it, and I can prove myself to the coaches, but I choke. When I do mess up I try and do better but I get so mad at myself I just play more. This is something I really need to work on, that way instead of bringing

STARBUCKS PART 2

my whole team down I could motivate them again, and so I can be a team player.

[The following text is extremely faint and illegible due to blurriness and low contrast. It appears to be a continuation of a handwritten note.]

Soccer

Lauren Baker

What is my favorite sport?
Let's just say a little thing called soccer is. Soccer means alot to me, so does my soccer team. I'll just tell you all about it now.

First, Soccer was something I've done from a small age. Although I've done alot of things in my life, Soccer is the one thing that has stuck with me from the start. Maybe its just the nature of the sport from old days makes me love it.

Soccer is truely a sport from the Gods. The one God who bugs everyone on my team is Coach Tenrey himself. But we all love him, including me. Micheal is a man with few words, and nearly no appetite. Hank is a man with many words. He is a very funny man.

The girls, well there is just no words to describe. This team is a gift from heaven. They have brought me so much happiness, laughs, and fun. How talented these girls are is outstanding to watch. Since they have been so kind to me since I've started the team they are truely ~~the~~ family. I know it will just get better throughout the years.

As you can see, Soccer and my team means everything to me. Soccer is my passion, my team is my life. I will devote all of me to every single one of them. Soccer is great. Believe me when I say this, I would die without it in my life. Especially these heartwarming people.

Zoie Hensley


When I was younger I wanted to do anything but play soccer. I wanted to be a singer, a spy, and who knows what else. Later on I realized that I really wanted to be like my brother Josh. So at the age of five I began to practice. When I first started I thought I was doing it just for fun, but then every year it got more and more serious.

Soon I began to fall in love with the beautiful game and found myself not wanting to participate in anything else. I had done ballet for six years and began to lose interest. I persuaded my mom to let me quit. I quit at age eleven. Before I knew it I began to play on my first club team in Los Alamos. Our team dominated as we beat most Alb. teams. I began my first year of Y.O.P where I got recruited by the number one team in the Duke City league.

I experienced a new level of play. The level of play made me fall in love to the deepest ~~depths~~ ^{extent}. I loved the team and most of all I loved winning. Everyday I practiced because soccer was where I didn't have to worry. For about two hours everyday I got to do something that I loved. That's all anyone can ask for. Today, soccer isn't just what I do it's who I am. Everything in my

brain is drenched in soccer juice. I don't have one thought in my head that ~~isn't~~ related to soccer. Soccer is my passion, my life.

Now I am 14 years old and on my first high school team. Lucky for me I have the greatest most supportive girls on the team anyone could ask for. Especially the seniors. The seniors are the greatest role models.




I know that on a lot of other teams the seniors would be mean to the youngest ones but luckily the seniors on the team this year are much more mature than that. I hope the seniors know how thankful I am for their kindness and I hope all the seniors in the program follow the same example. Our team doesn't just hang out ~~at~~ at soccer practices we get together outside of it. Our team has a special bond that is very rare to find. That is probably what has gotten us so far. We play for each other. On Saturday I want us to play for the seniors. It may be their last game and we gotta fight. Fight like it's your own last high school game. FOR THE SENIORS! who's with me? Lets go ladies lets kick some Silver City @stt!!

Love, Joie

Lady Tigers:]

Angelica Pacheco

↳ What my team means to me. 

Teamwork is sharing Success and Failure, and becoming Better because of it. It's all for one. It's about giving each other Criticism, not because we don't like each other, but because we want one another to ~~success~~ Succeed. "The sum of the whole is better than its parts." Toos high school soccer team is you guys are more than ~~are~~ a group of girls a run with on a crazy ~~forever~~ Pancho's field. You guys are my family. The people that make me better on and of the soccer field. We have lost and won games. And if you haven't noticed working together works. Team goals are understood by everyone.  I can't wish for any other team that means more to me. I want to see all of you go far in life in whatever you do.

