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What Soccer Means to Me:

Sitting in the back of my dad's car, eyes swollen and a damp sleeve, I stared at the soccer field and begged my dad to let me stay in the car. I was an anxious, scared twelve-year old who was not looking forward to U12 premier tryouts. Even though I had played recreational and travel soccer since age six, I didn't have confidence in my skills.

My parents said premier soccer would be good for me and it would be a way to get better. I reluctantly agreed. I made the B team. During the season, I discovered a drive to get better; I wanted to play more. When watching the other kids at practice, I came to believe that I could be as good as they were. The summer going into 7th grade I practiced at home, with the hope that I would make the A team. That fall I had more confidence and wanted to show the coach how I had developed.

Now in my senior year of high school, I credit my parents for making me participate in the 6th grade tryouts. Without the discipline of soccer, I wouldn't be the person I am today. Soccer increased my confidence in all aspects of my life. I learned that with effort, patience and hard work I could achieve my goals and develop the skills necessary to accomplish anything I wanted.

And my best friends? I met them at the U9 Travel tryouts. So don't be afraid to tryout.