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What Soccer Means to Me

At the age of three or four, finding shin guards that fit are practically impossible. They end up over your socks, stretching from ankle to knee. Writing about what soccer means to me in only 250 words is kind of like trying to find that first pair of shin guards, difficult.

For me, soccer has been the center of my life since I was a preschooler. I grew up *through the game*; made my friends *through the game*; learned life's important lessons *through the game*. Soccer is so much more than just an organized team sport. It's full of creativity and passion. It's family and friends. It's that nervous, but hopeful feeling one gets right before the match. It's a rush of emotions. It's the thing that relieves life's stress.

Nothing has ever felt more natural to me than having a ball at my feet. Ever since I was a little girl, I ran through the house, knocking things over left and right. Soccer has been one of the few consistent things in my life and I am so grateful. For me, soccer is like letting out a breath of air you didn't know you were holding.

I couldn't be more excited to continue my soccer career in college, but what reminds me of my passion are the days that I go to my local youth fields. I watch the young kids play, with such eagerness in their eyes, and of course those big shin guards ankle to knee.