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# College Admission Essay

Everything started four years ago. While in seventh grade, I joined the school's soccer team. I was a bit too tall for my age and didn't have the expertise, but I was fast and strong. Those qualities led one of the team members to invite me to try out. I wanted to prove to myself that I could learn the skills to become an important player, but I would never forget that I was joining a very competitive group of friends for whom I had to play well.

After the first month, I noticed that the coach had begun to play another team member more than me. [FIRST NAME] had just recovered from an injury, and he was the more experienced striker. For any athlete in general, it is the worst feeling to get ready for a game and not play. Not only did I feel badly about myself, but I felt badly for my family members as they had come to watch me play. Sitting on the bench, I thought that I was never going to be [A VALUABLE] part of the team and I considered that quitting was not only my best option, but my only one. However, [I THEN REALIZED THAT] I would have no success without sacrifice.

I have to admit, those were very rough times, and I struggled internally. The unconditional support of my family as well as the desire that I had as an athlete to excel made me want to do better, suppressed my negative feelings, enhanced my self esteem, and convinced me that I could keep my head up high by simply becoming a better soccer player. At first, I started looking at what the professional players do. I started training harder than all my peers, staying after practice to get better at shooting, technique, and speed drills to become stronger and faster. I got to the point where I trained until my body said "no," but my heart kept telling me "yes." For the rest of that year, although I was improving, I was still on the bench, but my coach started seeing my potential.

The following year, the school brought a new coach, which gave me [A BLANK SLATE] in some ways. The new coach was older, and he showed me how patience and hard work were keys to success [BY DOING WHAT—INCLUDE SEVERAL EXAMPLES]. He made me play for two years in new positions, but one day my junior year everything paid off. Our starting striker sustained an injury that ruled him out for many months; therefore, I would play. I saw my chance and trained harder than ever before, [DOING WHAT AND WHAT]. Because of that extra dedication, I managed to play in the position that I liked, became the captain of the junior varsity team, and went to my first Central American tournament. I became the team's top goal scorer. Since then, I have been the captain and the starting striker and I am about to compete in my third Central American Tournament.

My decision to stay with soccer four years ago has marked my entire life and will help me on and off the field forever. Just as Imagine Dragons lead singer Dan Reynolds once sang in [NAME THE SONG,] "The path through heaven runs through miles of clouded hell."

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