



## Center for the Study of the Southwest Texas State University San Marcos

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### **Soccer through a childhood**

My soccer experiences began the summer of 2002 in Floresville, Texas. My family moved into a neighborhood and right across the street was a soccer field where the Wilson County Soccer League played. I remember my dad would take my sister and I out to the field and kick around the ball during our free time. The first time I got to watch a game was the fall of 2003 when my sister joined a soccer team. I can still remember waking up early on Saturday mornings and walking out of our neighborhood and across the highway to be at the field. My sister was on the Rockets and they wore purple jerseys. I was only five years old so I didn't understand anything. To my knowledge it was only a game where my sister kicked a ball and ran around. For the next couple falls I watched my sister kick the ball around and I would cheer her on. Eventually, watching a game I had no idea about intrigued me enough to join.

In the fall of 2006, I joined my first soccer team the Rockets; the same team my sister had been on years before. I can still remember the first soccer ball I had. It was white and blue and my mom had written my name in pink sharpie. The team was made up of all my friends from my first-grade class so it was a fun first sports team for me. I was the goalie for the team and I can

remember feeling like I had such a big responsibility on my plate. I continued to play for the Rockets for the following spring season.

I took a year off to pursue cheerleading and dance, but I decided to come back in 2008. I returned to playing soccer for a different organization: The Boys and Girls Club of Floresville. I joined the Rampage soccer team. I was nervous about coming back of not playing for a year and being part of a new organization. It was much different than The Wilson County Soccer League and I was struggling to adapt. The practices were different and much farther away from my house. I could no longer just walk across the field. Also, on this new team I was with much older kids which scared me. Being in the fourth grade playing with sixth and seventh graders was very intimidating. Of course, my comfort was being a goalie, however there were already three other people on the team who had more experiences being goalies, so I had to learn a new position. My coach both had me try being a midfielder and a defender. I eventually became a defender. I very much enjoyed the position. I stayed with that team through the spring season as well staying as a defender. The following year I joined the Warriors for the 2009 season. The reason I made the switch is because I had a good friend who was on the team and I knew it would make it more fun. That was a final year of soccer, I enjoyed it, however I enjoyed dancing more and decided I would rather continue with that.

My next experience with soccer happened in 2010 watching the World Cup. My mother had a conference in Dallas and took me with her. During the days, I had nothing to do so myself and another boy would watch the World Cup while our parents were at the conference. Though I have only watched this World Cup and have no other to compare to, this was such an interesting thing to watch. I became so intrigued. I can remember wanting to watch as many games as I could and not wanting to leave the hotel.

The final way I have had with soccer was going to my friend's game. Many of the girls on my dance team were also on the soccer team so I would hear all about their practices and such. As supporting them my friends and I would go support my teammates and watch the Floresville Jaguar Soccer team.