

What makes me

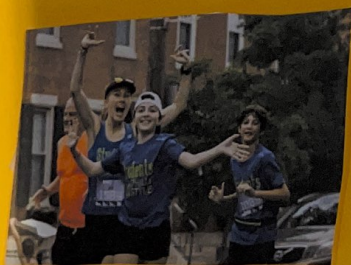


Who I Am?

Dear readers,

My name is Oscar Bennett, I am a fourteen-year-old. I was born in New York and now live in Philly. This project was challenging because it was hard for me to reflect on myself.

My magazine is about my hobbies and interests. The challenges I've overcome to improve and become better as a student and individual and how I've overcome them. The article has a lot of stuff about sports. It includes pictures and an ad for skiing and an ad for the beach and finally an ad for running. I specifically want to put in these ads because they resemble me the best. I love to ski. For me it's calming and it takes concentration. I like going down the mountains and the warm cabin waffles at the end. I love the beach because it's a whole lot of fun and I love to boogie board. The last ad resembles the last 3 years I have been running long distances. I have run the Broad Street Run which is 10 miles, I have run the half marathon which is 13.2 and I have run countless other races.



Come join Students
Run Philly style!

One of the most important things you should know about me is that I play soccer. I love soccer. I have been playing for over 10 years. Soccer has been a massive part of my life and I would like to express its importance to me through this piece of writing. I will walk you through the process of joining new teams and leaving old ones. I will show you how it has built me. And I will show you my love for the sport.

Soccer is a team sport. It requires a lot of teamwork and the perfect people to make an amazing team. I have participated in many tournaments and played with many teams. My favorite team was the Palumbo soccer club because of the people. I played with Palumbo for 5-6 years and it was an extraordinary experience. The team itself wasn't that good but the people on the team made soccer so much more enjoyable. The best team I've played with is a tournament team called Chester hill select. We won one of the tournaments and got second in one. The players are nice and the coaches are amazing. I would gladly go back and play with them again.

Soccer has built me as a person because it has shown me to overcome obstacles and try to figure out how to do something the harder way. I've always been one of the smaller kids on the team and I needed to figure out how to not get pushed around by the bigger and older kids. I eventually realized that I had to change up my playstyle to adapt to the bigger kids. Especially in high school. This sport also taught me to be more aware of my surroundings. I glance around me when I receive a pass and that helps me be more aware.

I could name so many more reasons why I love soccer but I'll spare you the time. It's been a very important part of my life since I have been very young. I have met so many amazing people through soccer and most of the time I play them in a game outside of the club we played in. It's the best feeling when you are friends with someone and have played multiple games with them and you play against them. One time I played with a tournament team with a kid named Micheal. We played against his club team and we were guarding each other and laughing the whole time. Those moments are to die for.

To sum this all up, soccer has built my life up to where it is and I greatly appreciate the opportunities I have been given to improve. I don't know what kind of person I would be without soccer in my life because it really has shaped me to be who I am today.



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When I was around eight to nine years old I had a soccer coach named Vernon who was extremely strict. He would scream at us if we weren't doing the drills right. He would yell in our faces for not being able to do a drill that was meant for fifteen-year-olds. He would make us run and do unnecessary hard fitness drills at the age of eight. Eventually, he got fired for flipping off and hitting an even younger kid he was coaching. There were three particular times when his extreme coaching would affect me as a soccer player and as a person.

The first time that I vividly remember was when he made us sprint around the gym thirty times. If he thought we were going too slow he would make us do pushups after. The gym wasn't too big but it was big enough to tire me out after sprinting thirty times. One of my teammates named Jonah and I would be gassed and light-headed. The worst part is that we would do this at the beginning of practice. That means we would have to play another hour of soccer after. By the end of practice, my legs would be on fire.

The second time that I remember was when we were in the middle of a game. The score was something around 8-1. We were winning and coach Vernon pulled out a couple of the players and made them run laps around the field because they weren't working hard enough. The funniest part about that was that one kid he pulled off had 2 goals and the other had 3. He also screamed at our goalie named Miles for letting a goal in. I clearly remember Miles' face when he was getting yelled at. His face was full of fear.

My third and final memory of him was when we lost a game by three points he made us run and do fitness drills the whole hour and a half of practice. That practice was one of the worst practices I have ever been to. By the end of it, I was light headed and my legs were heavy. That day I realized that I didn't want to continue with Vernon. I just felt overworked. A couple of days later Vernon ended up getting fired and when I heard the news I was so excited to go to practice. A feeling I haven't had with Vernon.

Overall, I think that Vernon's coaching tactic did help me improve as a player. Even though I hated it. It helped me build my confidence in winning tackles due to his strength and fitness drills. It helped my speed in chasing down the ball. And we started to win games towards the end. He taught me to be more tough and smart with the ball. I did think it was torture and uneseary and the time but now i feel that it really helped build our team for the later years.



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