

My name is Landon Paulson.

This is a story about my journey with soccer. Like many, I started playing soccer when I was four. Soccer didn't become a passion until I hit middle school and started to see why billions of people worldwide love the sport of soccer no matter what they call it. In middle school, people started to see my talent and passion and I was pulled up to the older team. This helped elevate my game and eventually gave me the skills for my upcoming success going into high school.

Going into my Freshman tryouts I was a nervous wreck, once I stepped onto that field I was able to forget my worries and just play my game. I remember the day leading up to finding out what team you made. All I could think about was the mistakes I had made in tryouts and believing I had not made it. When I got the news that I made the team it was like a huge weight had been lifted off my chest. My season from there went well. I was able to earn some time on the field and by the end of the season I had improved tenfold.

During the winter break all I could think about was the next season of soccer and my chance to earn a starting spot. Going into preseason I was ready to give it everything, then it all came crashing down. During preseason I had a devastating season-ending injury. It forced me to watch my team from the sideline all the way to the state championship game. It was heartbreaking to watch my team go out there and win the state championship without me but it gave me the motivation to work to the bone in the off-season to get to full health.

My junior season came rolling around and I was ready to get back to High school soccer. I had a break-out season, and I finished that season with 25 goals and 10 assists which put me within reaching distance of the 50-goal milestone. Going into my last High school season I was feeling the pressure. This was my last chance to lead my team to a state championship and reach the 50-goal milestone. As a team, we started the season very slowly. We dropped the first two games 1-0 and 2-1. In the 3rd game we won in overtime 4-3 and I was able to get my first hat trick of the year. This was the start of a winning streak. Going into our last regular season game I needed 3 goals to reach the 50-goal milestone. It was a long bus ride to the game and it gave me time to think over my high school career and all of the core values that I had learned getting to this moment.

1. Living every day to its fullest.
2. Be self-sufficient.
3. Be the best teammate and friend that I can be.
4. Never stop dreaming.
5. Work as hard as you can.
6. Treat people as I want to be treated.
7. Look out for yourself and others.
8. Ask for help when you need it.
9. Always look to improve yourself.
10. Have faith in yourself.

I was able to put on the performance that I needed to have in order to reach the 50-goal milestone. When I put that 3rd goal in and clinched my spot on the 50-goal banner it was a massive relief that all

my blood, sweat and tears had paid off in the end. In the playoffs, I led my team to the semi-finals before we dropped to the eventual champions. It was a heartbreaking loss for me and my team.

As I reflect on my soccer journey, from the early days of kicking a ball around at four years old to reaching the pinnacle of high school soccer, I can't help but be grateful for the highs and lows. Each challenge, setback, and triumph has shaped me into the player I am today. While the season-ending injury during pre-season tested my resilience, it also fueled my determination to return stronger. The road to the state championship, though bittersweet as I watched from the sidelines, only intensified my hunger for success. The triumphant moments, such as achieving the 50-goal milestone and leading my team to the semi-finals in my last high school season, are etched in my memory. Soccer has been more than a sport; it's been a journey of self-discovery, perseverance, and the pursuit of excellence. As I bid farewell to high school soccer, I carry the lessons that I learned in my High school career with me on the next step in my soccer journey. The next step in my soccer journey is taking a gap year in Spain with Eture soccer academy. This gap year is going to elevate my game to levels otherwise untouchable. This gap year will put my dreams and goals (playing at the highest college level possible) within reach.

I am genuinely interested in securing the Adventure Scholarship because I firmly believe that it aligns perfectly with my values and aspirations, both as an individual and as a player. The essence of the Adventure Scholarship resonates deeply with my personal philosophy, and I see it as a unique opportunity to foster personal growth and development. To me the Adventure Scholarship represents more than just a financial aid program; it symbolizes a community of like-minded individuals who share a common love for adventure, exploration, and pushing boundaries. Being part of such a community would not only provide me with a support system but also expose me to diverse perspectives and experiences, enriching my personal and intellectual growth.

Securing the AC is important to realizing my dream of undertaking a transformative gap year in Spain. Utilizing the scholarship to financially support this endeavor, I envision a year filled with immersive experiences, cultural exploration, and growth as a person and a player. The Adventure Scholarship not only alleviates the financial burden associated with such an experience but also symbolizes a commitment to fostering development. The overall cost for this undertaking amounts to \$45,000. Through my full-time work, I have managed to save approximately half of this sum. I am earnestly seeking a financial contribution from the Flyin Ryan Hawks Adventure Scholarship, and I am hopeful that such support can be extended to me. By leveraging this scholarship, I aim to contribute meaningfully to the communities I encounter. Beyond the financial aspect, the Adventure Scholarship represents a community of like-minded individuals, providing support, mentorship, and a platform to share and learn from the experiences of fellow Adventurers. In essence, the Adventure Scholarship is not just a means to fund my gap for Eture soccer academy in Spain; it is a gateway to a transformative journey that will shape me into a more well-rounded individual.

Thank you for your time in reading this, and your consideration.

Yours in all the upcoming Adventures life brings me,

Landon Paulson.