The Soccer Experience

Soccer is a sport like no other, it is the greatest sport to ever grace the field. The name Soccer isn’t actually the original name for the sport, the correct name is called “Football”, which originated from the medieval Europe era, citizens from Europe continue to call the sport its original name. Soccer is the greatest sport of all time, the thrill of playing on the field, the change in mindset you go through as an athlete, and the emotions you feel from the screams of the crowd, making you feel like there is no feeling like it. Soccer isn’t just a sport, it’s a lifestyle to the players and the people who watch it. This sport inspires young children who watch their favorite player perform on television, giving them motivation to achieve their dreams of playing professionally. Not only are the young generation inspired by the players, but it brings out a feeling of joy, anger, anticipation, competitiveness, and fire from the older people who watch as well. The sport of Soccer has an impact like no other, there is a reason why it is the most famous sport in the World, the feeling of watching the sport is just as thrilling as playing it, and no other sport can achieve the popularity of soccer, as it is one of a kind.

The feeling of playing on the field is a feeling of a lifetime, so many professionals and people who aren’t even professionals have expressed their love for playing soccer in the past, even when it wasn’t their favorite sport, the experience to these people is something that will stay with them for generations. The feeling of excitement that jolts through your blood stream, like electricity through a charging current. As you do your pre-game warmups, thinking about so
many different scenarios, as if a movie player is playing in your head. Smelling the atmosphere and field around you, the adrenaline begins to set in as your fist begin to clench in excitement and fear of what’s to come. The moment that whistle blows is similar to an alarm waking you up for the next day, asking you to begin as you tremble in anticipation of the whistle. The game starts and your legs start automatically moving as if you’re being controlled from afar, whenever there is an opportunity for you to get the ball, you feel like a hawk with its claws ready to grab hold of its prey. Running towards your opponent, feeling your cleats tread the grass, kicking up dirt in your path as you sprint in hunger for that chance to score. Feeling the wind blowing you back with resistance almost stopping you from getting what you want, but in reality, the realization doesn’t set that you’re moving so fast. As soon as you take the ball, the scene sets in your head, as if it’s a flashback of something you’ve already experienced but it is only what you’re imagining, tapping the ball forward with the laces of your cleats, until you see a defender attempting to take it from you. The quick thinking in your brain sets in immediately like a shock to the body, thinking about your next move, but time is moving so fast, as if there is a clock in your head ticking slowly but on the outside everything is moving so quickly. You don’t know whether to move past the defender with speed or perform a flashy skill move you’ve been practicing all month for this very moment. As you accelerate past your opponent, you see a shining light hit the goal, now it’s a dark room with only you and the goalkeeper, but you don’t know if your shot will be precise as the defender you passed is right behind you closing in on your opportunity to score. You look at where you want it to go for a brief millisecond, as time feels like bomb ready to explode and disrupt your moment, lifting your leg high above the ball, kicking it with everything you have, as if you’re gambling all your chips in poker on this one move. Staring at the ball float through the air with speed, now for the first time, it feels like
everything has slowed down, the moment is here but you’re unknowing of the outcome, as you watch the ball go right passed the keeper as if he dodged a bullet from a gun, hearing the ball hit the inside of the net, resuming what just happened. You begin to run in excitement, staring at the sky and hearing the cheers roar, smiling from eye to eye as you’re now living your dreams, feeling that sensation like a drug addict reaching their high. It feels like a movie has come to life and the dream that you’ve wanted is now being lived by you, and you tell yourself that there is no greater feeling.

The mindset of an athlete is something that many professionals either lack or don’t seem to really talk about. The mindset you experience as a Soccer player can affect your performance on the field, although to some, this may not be a huge problem, but if your confidence is low before a game, the chances of you succeeding during the match is extremely low. The low mindset of an athlete will drag that player’s self-esteem so low it feels like an anchor restraining you from moving forward, making you blind to improvement. If a player cannot allow himself to learn from his mistakes and view his flaws from an outside perspective, the performance will decrease drastically. There is a famous quote that goes, “One who cannot see himself on the outside will never learn who they are on in the inside”. If one cannot let their mind be open to self-improvement, is someone who will never achieve anything as an athlete. Soccer is sits on the pinnacle of sports where quick thinking with the ball is one a key attribute to being an amazing player, when you receive the ball in Soccer, there is not time to think, you must quickly decide and commit to it before getting the ball stolen from you. In a ninety-minute Soccer game, eleven-a-side match, the average player has the ball 3.33% of the time during the match, meaning the time in which you have it is very small, the window in which you must decide what
to do is as small as mouse hole, one mistake will cost the team a goal. The mindset of a soccer player during a match comes with immense pressure, as if the weight of the stadium rests on your shoulders, giving your body a tingling feel of nervousness that jumpstarts the adrenaline inside of you.

The final reason to what makes Soccer such a thrilling sport to play, is the effect you feel from the crowd’s response. A lot of players do not realize the impact the crowd’s scream has on the mind while playing, some don’t even hear it while they’re playing, but that doesn’t mean it isn’t affecting them. In fact, research suggests that encouragement from the crowd actually increases the level of effort by seven percent! Which begs the question, is the crowd’s feeling towards a team a major factor in the outcome? Yes and no, as some players can actually come back harder from discouragement, allowing themselves to perform even better when all odds are against them. The seating size of an average Soccer stadium in Europe sits up to 100,000 people, which is a forty percent difference to an average American Football Stadium. This number of people can strike fear into a player’s head like lightning to the ground, both having an explosive effect that could dictate one’s current state. The screams and chants of a stadium echoes so loudly all sound begins to equal out in volume, to some, the high-volume frequency can mute everything around them to the point where they can hear every action on the field, but the players who let the noise get to them, can either succeed or falter in a dire situation where they have the chance to score. The response of the crowd to your very action makes it feel like all eyes are on you, although it is a twenty-two-player game, it can feel like you’re the only one on the field in a stadium of thousands.
In conclusion, Soccer is the greatest sport of all time, the thrill of playing on the field, the change in mindset you go through as an athlete, and the emotions you feel from the screams of the crowd, is something that no other sport will experience. Soccer has the largest fan base in the world, known for the popular “World Cup”, which involves 32 different nations competing against each other for the country’s title as the best Soccer team. Is something no sport can amount to in terms of numbers, attention, and experience around the world. The sport of soccer has three point five billion fans, an average country based on one hundred and ninety-six has 40.31 million people, that number compared to the amount of people who are fans of Soccer is larger than the mind can comprehend. The sport of Soccer is something that will last generations and is something that people will remember for the rest of their lives.

Works Cited