

We all have dreams and aspirations that our children will reach the top skill levels within the Lonestar Soccer Club and potentially get offers to play soccer at the college level. We are blessed that our son, Stephen, will be playing soccer for the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Mustangs in 2011. This is a direct result of the passion for development, support and connections from Bruce Talbot & **Sean Bubb**, and the high regard and respect that college coaches have for this entire club and personnel. We have specifically been told this from all of the college coaches we met with.

Although this is a dream come true for us, this message is not to simply announce this achievement. Rather, this message is to thank the Lonestar Soccer Club, coaches, directors, staff, team managers, volunteers, teammates, and fellow parents who we have the pleasure of being part of our lives. Thank you!

The true accomplishment, in our eyes, is to watch a young boy become a good man as a result of his long association with the people and values of this club. The reality is that Stephen has spent many more waking hours of his personal and soccer development in the hands of mentors and friends from the Lonestar's than with us as parents. We are more like the bowling alley gutter ball bumper guides of life.

It hasn't always been smooth or easy as parents watching from the sidelines all these years. We always think we know what is best for our children; that they should always be starting, what position they should be playing, who their coach should be and we naturally wanted to protect them. Sometimes our pride and ego as parents tried to get in the way of the value of what was really happening for our son.....maturity, responsibility, accountability, goal setting, team play, challenges both positive and negative, learning that life is not always perfect, and most importantly....becoming a good person. Thank God for love, patience and trust!

So, thank you Lonestar Soccer Club. Thank you for all that you do. Thank you for fostering an environment of community and belonging. Thank you for your generosity for choosing to make your career developing our children. We hope that Stephen will go out into the world with what he has learned, put it to good use, value from it, give back in any form, and never forget where he came from or who helped him get where he will be.

Our most sincere regards,

Steve and Anne Marie Pyle

