

SUCCESS IN SPORTS



BY NEIL MCNAB,
RUSH UNION SOCCER



PLAY IT FORWARD.

Success in sports at the highest level is easy to see. It usually involves winning some type of an award like a Super Bowl trophy, or World Cup, or Olympic medal. And a parade with ticker tape. It's tangible hardware by which one can judge the best team or athlete.

Success in sports at the youth level is different—as it should be. And true success doesn't always mean a medal around the neck. Sadly, that necklace means a lot to people when they are gauging success, so many youth players—who don't always win the game, take the tournament, or score the winning goal—are overlooked as being “successful”. Let's shine a light on the importance of remembering the better, more important reason for youth sports, and that most of our children aren't gunning for the elite status that comes with professional athletes.

I remember being in school many years ago and being told to “always do your best” and it's the growth and development that comes with competition that's important, not whether you win or lose. But hey, we know—and so do our kids—winning is fun. It feels good. But should it be the whole point of the game? I don't think so. After many years in the field, on the field, and watching youth athletes, I have realized that youth sports' purpose is to achieve a much loftier goal. We are

preparing our children for the greater arena of life—making them winners on a much bigger stage.

Take the Olympics for example. The Olympic message is centered around excellence, friendship, and respect. There is no reference to winning or earning a championship. Something that always resonates with me is the Olympic torch. The ever-burning flame that is passed from one event to the next, representing the true spirit of the games and passing that spirit from athlete to athlete and city to city. This is very similar to how coaches and mentors pass the joy of their sport to the youth with whom they work. They played once, they fell in love with the sport, they moved on to coaching to pass the torch and love of the game to the next generation.

And when you see the child athlete evolve into an adult coach who wants to give back to a sport that provided so much to him/her, it's incredibly rewarding. And a measure of athletic success in its own right. You don't have to be the star of the team to bring success to your sport or team.

My own child is currently being coached by one of my former players and we have had dozens of former players come back to Rush Union over the years and enter the very rewarding world of coaching youth soccer, paying it forward to the ones who follow.



SEPTIC SERVICES IN
MILTON, GA AND THE
SURROUNDING AREAS

Ray's Septic Service, LLC will help you prevent sewage disasters.

Here are only some of the many septic services we offer:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Septic Tank Pumping | Septic Cleaning |
| Septic Inspection | Septic Back-Flow Prevention |
| Septic Repairs | Septic Pumping |
| Field Line Repair | Septic Emergency Servicing |
| Troubleshoot Failed Systems | Septic Maintenance |
| System Replacement | Septic System Care |
| | And Many More! |

Contact us for your residential and commercial septic services requirements.

raysseptic.com
Call or email today 770-224-8905
ray@raysseptic.com










RIU

RUSH UNION






MILTON AND DEKALB LOCATIONS



SUMMER PROGRAMS

- SCCL Competitive
- Recreational
- All Ages
- NEW INDOOR TURF IN MILTON!
- Adult Leagues
- College ID Opportunities
- Local/Regional Tournament Play



VISIT RUSHUNIONSOCCEr.org AND FILTER BY LOCATION



Our vision at Rush Union is to “Elevate our community to become the best version of themselves. Play It Forward!”. The tagline of “Play it Forward” really resonates with me when we talk about success in youth sports. When you have impacted someone so greatly that they want to “Play it Forward” to another, it’s transformational and transcends what you do on the field for that team in one season. It has a lasting impact on the success of athletes on and off the field.

I have been so fortunate to have coached an Olympic Gold Medalist, a three-time Super Bowl winner, several professional players, and dozens of college soccer players. These are all success stories at the highest level of international sports. However, when I look back on my coaching career and the legacy that is left behind, I hope to see a great succession of former players who decide to “Play it Forward” however they can, whenever they can. That will be the success of youth sports and how we judge ourselves at Rush Union Soccer.

I challenge everyone when working with youth, in whatever arena you may be in, to honor the privilege of passing the symbolic Olympic torch along.

PLAY IT FORWARD!

RU Ready? Come check out our programs at Rush Union and get involved in an organization that is trying to elevate our community.



ALL YOUR DENTAL NEEDS UNDER ONE ROOF









Your town is now a Dental Town - Dental Town Milton has opened! Conveniently located in the Baby Publix shopping center, Dental Town is excited to offer patient-centered pediatric and adult dentistry with state of the art technology right in your neighborhood. Dr. San Diego and his team are excited to get to know their new neighbors - stop in anytime!




- Adult/Family Dentistry
- Pediatric Dentistry
- Orthodontics
- Oral Surgery
- Free Second Opinion



(678) 352-1033 dentaltownsmiles.com
 980 Birmingham Rd., Suite 507, Milton, GA 30004