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The History of Sports and Soccer

In today's society everyone, if not most have played or watched a sport. Sports date back all the way to around 700 BC, but because of the creation of sports, especially soccer has grown tremendously leading to huge changes in our society in terms of politics, economically, and of course socially.

From the beginning of sports time people looked at women and colored people differently when it came to sports. They kept people separated but, because of those who continued to play showing that they are just as skilled or even better it caused that barrier to be broken leading to a wider spread of participation in all sports from soccer, basketball, baseball, football, etc. This “genre” (sports) played and still continues to be a huge role in our society because for one it’s a billion dollar industry. It is easy to forget that just over 100 years ago, a lot of the sports that people take for granted didn't exist, and those that did wouldn't really be recognizable by the modern sports audience. Soccer is one of the oldest sports played traced back to the “2nd and 3rd centuries BC” in China (History of Soccer.) However, It started back in England and where back then they allowed” biting, kicking, punching etc during practice” (History of Soccer.) It soon got banned by King Edward the 3rd because of how intense the games got and fights broke out which caused many brutal incidents. Soon enough rules have changed where there would be no type of “manhandling” since the sport was loved by so many it became vastly popular in universities and so forth. In 1904, (early centuries) FIFA was

introduced and different countries started to take part. Then in 1930 the World Cup became more official and that has started the love of the sport around the world and now every year people tune in to watch the sports like the super bowl. It became a family night to see who would win this year's cup.

Soccer is not for everyone, however those who are in love with the game, those who play on a team or those who are in training are the specific audience or in other words “discourse community” that is grasping the sport and following it everyday trying to get better, trying to learn new skills. Sports is a tricky thing when it comes to rules because people have a different version of how they play depending on where they came from or how they were taught, like UNO for instance. Although there are various ways, it has come down to seventeen laws which are the final rules. For Example, The penalty kick, free kicks, rules for the ref, the players, and so forth. To be able to qualify to play in the world cup is a difficult journey, you would have to be part of one of the biggest teams of a county and that way that team could be picked to play in the world cup, but just like any sport being picked to play in a team is a task within itself. Although they have decided to pick 40 teams instead of 32 ever since 2018, the criteria to get picked gets harder. However, they are trying to include more teams to play because of how big the sport got. Before 32 teams it was 31 so it increase more each year which makes the World Cup that much bigger and allows people to get more excited to see more countries come to play.

Modern soccer, however, was invented by Johan Cruyff who was the best player and played for the best team. He created moves like “eponymous move” which looked very simple, but was very hard to do, (The man who invented Modern Soccer.) This started to make other players try to copy his move which helped players increase their skills to get better. Socally,

soccer has brought everyone from around the world together, helped improve health, confidence and so forth. Back then soccer has helped take away the pain, stress, and madness during the worst time in history, fast forward to today it has brought people closer to take people's mind off of stress or anything that could be going on for a little bit. It teaches teamwork, as well bonds with one another. It gives people life skills on how to be patient, knowing that practice makes perfect and so forth. It creates social change within the discourse community and those around them. When playing a game you may have been able to score the goal because of having good teammates around you. For example, Cristiano Ronaldo, they are not just good soccer players because of how much they practice, but because they have good teammates by their side. For women playing soccer, where women are looked down upon in sports, having an all women team creates women empowerment and more of a girl power which is a big social impact on not just women but, for women in sports, breaking gentrification. It gave the women and young girls playing now the confidence and a bond with other girls who are now calling each other best friends. It shows that “success isn't defined by goals or medals, but instead by community impact and social change” (Soccer For Success: How One Sport Can Impact Social Change.) There is a lot more of an impact to social change that soccer has provided, but There are big economic and political issues when it comes to soccer, but solutions.

Economically there are issues when it comes to soccer, but a certain law called, “Title IX — the law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in federally funded education programs and activities” (SPORTS: A Level Playing Field: Why the USA Is So Strong in Women's Soccer) allows women of sports to be given equal rights to what men have in sports. It gave women opportunities to better themselves instead of being belittled. However, there were

still no scholarships for women, but were for men, even though the law was passed way before they asked for them. Most around the world have not gotten behind the Title IX law which, but it is still the work for women to get the recognition they deserve. The law has been helpful, but it is still in need of some work to make it equal between men and women when it comes to sports. Throughout history of soccer, it was always male dominated and never took women under serious consideration when it came to them playing. Some serious questions that have been on my mind is why women aren't playing against men and why there are no co-ed teams because women can be just as good as guys. Doing more research on it shows that the way men grew up, they see women as someone who can't be muscular so it never generated that women can play just as competitively as guys.

Throughout researching soccer, all articles talked about how soccer brought those together and created a bond as well as diversity to a great game created back in ancient times to pass time because there was no technology back then, but now looking at modern day soccer it shows that there is much more to it than just a few players on a team and a ball. Gender is taken into account money, co-ed teams or not, laws that have been passed for women and so forth. Doing a deeper dive on modern soccer, gentrification has proven to be the biggest issue amongst sports. Mia Hamm, Kristine Lilly and more have changed the game for young women and for the discourse community of young girls who want to be professional athletes. Being a young athlete who plays soccer, I never took into account how women are looked at in sports because I'm a male who is given opportunities to play and never had to think twice. We always have our own group of teammates and if we try for another team we know we will meet more people like us. As for girls we never thought how hard it could be to find a team with a women head coach who

is willing to help girls achieve their dream in such a competitive sport where there are little to no opportunities. Yes, there is a law but many countries are falling behind. It should not be a business, but an opportunity for young people like myself to be able to express themselves and play something that would make them feel good and to create bonds with people they never thought they would be able to. Title IV is just the beginning. It's the love for the game that brought people to want to play and made it into a worldwide game.

Picking Soccer to do research on was interesting to me because I never knew the true history of how it all began, but I soon learned that it wasn't all that great moving forward. Playing soccer since I was five and then becoming more involved with it made me want to continue playing it for as long as I can and I then decided to play for my school team and anytime after that. I practiced playing when I wanted to get my mind off of some things or whenever I was bored to pass time. Doing research I found out that was also the same reason people started to play. To bring people together, take some stress off, and it has made me a better person on the field and off of it. It teaches you patience, it gives you confidence, bonds, also helps you feel good about yourself which have been analyzed and talked about throughout articles I've read. It made me realize how much more I love the sport and why I would continue to play it. It made me appreciate and look at women who play in a bigger light because before I thought anyone no matter the gender will have the same rights if wanting to play professionally. I wish that there was more that can be done to close the gap between genders because it is also proven that women don't get the same pay as men and are looked down upon as if they can't play but there are so many professional gold medal winning women athletes that would beg to differ. Race, color, ethnicity, and gender should not be a limitation of who can play. It's the

reason why I fell in love with the sport because of how diverse it is and how inclusive it is or should be. It's not soccer, it's all sports.

Conclusively, Soccer is a “genre” that attracts those who love sports, those who want to play and better their skills along with those who just like the game, or in other words the discourse community. Soccer is a great game played to help take some stress off, but it is also shown that not everyone has the same opportunity to play in terms of teams especially for women which is still being worked on to this date which is not in full effect but slowly women are getting more recognition they are supposed to. Throughout the research, sports has taught me that there is much more to sports in general than rules and a competition. Politically, socially and economically all have an impact on the way it is perceived and played, it's a business now. Although there is always something, it is still a great time and a great skill to have that people should try because it gives lots of benefits to oneself. It was once a brutal sport which then became a sport that brought everyone together and brought all countries forward and created a bond around the sport itself.

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