

### *One Person Can Make a Difference and Everyone Should Try*

Seventeen years ago, a young man spent hours on the beautiful pitch that was the home of Geneseo High School Soccer team. His love, passion, determination and hard work helped him to improve his soccer skills. His positive attitude and focus on the tenants of good sportsmanship inspired his team mates and were a component of the quality of game that characterizes the style with which all GHS teams play soccer.

You know the heartbreaking situation that took Seth Ernst from his family, friends and teammates on October 15, 2000. Out of that devastating tragedy, Seth's "team" created an incredible tribute to him.

- ♦ The Seth Ernst Memorial Soccer Slam has impacted lives of players who were not even born on that day at the turn of the century, but who know that sportsmanship should be at the center of every touch they make with a soccer ball.
- ♦ Families who didn't then or even now don't live in Geneseo look forward to the annual indoor soccer tournament held at the Geneseo Foundation Activity Center.
- ♦ The GHS soccer players that take the field in both the fall and spring seasons have competed in the Soccer Slam long before they wore the green and white uniforms of the high school teams.
- ♦ The tournament team has created a soccer opportunity that provides all of the best activity for players: competition, fun, purpose, challenges, fitness and skill development.
- ♦ Annual scholarships are given to graduating GHS senior soccer players and an endowed scholarship fund has been created.
- ♦ The constant focus of the Seth Ernst Soccer Slam is sportsmanship. The players, coaches, fans and tournament committee are driven to exhibit that ideal. The most coveted trophies, the best photos and the coolest pins are awarded to those who embrace sportsmanship.

Preparations are beginning for a spectacular 12<sup>th</sup> annual tournament. We would like to continue the impact that Seth has had on the Geneseo soccer community in a powerful way.

Please consider our request to name the current high school soccer field after Seth as the "Seth Ernst Field."

Each time that a player steps on the grass and sees Seth's name there, it may remind them to play their game with the sportsmanship, passion and love that has been nurtured in them for years.

Seth couldn't imagine the difference that his short life would have on so many people. Perhaps that is the purest and most sincere impact. The difference he made was simply because of the way that he lived his life.

*Kathleen Repass, Traci DeSplinter, Jill DePauw*