

**Grace Bons – 2021 Scholarship Recipient**

Grace has shown herself to be an outstanding student, an excellent soccer player and team leader and one who gives back to others. She started playing soccer when she was five, but from there her soccer story followed a path different than most. As a first grader she stood out because she was aggressive and not afraid of the ball. As a result, she was put into the goalkeeper position to "harness her aggression". Being a goalkeeper has taught her many life lessons she says has helped mold her into who she is today.

She used the off season to push herself to be her absolute best by seeking out coaches and trainers who would help improve her skills. Her dedication was noticed, and her teammates voted her as Captain for three years on her club and high school teams. Grace stated, "To me leadership isn’t about yelling where to go and what to do; it is helping my teammates play their best for the team and celebrating them when they perform well".

Grace also found soccer to be a common language that can communicate better than words. She has gone on three mission trips to Mexico, and each time played soccer with the kids she met there, most times informally in the dirt streets. This helped her transcend language differences and created a bond with the kids she met over a mere game.

Grace will be attending Baylor University, and although she won’t be playing on the team, she will still be exercising her love for the game through intramural soccer. Grace will be majoring in biochemistry with applications in neuroscience.