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# CHS girls soccer team mentors kids

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OZARK — Carroll High School soccer standout Sarah Phillips said she was about 6 years old when she first saw a group of boys playing the sport.

From that time, Phillips said she watched others to learn more. Those experiences may have made Thursday more meaningful for the CHS junior as she and her teammates volunteered to teach kids at the Ozark Boys and Girls Club the basics of playing soccer.

The session was in conjunction with efforts by the club and Ozark City Schools officials to implement peer mentoring and support programs throughout the city. Last week, D.A. Smith Middle School students participated in sessions to learn more about how to mentor each other in various ways at the middle school and high school.

On Thursday, dozens of kids with the club's soccer league trained with the high school players.

"They're the next generation," Phillips said. "I'm hoping this program will continue because it gives us an opportunity as ath-



DANNY TINDELL / DOTHAN EAGLE

**Carroll High School soccer player Sarah Phillips helps teach soccer skills at the Ozark Boys and Girls Club Thursday afternoon.**

letes to teach them some of what we know. Eyes are always on me, so I hope they can learn from me."

Ozark Boys and Girls Club Executive Director Lonnie Groomes said the soccer program with the high school team was twofold Thursday.

"It teaches the older kids leadership and good citizenship and gives them an opportunity to give back," he said. "It teaches our young kids that there are people here that really care about them and want the best for them."

CHS girls soccer coach Kirke Adams, Dale County's District Attorney, agreed.

"The girls are at the age that they know that the younger kids are looking up to them," he said. "This is a good chance for them to give a couple hours of their time and really understand community spirit and community pride."

Twelve-year-old Ethan Grabowski, who volunteers as a soccer coach at the club, said he appreciated the extra assistance Thursday.

Six-year-old Leo Bruce and 7-year-old Joey Stewart said they did, too.

"I already went to practice yesterday, but they taught me how to kick the balls," Leo said.