

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Montana Leonard

Montana Leonard is currently playing in her 4th year at the University of Calgary. This season her team, the University of Calgary Dinos, made it to the



USPORT national final. Montana was recognized as a CanWest all-star and a second team all-Canadian for the 2019-2020 season. In addition to Dinos, Montana plays for Calgary Foothills FC Foothills in the UWS semi-pro level during the summer. That team has been extremely successful this past year, making it to the national final for UWS. While Montana still considers soccer to be her full-time job, she is also pursuing her Bachelor's degree in communications and balancing an additional, part time job.

When asked how her time at Surrey United contributed to her success, Montana had the following to say: My time at

SUSC lent to my success in many ways, but I would have to say learning some things did not come easy and those ultimately were the most valuable lessons learned at Surrey United Soccer Club. Our coach Spiro Pegios never let us take a day off nor did he allow us to give anything less than our best, ever. Coach Pegios knew that if we wanted to win and be the best it took everything we had and that is not easy thing to remained focused on as a teenager. Hard work did pay off and I think that showed in our team's successes. I have carried the lessons learned at Surrey United SC into to my university career and I think this had benefitted me greatly in my success and is attributable to Coach Spiro instilling these lessons and those good habits in both myself and my teammates.



What do you miss about Surrey United? I miss my team the most! It is crazy because now most of us are playing for a USPORT team in the CanWest conference and it is very odd to be playing against my friends and former SUSC teammates. Our team was very close and an extremely tight knit group of girls, so it was hard to leave, and I was nervous about joining a new team early on.



My SUSC youth team helped me get through some tough times in my personal life and I think the players, parents and coaches built a special environment for that to have occurred, one you do not come by often.

My advice for young players at Surrey United Soccer Club today is to take every opportunity you are

given by this Club and your coaches because you don't know where it could ultimately lead. Take advice from your coach seriously and always retain the love of the game and all you are doing on the field and during training and games. I have loved every minute of my youth and university soccer experiences, and I would encourage every player to at least consider that 100% of athletes can continue to play the sport they love beyond their high school years and into their adult and university years.