

Something New:

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Begin The Rambling:

I fall in love pretty easy. When you see potential, in something, someone, you can't help it. It just happens. I saw Hal Hershfelt step on the pitch at Audi Field 18 months ago, and that's what happened. I can't describe it any other way. It felt like I could see the future. I saw her score her first pro goal in her first game at Audi. Something clicked, and she has occupied a permanent place in my brainscape ever since, because I knew then what she can be. Obviously development isn't quite linear, foresight or no, because the Olympic saga messed her (and I) up. Not receiving a gold or playing a minute was rough. Not receiving a callup in about a year is worse, partially due to an ankle twisting, and also, I suspect, due to one particular midfielder who lacks Hal's skill or moral fortitude. But I can tell you right now, Hal Hershfelt hasn't reached her final form.

You can say the same about the NWSL writ large. I haven't been around since 2013 like others have - I was 8, sue me. The league grew without me, and endured genuinely awful things without me. People smarter than me talked honestly and respectfully about them, and they are the key to this league's survival. Again though, in the year 2025, in the world that we exist in today, the NWSL still has untapped potential. New teams entering the league, an ever-growing and ever-active fan base always demanding better, and all the pesky parity just screams that there is more out there, if Jessica Berman doesn't kill it in it's crib. Every experience I've had with the NWSL has brought me something, from perspective, to lines on my resume, to love in my heart. Figuring out how to make this true for everyone is going to be tough, but I want that for this league and its community, players, employees, and fans, and I want to do whatever work I can to make that happen.

I can copy + paste most of that entire section about women's sports as a whole, too. There's opportunity, there are challenges, but I know how great it can become. I want to leave it better than I found it.

I didn't start out as a poster. I followed along on Twitter for a while, until Hal showed me the light, and some of you whom I'm glad to call friends inspired me to tell the world about it. Now y'all are inspiring me again, and I couldn't be more grateful. I'm starting ~whatever this is~ because of you guys. I'm excited to try something new, and I can already see its potential.

