Jason Rodriguez is a 19-year-old who has pursued becoming a professional soccer player most of his life.

Rodriguez started playing soccer at the age of 3 in his town home, Los Angeles.

He learned to play the sport from his family. His dad especially had an effect on him.

His father always wanted Rodriguez to continually pursue his dreams and in that way he was always encouraged to get better and better at soccer, Rodriguez said.

Once he was old enough, he began playing on his elementary school team.

Then, at the age of 11 his family decided it was time for a change in scenery, so they moved up to Washington, which is where his soccer journey really began to take off, he said.

Once he and his family moved to Washington, he began playing club soccer, joining a local team the, Kitsap Pumas.

“I played for the Pumas for three years and won state [my second year] there too,” Rodriguez said.

He started as a forward most of his time with the Pumas club.

Soon after his time with the Pumas, Rodriguez began to branch out to other clubs and select teams in the area. He wanted exercise his full potential with a solid team around him, he said.

“I also played a bit for Crossfire A, Eastside A then I played a tiny bit for Sounders and Crossfire Academy,” Rodriguez said.

All the while he kept playing soccer with the teams at his school. While playing for the Interlake high school Saints, Rodriguez said he felt he performed at his best, having won multiple awards and eventually trained at some U.S. national training centers to better his abilities.

“I won the 3A League Championship and State Player of the Year for Interlake High School. I also won state two of the four years at Interlake with one of my teammates at Highline, [freshman midfielder] Ivan Castillo,” Rodriguez said.

In his last year of high school, he began hunting for colleges where he could continue to play.

That is when Highline coach Steve Mohn came in, Rodriguez said.

Mohn recruited him heavily.

“I have been watching Jason for a couple years leading up to this year. I've always known he could put the ball in the back of the net,” he said.

Currently Rodriguez is a freshman and is going through his first quarter at Highline.

“I plan on getting my AA here at Highline, then transferring to a division one school. Possibly UW, Seattle U, or any college that offers me a scholarship,” said Rodriguez. “I like business, that's my major.”

On the field Rodriguez has been a powerhouse at the forward position. He is the top striker on the team, having scored nine goals so far on the season. He also is ranked among the top 10 players in the Northwest Athletic Conference.

“I like to attack when I'm on the field. I'm just hungry to score because I like to win. Winning the title has been my No.1 goal ever since coming to Highline,” Rodriguez said. “I think our team has the talent and motivation to get it.”

Rodriguez and the rest of the men’s soccer team are currently No.1 in their division.

“What I like most about the team are my teammates, because it feels like a brotherhood, and we are all cool with each other,” he said.

Rodriguez also said the coaches know what they're doing, whether it’s coaching him one on one or the whole team.

“Jason has had a big influence in several of our games this year. He is a very competitive player and has consistently scored goals this season,” said Mohn.

Rodriguez plans on continuing his soccer career for as long as possible, he said.

“Becoming a professional soccer player has always been a dream for me,” Rodriguez said.