



Center for the Study of the Southwest Texas State University San Marcos

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Rafael Melchor interview transcript (translated from Spanish)

Q: When did you first encounter soccer?

A: I started playing when I was 25 years old. I did not like it at first, but after playing for some time I learned how to love the sport. But yes, I began playing with teams at around that age.

Q: Did you not know anything about soccer before you were 25?

A: No, I did not know much about it. I started looking for teams at 25. That was when I began accommodating to the game and started to really enjoy it. But I stopped playing for about 10 years until I joined the Romulans. I feel like I try harder now that I'm older. The players I play against now are rough. They hit you

a lot here. You must pass the ball early before anyone starts marking you or else you will get hit. If you know how to play, you need to keep practicing and learn how to pass the ball. If not, they will come at you with everything they've got.

Q: Did you watch sports before you were 25?

A: No, not really. Sometimes I regret not watching soccer. I feel like maybe I would have been better if I started earlier. I try harder now that I play, but maybe I would have better stamina if I started at a younger age. Maybe if I would have tried earlier I would be better today.

Q: Do you have any trouble getting to soccer games?

A: No, no. I do not have any problems. I have a family. Often the weeks seem long because I count down the days until I get to play again. I really enjoy playing soccer. If you have problems at home and you have soccer, all you have to do is come to the park to get away and have fun.

Q: How did you get a team here in Austin?

A: I used to play for a team called galaxy. They are famous around here. They would always get to the semi-finals. They had problems and stopped competing so the team fell apart. Now that I am 40, I told myself that I should join a sport again.

Q: What changes have you seen in soccer during your lifetime?

A: I like soccer now and I keep trying harder and harder as I grow. I used to play as a defender and now I am a forward. If I were to play in defense today I wouldn't be able to do well. I enjoy the change of being forward. I always go looking for the ball to score a goal. Right now, I've been exercising to gain stamina. Without stamina, you can't play soccer. Look at how you run John, you run a lot. You

need good stamina to run around and play soccer. You also need to get good rest, and don't drink. If you want, drink on Friday, but not Saturday or Sunday. You should also drink a lot of water.

Q: What is your happiest memory from playing soccer?

A: Scoring goals. Also, giving good passes to help others score goals. I enjoy helping the team win and scoring goals are important to do that.