



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

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Adam Key, 44, defender

(Interviewed by John McKiernan-Gonzalez on Nov. 5, 2017 in Austin, Texas)

How did you first encounter soccer?

I'm sure I was aware of it growing up as a kid, but really about the '94 World Cup, when the U.S. hosted it, I became much more personally aware of it and then shortly after that started playing on an organized co-ed team.

When did you first start playing soccer?

I was about 23 years old and it was on a co-ed team here in Austin, Texas.

How did you find the co-ed team?

My wife and brother-in-law were playing on that specific team and I knew they needed players, so I joined the team then.

What was that team's name?

That's team's name was originally, I think, Vipers 2.

What obstacles do you see in continuing to participate in soccer?

Personally, just physical health and long-term injury or something like that might prevent me from playing, but more generally and globally, in Austin, field space is pretty limited.

What keeps you playing soccer?

Because I love to play – I love the game, it's fun to play, it's good exercise, a lot of running...I don't like to run just to run, but soccer kind of gives a purpose for running, and so just the exercise and the camaraderie of the team.

And what team is that which has camaraderie?

I'd say both of my teams. I play on two teams: a co-ed team and a men's team. The men's team is the Romulans.

And the co-ed team, you're co-captain with your wife?

No, I'm co-captain with another player on the team.

What do you think has changed in soccer since you started playing?

Definitely in the co-ed league, I would attest to the growth, the size of the league. Originally, when I started playing, the co-ed league was about 12 or 15 teams and now the size of the league is about 55 or 60. Also, the skill level – originally even though they had multiple divisions, the skill level between all the teams was relatively the same. Now from Division 1 to Division 6, there's definitely a progression in skill level.

And then over-50 soccer?

Just the size of the men's league here. I haven't been involved in the men's league as long, so I can't see as many changes necessarily, but definitely the size of the league is expanding.

