



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

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John M.: This is John McKiernan-Gonzalez. Uh, it is April the 15th. I am interviewing Frank Miller, captain of the Romulans and I'm gonna ask him about fields. So uh, Frank Miller, when did you first start playing soccer in Austin?

Frank Miller: Uh, summer of 1980.

John M.: Do you remember why?

Frank Miller: It was a work team. Sounded like a good thing to do.

John M.: What work was it?

Frank Miller: Uh, it was Motorola at the time.

John M.: And what fields did you play on?

Frank Miller: Uh, Zilker Park.

John M.: Did you always play on Zilker Park?

Frank Miller: Uh, mostly but not always. Not enough fields there.

John M.: Where did you find other fields at the time?

Frank Miller: Around town we played at St. Ed's, we played at uh, [inaudible 00:01:01]. We played ... can't remember.

John M.: So Millison, Maynette, [inaudible 00:01:09]. Um, when did um, the city of Austin start providing soccer fields for people?

Frank Miller: Uh, before 1980 'cause they ... the city of Austin provided ... they ran the division and provided fields at Central Park.

John M.: So Parks and Rec ran the soccer division?

Frank Miller: Soccer league.

John M.: Soccer league. When did Parks and Rec stop running soccer in Austin?

Frank Miller: Uh, mid-'80's, late '80's.

John M.: Any idea why?

Frank Miller: Funds.

John M.: Funds?

Frank Miller: Yeah.

John M.: They couldn't afford?

Frank Miller: [inaudible 00:01:53] picked up softball and other, other things and uh, gave up soccer. And we, we partitioned, petitioned as a league to, to go on our own as well.

John M.: Were you involved in that decision?

Frank Miller: Uh, only from the board of captains meetings. It was the vote yes.

John M.: So how did running uh, the soccer league change the soccer leagues?

Frank Miller: It gave us a voice in, in how the league was run, how to board captains and officers ...

John M.: And did you have to start paying the City of Austin for fields?

Frank Miller: We paid. Yeah.

John M.: (laughs) [inaudible 00:02:38] but okay. Um, you mentioned that at Zilker, you used to have a pump that could pump water up for the Zilker fields?

Frank Miller: Never materialized.

John M.: Oh, okay.

Frank Miller: They, they promised, promised, promised, but we were actually part of an effort to uh, in putting the uh, irrigation lines in Zilker Park at the, at the club of the team league. Uh, but it was Austin City water and cost us a fortune.

John M.: Okay. Even though it was straight from the river and-

Frank Miller: [crosstalk 00:03:14] ... it was tied into the uh, Austin City water. They, they declared that spending over a million dollars for a pump in the lake was too much for the city.

John M.: Okay. Um, when did uh, Southeast Metro and Northeast Metro get established, the soccer fields?

Frank Miller: I can't remember that.

John M.: [inaudible 00:03:42] to remember?

Frank Miller: '80's? '90's? Uh, when they were first put in. '90's.

John M.: So those Southeast Metro fields, how close are they to being good soccer fields?

Frank Miller: Not close at all.

John M.: (laughs) In what way?

Frank Miller: The uh, the engineers that built those fields didn't quite understand the meaning of a pitch for a field. So they pitched two fields going up the hill and two fields going down the hill.

John M.: (laughs)

Frank Miller: Not ideal.

John M.: (laughs)

Frank Miller: Northeast at least was, per field, not bad.

John M.: Um, Northeast is City of Pflugerville, right? Or Travis County?

Frank Miller: Travis County, Metro Park.

John M.: Okay. And when did um, Austin Men's Soccer Association get uh, the lease to get these Onion Creek Soccer Fields?

Frank Miller: Oh, Gosh, my memory fails me, but uh, probably ... we've had 'em for 15 years? In the early 2000's.

John M.: Were there floods? And this is declared a flood zone?

Frank Miller: This is a retention pond area because of Onion Creek. So that's why we got 'em cheaply.

John M.: (laughs)

Frank Miller: Many times.

John M.: Um, so has it changed your view of soccer to be captain and a board member?

Frank Miller: Yes. (laughs)

John M.: In what way? In what ways, Mr. Miller?

Frank Miller: Man, because I had never played soccer as a, as a youth.

John M.: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Frank Miller: I only played as an adult, starting about 22, 23 years old. So I got to know what goes on and what needs to get done to actually support a league.

John M.: How long you've been captain of the Romulans?

Frank Miller: Uh ...

John M.: Besides too long.

Frank Miller: (laughs)

John M.: 18 years? Since 1980?

Frank Miller: No, no, Jim had it that time. But uh, I picked it up when he moved to uh, Utah. So it's in the early uh, '90's.

John M.: This is originally a Motorola team?

Frank Miller: Yes, it was sponsored uh, we had uh, couple of divisions or a couple of teams that were sponsored by Motorola.

John M.: Oh, yeah, does anyone pass away on our teams? I know we had one person we supported.

Frank Miller: That was Tony. Yeah, yeah.

John M.: Yeah.

Frank Miller: Uh, not that I know of.

John M.: Okay.

Frank Miller: So we're still alive. (laughs)

John M.: Long living, playing ...

Frank Miller: Injuries abound, but you know ...

John M.: And-

Frank Miller: Player from another team that died [inaudible 00:06:51]. We played against ... it wasn't our team.

John M.: Oh, okay. Wow. Heart attack?

Speaker 3: A Scottish guy died on the field in our league, but not in a game we were playing then. It was a red-haired guy, very flush all the time. And it just [inaudible 00:07:09].

John M.: When did the age divisions start?

Frank Miller: Uh, long as I can remember, but uh, over 30 was the first age-restricted division. Uh, probably in the late '90's, early 2000's.

John M.: Okay. And do you remember when co-ed soccer-

Speaker 3: [inaudible 00:07:31] was in existence in '93 because I was on [crosstalk 00:07:33]

Frank Miller: Oh, '93.

John M.: Oh, okay, '93. All right. And have you gotten any jobs as a result of meeting people on the soccer field?

Frank Miller: Uh, no. (laughs)

John M.: (laughs) What's the point of playing soccer, what's the point of playing soccer if you can't get any good networking out of it? All right. Thank you very much, Mr. Miller.

Frank Miller: You're welcome.