



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

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John: I did all that. Let me start again. My name is John Mckiernan-Gonzalez, I am 50 years old. Today is Saturday, November 18th, 2017. I am speaking with Terry Harrell, who is the longest playing goalie on the Rebels team, and maybe in Austin. We are recording this interview at the Onion Creek Soccer Complex in Austin, Texas.

John: Terry, when did you first encounter soccer?

Terry: Saw my first soccer match when I was in high school. I saw the North American Soccer League. I saw the Dallas Tornado's play the New York Cosmos.

John: Wow.

Terry: 1974.

John: Did you get to see Pele?

Terry: I saw Pele play.

John: And Beckenbauer?

Terry: I saw Franz Beckenbauer play, and I saw Johan Cruyff play. So I got to see the old guys from Europe.

John: And when did you first start playing soccer?

Terry: I started playing soccer in 1992, in the summer of '92, in co-ed, by the way. My first match was in a co-ed league. And immediately the next summer I started playing in a men's league also. So I started playing in two leagues immediately.

John: And how did you know to play on a co-ed ... how did you get connected with the league? I mean the team?

Terry: When we started soccer, our son played. We started-

John: That was a goooooaaaaalllll.

Terry: That's a good goal.

John: And a good goal, too.

Terry: Patrick.

Speaker 3: Oh my god, we're never gonna keep him-

Terry: No, they called it offside?

Speaker 3: Really?

Terry: Yeah, that's what it looked like.

John: So you started telling me, you started playing ...?

Terry: Yeah, and met a lot of people that were involved in soccer, and that's how we got involved in soccer, really. With the parents of the kids our son played with. Because they were involved in soccer, and they played different teams. That's

how we got involved in it, by meeting these parents and playing on teams with them.

John: And what positions did you play?

Terry: When I started playing soccer, I was a defender. I was a defender. I played back and in the center and sweeper. So I played all three of the defensive positions. I started playing up. I played forward and midfield. The longer I played, the better I got. I was a one-touch defender.

John: And what has kept you playing?

Terry: I think I enjoy obviously the joy of it. Camaraderie. Been on the same team now for 16 years. And that means a lot, and I think being here, the social network you create, the people you meet you'll probably know forever, simply because you're doing something you have a lot of investment in. We're all here because we wanna enjoy the game, and the game is the most important thing.

John: And what do you think has changed in soccer in Austin?

Terry: It's become way more international. A lot more international, foreign type players. A lot higher skill level. The league has kind of shrunk. At one time that league were actually bigger. The women's league was huge, the co-ed league was even ... maybe not bigger, but just as big. The men's league was bigger. That has changed somewhat. Some of the leagues have gotten smaller, but I think more competitive. That's what I see different. Division Three for instance is way better than it used to be. I think there's way better players in Division Three. It's much more competitive.

John: Alright, any last thoughts?

Terry: As far as soccer goes, I think it's something my family has benefited from, because I've played long enough to [inaudible 00:04:11] many years that I've been involved in sport. And my son played, and my wife and I still play together. So

it's been a family thing. It's been a lot more than just a sport for us. It's been a social activity. [inaudible 00:04:30].

John: Thank you very much. This is John McKiernan-Gonzalez signing off.