



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

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John Mc-Gonzalez: Hi. My name is John McKiernan Gonzalez. I am 50 years old. Today is November 20th, 2017. I'm speaking with Ray Voith who is the on the Romulan soccer team. We are recording this interview at the, in the Onion Creek Soccer Complex in Austin, Texas. When did you first encounter soccer?

Ray Voith: 1959. I was a, uh, seminarian, Catholic foreign mission seminarian, and the priest from overseas came back and, uh, taught us at seminary and taught us some soccer.

John Mc-Gonzalez: Where was your seminary?

Ray Voith: The minor seminary was in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania near Scranton, Pennsylvania.

John Mc-Gonzalez: What church?

Ray Voith: Catholic church.

John Mc-Gonzalez: Okay. So you've been playing since 1959?

Ray Voith: Off and on. I played for the five years I was in the seminary, then I had 17 years off. Came to Austin in 1978, started playing soccer again in 1980 with the Romulans, my current team.

John Mc-Gonzalez: Is that with Motor, Motorola?

Ray Voith: It started as a Motorola team and later on branched out and now it's everybody that wants to join.

John Mc-Gonzalez: Uh, er, soccer. What keeps you paying soccer?

Ray Voith: It's just a lot of fun and I feel like, uh, good exercise and I do okay. I'd like to do better, but I, uh, just enjoy the game so much.

John Mc-Gonzalez: Um, and what keeps you playing soccer?

Ray Voith: Good health, um, good friends, opportunities to play.

John Mc-Gonzalez: Um, you only play on the Romulans?

Ray Voith: No, I play Friday nights with, uh, a group of guys who are almost entirely Vietnamese. They're all younger than I am. Some in their 30s, 40s, 50s, a couple in their 60s, and me. And, uh, in that game, no matter who shows up, everybody plays. If there's 16 on a side. So I get lots of playing time against fast, young guys, which is very good for me.

John Mc-Gonzalez: Um, what obstacles do you see in terms of playing soccer here in Austin?

Ray Voith: Well, on a regular team there's subs, so I don't get a lot of playing time. I don't see any other obstacles. There's various places you can go and play lunch, lunchtime soccer and, uh, there's the, uh, pickup that I play is Friday evening, so that works out well for me.

John Mc-Gonzalez: And what do you, how do you think soccer has changed here in Austin?

Ray Voith: Oh, dramatically. When I was a, when I was first here, my kid started playing soccer as a six-year-old, and at that time they had 11 on the field at six years old, which is way too many. There were not that many teams. It wasn't quite as popular. Eventually they went to 3 v. 3 for the kids, which is so much better.

John Mc-Gonzalez: Much better, much better.

Ray Voith: And now my granddaughter, she started playing when she was four. She's nine now and still playing up in Leander. It's a great, uh, great opportunity. The men's league has grown tremendously, also. I'm not even sure there was over 30 back in those days. We're now playing a team, one of whose members started the original league in Austin in about 1973 or 1974 [Either Phil Friday or Billy Pritchard]. He's, uh, he doesn't get a lot of playing time, either.

John Mc-Gonzalez: (Laughter) Any final notes on this team?

Ray Voith: Oh, no, I just hope to keep playing as long as I feel comfortable and I'm making at least two, three good plays a game. That, that's it.

John Mc-Gonzalez: Thank you very much, Roy. Ray. This is John McKiernan Gonzalez, signing off.

Oh, thank God I recorded it. I'm more tired than I thought.

Ray Voith: (Laughter)