



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

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Rafael: I know you. I don't mind.

John: Hi, my name is John [inaudible 00:00:04], I'm the director of the Center for Study Southwest, and I'm asking Aubrey...

Rafael: No, I'm not Aubrey, I'm Rafael.

John: Oh, that's right. I'm sorry.

Rafael: Rafael.

John: Uh-huh.

Rafael: Rafael [inaudible 00:00:13].

John: Rafael.

Rafael: Just call me Rafael.

John: Rafael. And I want to ask Rafael, Rafael, when did you first become aware of soccer?

Rafael: [inaudible 00:00:22]. Maybe when I Was two years old. Or one year. I'm from Nigeria.

John: Oh. What part of Nigeria?

Rafael: Nigeria. Midwest.

John: Ah, okay. Everyone was playing-

Rafael: Everybody played soccer.

John: Okay. Did you ever play organized soccer?

Rafael: Yes.

John: In Nigeria?

Rafael: In Nigeria for school. All of the schools I went, I played. I played for a club but I wasn't good enough to represent the club.

John: What position did you play when you played club?

Rafael: Center forward. Right wing. That would be my two most favorable positions.

John: What keeps you playing or involved in soccer?

Rafael: The goals. The beautiful goals. I love it. Everybody loves it. We don't have as many opportunities as United States with soccer games. Soccer is probably the most important, prominent, dominant, game in Nigeria because everybody plays.

John: What got you to become a referee?

Rafael: Oh, referee? Because I love soccer, I decided to be a referee. I'm trying to give back to the soccer community. In America, a lot of people don't understand soccer. They play, but they don't know. So I have been involved in coaching. I've involved in playing and I've involved in reffing. And I also have involved in mentoring younger referees.

John: Is there something special about refereeing for you?

Rafael: Yes. Yes. Special because it makes you to get involved in the games. I used to do a few referee workshops. And they allow you to meet friends and meet people. And at the same time, you don't work for free. You know, they give you a little money. Not much.

John: Last question: how long have you been involved in soccer in Texas?

Rafael: [inaudible 00:02:16]. 1977. Since then, that was just in 19 ... I mean, 1979. 1979 when I was at UT. So I think I've become involved 1979 or 1980.

John: Alright, thank you so much Rafael.

Rafael: Thank you very much.

John: Good luck.

Rafael: Thank you. Good luck on your project.

John: I always loved playing with you and I will send you a link we're done. It should be in a week.

Rafael: Thanks you. I appreciate that.

John: Oh wait, I need to take your picture.