



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

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John McK-G: My name is John McKiernan-Gonzalez. I am 50 years old. Today is November 19th, 2017. I'm speaking to Billy Pritchard who is the captain of Real Macondo.

Billy P.: Last season, I haven't played this season yet. I've been [inaudible 00:00:23].

John McK-G: And it is my understanding that he has been with Real Macondo since his start.

Billy P.: Yes.

John McK-G: This interview is to get a sense of the culture of soccer in Austin, and of course of soccer in general, so I'm just gonna ask a few questions that are pretty general.

Billy P.: Yeah.

John McK-G: So, when did you first encounter soccer?

Billy P.: In England, when I was five years old.

John McK-G: Where in England?

Billy P.: Liverpool.

John McK-G: Oh. And how did you encounter soccer?

Billy P.: It was a game you played, a street game, as you were growing up. It was what every kid played, and every piece of ground, every street was kicking the soccer ball, or a bag of something, cans, sometimes. Sorry.

John McK-G: And when did you start playing organized soccer?

Billy P.: In school, right at the age of 7 to 8, in primary school. [inaudible 00:01:29]

John McK-G: And did you keep playing soccer after high school?

Billy P.: Yes. Although, it's just a game you played, we never stopped really. We didn't have a need like this country, didn't have any other sports to go into that wasn't baseball or basketball, none of those. [inaudible 00:01:53] And cricket.

John McK-G: And rugby?

Billy P.: And rugby, yeah. Actually in my high school we never had soccer, you had to play rugby. [inaudible 00:02:04] But you could play soccer at lunch time, you know.

John McK-G: And in Liverpool, would people play in leagues, or something differently?

Billy P.: Yes, club leagues, and yeah, it was organized soccer against [inaudible 00:02:25] of Liverpool, or [inaudible 00:02:29].

John McK-G: How did you come to play soccer in Austin?

Billy P.: I was looking for, driving by the park one day, saw some guys kicking the ball around and then talked to new people and they were a team, so I came down the following Sunday and ended up watching and then started playing with them. But that was [inaudible 00:02:52] that was one of the [inaudible 00:02:56] they didn't have [inaudible 00:02:57] that time at all.

John McK-G: Around what year was this?

Billy P.: That was 70's.

John McK-G: [inaudible 00:03:05] socialize [inaudible 00:03:18].

Billy P.: [inaudible 00:03:27] used to go out, you know, we used to go to Kip's, we used to go towards the city to play, we used to go to San Francisco.

John McK-G: Every year you organize a trip out of state.

Billy P.: We went down to Mexico once to play, San Francisco, New Orleans, [inaudible 00:03:46] Florida, [inaudible 00:03:47].

John McK-G: That's amazing.

Billy P.: Yeah, yeah.

Billy P.: You find teams in that area and then get [inaudible 00:03:55] and then organized. It gets [inaudible 00:03:56] on age.

John McK-G: So, were you involved in creating the soccer league here in [crosstalk 00:04:04].

Billy P.: Yeah, at one time I was the vice president of the league. But it got too much, yeah. Yeah, I was part of organizing this, here. That was in the younger stages of buying the land and everything.

John McK-G: When you say the [inaudible 00:04:21] development do you mean an increased soccer complex?

Billy P.: Yes. Yes.

John McK-G: The ten fields we have here...

Billy P.: Yes. 'Cause at the time, we're losing [inaudible 00:04:30]. [inaudible 00:04:33] used to be here [inaudible 00:04:35]. The whole soccer league, [inaudible 00:04:39] on a Sunday. You can imagine there were not that many teams at the time. You get more in on Monday, than Sunday. And then women on their team, and that became more... and we needed more space.

John McK-G: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Billy P.: And I think the metro park, that's the [inaudible 00:05:01] park, the next one to [inaudible 00:05:01]...

John McK-G: Oh, yeah. For the record, there's [inaudible 00:05:04] fields.

Billy P.: Yes, yes. It's [inaudible 00:05:06].

John McK-G: And then they build the one out by [inaudible 00:05:08]ville, and then this one came. Came along.

Billy P.: Yeah.

John McK-G: How's this game going?

John McK-G: Um, any final thoughts about soccer in Austin?

Billy P.: Yeah, I don't, I'm 77, and I'm still playing, and I'm always seeming to be playing guys thirty years younger than me. And I wish they had developed a real over 60

league. It has nothing to do with [inaudible 00:05:39], it could be, you know, something to the side [inaudible 00:05:43]. That'd be great.

Billy P.: I mean, I think with enough players over 60, and the over 50's... I know they just formed, but it's still a [inaudible 00:05:54].

John McK-G: Yeah.

Billy P.: You're still playing guys who end up [inaudible 00:05:56]. It's a little frustrating and I would like to see a... even if we start out as a summer league.

John McK-G: Maybe, I'm sure you can get two teams. Five on five, outdoors.

Billy P.: Yeah. We tried, we tried but [inaudible 00:06:15] sixteen years ago out at the airport, and guys were bringing their grandkids and everything. And before you knew it, they were all kicking around. And-

John McK-G: Yeah, yeah.

Billy P.: It never took part. I'd like to see that develop.

John McK-G: Even a basis of a five on five league.

Billy P.: Yeah, yeah.

John McK-G: It would also [inaudible 00:06:36].

Billy P.: And I think maybe [inaudible 00:06:40] to get a team [inaudible 00:06:41], they have it in every part of the country, just put one in Austin. See what you can get out of it. Just keep it regional, between San Antonio and Austin. At least it will be the nucleus to develop.

John McK-G: Well maybe 20% of our team is over 50-

Billy P.: Yeah, yeah.

John McK-G: -and they love it.

Billy P.: Yeah, right. I think it's fair, it would be a lot of fun, [inaudible 00:07:08], 25 minute halves, in a smaller field, you know. I think it'd be a lot better.

John McK-G: So, uh, Billy Potar, thanks so much.

Billy P.: Yeah.

John McK-G: And we'll be in touch.

Billy P.: Yeah, please.

John McK-G: I didn't leave my number.