



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

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John Mckiernan-Gonzalez, "Interview with Flyree Mcgee, 11/2017," Center for the Study of the Southwest, Texas State University, <https://www.txstate.edu/cssw/projects/futbol.html>

John: Hello, my name is Mckiernan-Gonzalez and I am for the Center for the Study of Southwest at Texas University, and I am interviewing ...

Flyree McGee: Flyree McGee.

John: Flyree McGee, and I'm interviewing her, because she's part of the Grass Stains soccer, and she knows a lot about the sport. Um, so Flyree, when did you first become aware of soccer.

Flyree McGee: Oh, as a ... as a young woman.

John: (laughs)

Flyree McGee: I was probably, um, maybe eight, eight or nine years old, um, when we moved here from Europe, I'm from Germany, um, we got into American soccer as opposed to European soccer, and so, uh, this was totally awesome and exciting to realize that it was here in the United States, too.

John: Oh, uh, what part of Germany are you from?

Flyree McGee: I am from, um, a little bitty town called Eggenstein, Germany; which is where I was born, but my mother is from Koslin, Germany.

John: Oh, Koslin. Yeah, I hear it's beautiful.

Flyree McGee: It's gorgeous.

John: Yeah. Um, and did you play soccer in Germany, or just watch it a lot?

Flyree McGee: I watched it. I didn't play, uh, in Germany, but uh, I watched it a lot for sure.

John: And then, when you came to Texas, or ...

Flyree McGee: No, actually, uh, we moved ... I'm from Connecticut.

John: Ah.

Flyree McGee: And I lived in Connecticut for a very long time.

John: Where? Hartford? Hartford?

Flyree McGee: I actually lived in Manchester, Connecticut, is where I'm from.

John: Okay.

Flyree McGee: I did live in Hartford for a little bit, for a couple years, though, actually. Um, so I started getting into soccer in, uh, junior high school is when it was really a part of my life, um, but not as much as softball, I'm actually more of a softball player than I am a soccer player. But um ... and then, as a ... as an adult, I joined a, a club soccer team at my college that I attended in Connecticut. I was actually, um, the first female goalie of that club soccer team, and our picture is still up on the wall in the cafeteria of that college in Connecticut.

John: May I ask what college in Connecticut?

Flyree McGee: So, uh, it's a junior college, I went to Manchester Community College.

John: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Great. Have you been in touch with that ... or do you have a copy of that picture?

Flyree McGee: I don't have a copy, but I'm pretty sure they still have it.

John: So ... how did you ... and you ... so, you played club in college and you continued to play club?

Flyree McGee: I continued to play club and when I graduated from college, uh, my brother is ... was in the Navy-

John: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Flyree McGee: Actually, my brother plays soccer in the Navy, and so, he ended up getting stationed in Corpus Christi, Texas in Ingleside, Texas, that's how I ended up in Texas.

John: Okay.

Flyree McGee: Uh, it was a long time ago, in the early 90s, I came, uh, to Texas in 1994, and I lived in Corpus Christi for eight years, and I started playing an all women's league that I joined in Corpus Christi.

John: Okay.

Flyree McGee: Um, and then, I went to co-ed, um, I played with the women for about three or four years in Corpus Christi, then, I went to co-ed and played with them for about four years. And then, I moved to Austin and I played in the, uh ... our WFL, which was the [inaudible 00:02:58] women's soccer.

John: Oh, sweet.

Flyree McGee: For well over ten years.

John: Wow.

Flyree McGee: And every Sunday, I drove and played in an all women's league for well over ten years, and then, about five or six years ago, one of my co-workers was the captain of Grass Stains back then-

John: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Flyree McGee: And she asked me to come play co-ed, and I said, "Absolutely." Because I live way south, and I was tired of driving to Round Rock every Sunday. I live, literally, right down the road from where we play as Grass Stains.

John: Oh. Um ... Not that it's any of my business, but we're sort of neighbors.

Flyree McGee: Oh. (laughs)

John: (laughs)

Flyree McGee: All right.

John: Um, so great, so it's the ... what kept you playing soccer in Austin?

Flyree McGee: Oh, it's the, the people that I meet on a consistent basis. Every weekend I'm meeting someone new and it's wonderful. The teamwork that you develop with the people that you play with is just amazing, and then, you just become really good friends with them as well, and that's what keeps me coming back, is meeting the people. Every weekend you meet someone new, it's so grand, it's so grand. It is, it's just great.

John: And do you still play softball?

Flyree McGee: I play softball every Wednesday. I've been playing with my softball team, the same team for 17 years now. We play at Craig Field in, uh, east Austin.

John: Oh, uh ... right by Pleasant Valley.

Flyree McGee: Yeah.

John: Yep.

Flyree McGee: (laughs)

John: I have a friend who's doing another kind of project on softball in Pleasant Valley and Kansas City.

Flyree McGee: Oh.

John: Um ... uh, thank you so much.

Flyree McGee: Of course, my pleasure.

John: All right. And ...

Second Interview, 11/2017:

Mckiernan-Gonzalez: So, [Flannery 00:00:07], one of the issues I faced, as someone who has a partner, is getting the opportunity to play soccer with my partner. Do you have a partner, and do they play soccer?

Flyree McGee: I do. I have a wife. We've been together for well over 24 years. She does not play soccer; she has played in the past. But she does not. She does not play soccer. Not any more.

Mckiernan-Gonzalez: So you met her in a soccer contest?

Flyree McGee: Absolutely not. I wish, because that would have been awesome. We met a long time ago in Corpus Christi. She was actually the bartender who handed me my drink, and I fell in love instantly.

Mckiernan-Gonzalez: That's great.

Flyree McGee: Fell in love instantly. But she just was handing a patron a drink. And it took me almost a year for her to even realize that I was completely in love with her, from a distance.

Mckiernan-Gonzalez: That must have been quite a bar tab.

Flyree McGee: Yes, it was. Absolutely it was.

Mckiernan-Gonzalez: That's great. And she moved out to Austin with you?

Flyree McGee: She sure did. She graduated from college later in life, so I'm very proud of her. She became a dental hygienist and we moved to Austin. She has a thriving hygiene career here in Austin.

Mckiernan-Gonzalez: Wonderful. And has being, can I quote you? "A big old lesbian", affected the way you play soccer in Austin?

Flyree McGee: No, it hasn't. I'm super out and proud, always have been. It's just great, and everyone's very welcoming, so it's actually been a wonderful experience, being, usually, the gay one on the team. But I'm all right with that.

Mckiernan-Gonzalez: We're queer. We're here. Everyone is, around you.

Flyree McGee: We're queer. We're here. Get used to it.

Mckiernan-Gonzalez: Exactly.

Flyree McGee: Absolutely.

Mckiernan-Gonzalez: All right. Thank you so much.

Flyree McGee: Of course.

Mckiernan-Gonzalez: Awesome.