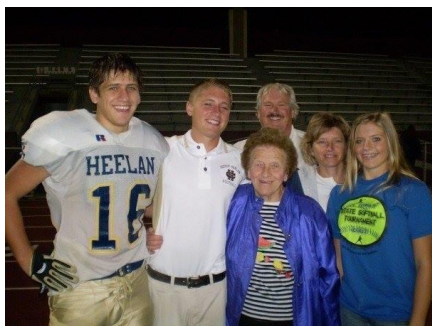




David'a poznałem grając w futbol amerykański jeszcze w drużynie Wilki Łódzkie. Po bliższym poznaniu chłopak zza „Wielkiego Oceanu” okazał się być, jak ja, filologiem klasycznym. David ukończył Uniwersytet Ohio State, uzyskując z wyróżnieniem dwa tytuły doktora – pierwszy z filologii klasycznej i kultury starożytnej Grecji, drugi z ekonomii. Pomimo tak licznych osiągnięć naukowych, David aktywnie udzielał się w uniwersyteckiej drużynie futbolu amerykańskiego. Tam narodziła się nasza znajomość, tam też pogłębiła się wspólna pasja do tego sportu i filologii klasycznej.



Q: *What university did you graduate from? What subjects did you study at that university?*

A: I went to Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. I graduated in December 2015 with two Bachelors Degrees, one in History and Political Science and the other in Classical Studies (ancient Greek and Roman Studies).

Q: *How did you feel after your first year of studies? Was it hard to keep up and pass all of your exams?*

A: In the U.S., our first year is basically all general education classes to cover degree requirements so you can graduate in four years. In other words, you must take courses that are not related to your actual degree, but it further expands your knowledge in areas you may not have a whole lot of background »



in. For example, I ended up taking astronomy and sociology courses that ultimately broaden my overall world and universal view. So, after the first year of classes, I remember feeling so happy for summer break, though I really couldn't wait to go back to college. The test were difficult and it was hard to balance school, friends, relationships, etc., but at the end of the day I don't regret a minute of it.



Q: *Why did you decide to start playing American Football? Was it your choice, or an outer influence that pushed you into playing?*

A: In a way it's a family tradition. It even extends back to my grandfather playing American football in the 1930's. My uncles on both sides of the family played as well. The game has changed a lot since then, but the influence on my family has been quite profound. The tradition of playing is like this for a lot of families. When you play the sport, your team becomes your family because you are all working hard towards a common goal and dream. In short, football has just always made sense for me. I had several influences who helped develop that sense and the largest influence was my brother Mike. I remember when we were young playing football for hours, regardless if we were knee high in snow or soaking wet from



a rainstorm. We played until our parents dragged us back into the house for bed. I remember being knocked down tackled by him and not wanting to get up, but then he would help me up and say “always get up after every hit, no matter what.” We grew up close together and he was a great teacher and inspiration. My brother was not the tallest quarterback and he was told that he was too short to play QB. Mike rose above all the naysayers and just played to the best of his ability. In 2002, Mike lead his team to an undefeated championship season and set two state records in the playoffs, for most passing yards and touchdowns in one game. Mike will always be my hero and we remain just as close as we did back in the day.

Q: *So tell me, how did college life change you? Is it similar to the films that we see from Hollywood and on T.V. or is it completely different?*

A: Well it depends on what movie you watch! (haha) In general, college students do party a lot, so, there may be some truth to that stereotype. In reality though, students are studying hard and trying to get good grades so that they can graduate and find a job.

“

I think some people fall into
a cyclical lifestyle of bad choices that cause them to drop out which
sets a stereotype of young people during their college years.

”

I met my best friends in college that I still talk to almost every day, so for me college was the best years of my life. I changed and matured as an individual too. I learned how to handle responsibilities, how to organize people in efforts to make changes, and, amongst many other things, I learned about who I am as an individual.



Q: *Now you are living in Łódź, why did you decide to leave your hometown and come to Poland? What are you doing here?*

A: Moving to Lodz is a bit of a long story, but basically I met my new boss in the United States and it was his idea to see if I wanted to work as a English teacher for his company. I've always wanted to live in Europe for a year, so that I can get to see much of the continent. So it just has worked out that I am able to live here teach and travel when I want to to see different places. I will be going home to the U.S. in July so I need to make the most of my time while I'm here!



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Q: *Now you are making your european debut in Polish football league, can you compare the levels between college football and ours?*

A: Well, I am not sure if I can respectfully make an adequate comparison. I haven't played in a game yet or seen the national teams. Though I do not think I could justify saying that the Top League is the same as the NFL or even the FBS of the NCAA. However, I do feel a good comparison would be to the FCS of the NCAA, which are usually smaller, lesser known schools with big football programs. I think after this season I could offer a realistic perspective of comparisons. However, I do think I can say that the amount of love for the game and the dedication to the team is just as intense as back across the pond.

rozmawiał **Damian Socha**
(filologia klasyczna)