**Transcript**

February 26, 2024, 2:08PM

 **Researcher** started transcription

 **Researcher** 0:06
OK, perfect.
OK, so First off, how old are you?

 **Baker** 0:12
I'm 20.

 **Researcher** 0:13
OK.
And what gender do you identify as?

 **Baker** 0:17
Male.

 **Researcher** 0:18
OK, What sports did you play while you were in high school?

 **Baker** 0:23
I ran cross country and I played soccer.

 **Researcher** 0:26
OK.
Did you do any other activities in high school outside of sport?

 **Baker** 0:34
Ohm.
Nothing much that I can really think of.

 **Researcher** 0:48
OK.

 **Baker** 0:49
Uh, yeah.

 **Researcher** 0:54
That's OK.

 **Baker** 0:55
Like what?
What?
What do you mean as an activity?
Like just?

 **Researcher** 0:57
Like you know, were you part of any societies?
Did you do?
Like banned choir.
You know that sort of stuff.

 **Baker** 1:05
I I did do band my freshman year of high school.

 **Researcher** 1:07
OK.
OK.
But other than that, nothing you can think of.

 **Baker** 1:12
I think that I didn't do.
No, not a whole lot.

 **Researcher** 1:16
OK.
And then how long were you at SCS?

 **Baker** 1:21
10 years.

 **Researcher** 1:23
OK.

 **Baker** 1:24
Yeah.

 **Researcher** 1:25
And then and then how long did you play for the men's soccer program?

 **Baker** 1:30
Uh, four years.

 **Researcher** 1:32
Four years.
OK.
And then where are you currently?
So are you in college playing soccer?
Are you just studying in college?
Are you working?

 **Baker** 1:44
Uh, I am just at college right this minute.
I'm not playing.

 **Researcher** 1:50
OK, gotcha.

 **Baker** 1:51
Yeah.

 **Researcher** 1:53
So then what were your experiences with sport growing up until now?

 **Baker** 2:00
Umm, it's all it was always just about having fun and just kind of being outside getting exercise.
Nothing.

 **Researcher** 2:08
But.

 **Baker** 2:08
Nothing too serious.

 **Researcher** 2:11
OK.
Did you play?

 **Baker** 2:11
Yeah.

 **Researcher** 2:13
Did you start playing sports from a young age?
Like, did you play?
Everything was it just soccer.

 **Baker** 2:20
Umm yeah, I started playing soccer and I was about four and then I tried baseball once.
I didn't like it, so I went back and just kind of stuck with it ever since.

 **Researcher** 2:29
OK.
OK.
Any notable memories from plane?
Specifically, prior to high school cause we'll we'll get to that in a bit.

 **Baker** 2:50
Ohh.
I guess before I started playing super competitive, we were always a good team and a rec league, so just kind of winning all the time was always fun so.

 **Researcher** 3:01
Hey.
OK.

 **Baker** 3:07
Yeah.
And then we always had one rival team that would would just go back and forth all the time.
So that was that was fun. Yeah.

 **Researcher** 3:12
OK.
Were what were some things that you enjoyed or didn't enjoy about them?

 **Baker** 3:24
Uh, sometimes playing in the heat in Texas didn't like, but overall I I liked it all.
I just enjoyed this sport.
There was not too much.

 **Researcher** 3:35
Umm.

 **Baker** 3:36
I didn't like, didn't like losing all that much, but everything else is fine.

 **Researcher** 3:41
Who does, though?

 **Baker** 3:43
Yeah, I mean it was, it was a good time.

 **Researcher** 3:44
Yeah.

 **Baker** 3:46
I I really don't have any bad experiences.

 **Researcher** 3:49
OK.

 **Baker** 3:50
Got playing growing up, so yeah.

 **Researcher** 3:52
OK.
So then how important has soccer been in your life?

 **Baker** 4:00
I'd say very important.
It's been the one sport I've played my whole life and it's been the the primary extracurricular activity I've done outside of school.
So something meet a lot more people and it's.
Umm, giving me connections that I otherwise would never have and it's giving me an appreciation for fitness and other sports for sure.

 **Researcher** 4:26
Come.
So then how has sport overall influenced how you see yourself?

 **Baker** 4:35
I'd say a lot.
I associate myself as a soccer player, probably above all else, son.
Not probably the most studious student and umm.
Yeah.
I just think of myself as a soccer player 1st.
And you know when that's going well, things are going well.
If it's not going too well, yeah, it's not going.
I I don't feel my best.

 **Researcher** 5:01
OK.
So would you attribute that to all the sports you played growing up or just like, I mean, you did mention kind of soccer specifically being the main one, but was there any other any influence from other sports?

 **Baker** 5:11
Yeah.
Umm.
Yeah, for sure.
When I ran cross country in high school, that was just kind of just so I could run around and make sure I'm good for the soccer season.
That was all influenced by soccer, basically.
But as I kind of grew into it, my junior and senior year, I kind of got took it a little more seriously.
Step make sure I attended every practice, made sure I worked my hardest and I kind of developed some kind of competitiveness in me.
Alright? Yeah.

 **Researcher** 5:45
OK so.

 **Baker** 5:45
Other than that, soccer mostly taken seriously and every other sport I've just kinda taking it either for fun or no.
Because I thought it was maybe a cool experience, yeah.

 **Researcher** 6:00
OK, so so then if sport in this can be soccer specifically or just in general if it was removed from your life, how do you think that would impact you?

 **Baker** 6:16
I think I could manage but.
Playing and playing competitively is something I really like.
I really wanna do and keep doing umm.
It'd be an interesting transition.
Umm I had to fill a lot of space and I had to figure out.
How to fill that time with other things?

 **Researcher** 6:46
OK.

 **Baker** 6:46
So it's just it's just a part of me, no.

 **Researcher** 6:51
Yeah.

 **Baker** 6:51
Yeah, it'd be interesting.

 **Researcher** 6:53
It's yeah.
So then with that kind of being said on on the transition, tell me a little bit about your final high school year.
So your senior year, what were you feeling experiencing academically, socially and athletically?

 **Baker** 7:18
Academically, I was doing a fine.
I was makes a beast and A's.
Everything was going good in that aspect.
Socially, not the most outgoing person, but had my little group of friends and I was fine athletically.
Yay.
Think I was probably the best I've ever been in high school overall as a player.
And umm, unfortunately the season had a such a terrible ending. But.
I think that was the best I'd ever played was my senior year in high school, so I I didn't have the most goals.
I didn't know the most assists, but I think I was the best overall player I could have been.

 **Researcher** 8:08
OK, So what?
What specifically about that senior season made it just like notable or like, you know you said you you were the best, but like the you felt you were the best you've ever been like what about it made it feel that way?

 **Baker** 8:28
I was well, first I was captain of the team.
Uh, so being a senior captain kind of makes that little bit more special. Umm.
I got hooked on with the Texans club team outside of school, so that kind of bolstered things a little bit too, so that was super positive experience.
And then ohm?
And then the infamous playoff game that we had, that that's probably the most memorable game out of all of high school.
I think. Umm.
And.
I guess it's just the culmination of all the three years before kind of coming up to that point.
We've made the playoffs for the first time.
We'd come close the year before and before that we had hardly won a game.
So it was really cool to see that hard work pay off.

 **Researcher** 9:32
So just felt very rewarding.

 **Baker** 9:35
Yeah.
Overall and then at the the playoff game.
Kinda took some of that away but.
It happens so yeah.

 **Researcher** 9:47
Yeah.
What about your?

 **Baker** 9:49
It was.

 **Researcher** 9:51
What about your relationship with the the guys on the team?
Like, how was that aspect of it?

 **Baker** 9:57
It was good for the younger guys.
I got to kind of teach them and help them become better players and understand the game a little bit more.
And for the guys that were more junior senior that I got, I know a little bit better at this school to be able to play with them and have them be a lot better and have us be at our best and have one final season to just give it our best and that kind of got us a little closer.
And I think because of soccer, we become good, become better friends for sure.

 **Researcher** 10:33
OK.
You still stay in touch with with all of them.

 **Baker** 10:37
Most of them, yeah.

 **Researcher** 10:39
OK.

 **Baker** 10:40
Couldn't say all, but most of them.

 **Researcher** 10:41
Yeah.
Yeah.
Fair.
So since you've graduated high school, how has college life been going?

 **Baker** 10:53
It's been a little rough for me.
Freshman year, I lived on campus and that was in the adjustment in itself didn't like it all that much.
Uh, but soccer was fine as a freshman.
I got more playing time than I expected and.
I ohh even score a couple goals, which is really cool.
Ohm and I got to really experience a high level of play and the academics were actually not that big of a shift.
It's cause SCS had prepared me for that and that was pretty good in that aspect.
Had to adjust to all the reading, but other than that it was good.
And then sophomore year, I decided to live off campus and commute.
And then soccer season did not go as well as I'd hoped.
And then this semester I transferred to Community School just so I could get some credits and stuff.

 **Researcher** 11:57
OK.

 **Baker** 12:00
And then hopefully having to transfer out somewhere else where I can find a place to play again.

 **Researcher** 12:08
OK.

 **Baker** 12:08
So hasn't been the easiest start, but it's been good.
I've learned a lot.

 **Researcher** 12:14
OK.

 **Baker** 12:15
For sure.

 **Researcher** 12:15
And so, did you know soccer influence your decision to?
Transfer or is that more academic spaced or?

 **Baker** 12:27
I say primarily with soccer.

 **Researcher** 12:29
OK.

 **Baker** 12:31
Because I I thought I was a better player than what my playing time reflected.
And uh.

 **Researcher** 12:37
If it.

 **Baker** 12:41
I feel kind of underappreciated on the team.
Uh, because surely mistakes, but nothing worse or better than anybody else on the team.
And no, and academics or academics to me?
I'm gonna get a good education wherever I go.
So yeah, soccer is the biggest influencer in that, for sure.

 **Researcher** 13:04
OK, so since you haven't been playing competitively since the season ended, Umm do you miss playing at the moment?

 **Baker** 13:17
Yeah, I'm actually playing in a Sunday league right now, so it's not really competitive, but.

 **Researcher** 13:21
OK.

 **Baker** 13:26
There's still some good players out there and I get a chance to kick a ball around and it's fun.
So that's just kind of filling that gap right now.

 **Researcher** 13:35
OK.

 **Baker** 13:36
I I tried out for the semi protein.
Haven't heard back from him yet, but hoping, hoping to, umm, continue pursuing that in the meantime.
So yeah, certainly miss it and I hope I can find a good place to land and play college again.
So yeah.

 **Researcher** 13:57
OK.
Well, yeah.
I'm I'm hoping that for you too.
Like you know, the that'd be awesome to to get you back in, in the college game again.
So OK, so then as you went through the high school to college transition, was there anyone or anything that helped you out during that time?

 **Baker** 14:09
Yeah, for sure.

 **Researcher** 14:24
So friends, family, classmates?

 **Baker** 14:35
Let's say probably my friends by help me out with that a little bit.
Let's say.
You know just.
Always hoping for the best for you and.
You know, just just kind of being your friend's kind of helps you out, I'd say.
Certainly my parents help me out in that process too, cause I was very indecisive on where I wanted to go to college and where I could go in play so.
Uh, and then, you know, they they're always helped me out and making sure that everything I stayed in realistic in.
Helped me make the right decision in the end and then for sure, Texans coach Adam is probably the biggest factor in that because he's the one who got me really a good look at you, Dallas and kind of got me in with, with with Coach Hoffman and that was a huge blessing in itself.
And that was that's biggest help.
Was finding a place to play so that was the biggest transitional thing for sure.

 **Researcher** 15:55
OK, so you know you mentioned Adam helping you find that place with with Coach Hoffman.
In what specific ways did your friends and family help out?

 **Baker** 16:09
My family helped me out by understanding that telling me that doesn't matter if college is expensive.
You know, there we can find ways to pay for it, and that was a big deal in my mind because I did not wanna go into tons and tons of debt over my four years.
And help me realize that it it'd be good if I got at least started on a college education and.
Begin that completion of degree and.
That was the biggest help in my parents gave me for sure.
And then ohh friends.
Kind of help me out.
Just you know I've.
Jordan won.
You know, Jordan was around, you know, just go kick a ball and take some shots on them or whatever, you know, just kind of offer that practice time.
So that was very helpful for for friend's perspective.
So just being there and being able to practice and training together, so that's always good.

 **Researcher** 17:15
OK.
So then, is there anything you wish you had more of to help you during that that transition?

 **Baker** 17:26
Wish I had more decisiveness in terms of should I go to college?
Should I go trade school?
Umm, I wish I had a little more respect for Division Three soccer.
Than what I had.
Umm, so now I understand that it's still pretty good level of play and it's not so far away from Division two even Division One than I thought.
So I think that could have speed up my decision making and possibly opened up another couple of doors had it realize that.

 **Researcher** 17:57
OK.

 **Baker** 17:59
Yeah.

 **Researcher** 18:01
So then.
What did you do kind of for yourself during that that period?
To to kind of help you ease that transition.

 **Baker** 18:18
I just kind of stayed calm and just kind of said this is just going to be like high school starting high school again.
Uh, I wasn't going to be too far away from home, so I realized, you know, I wasn't too worried about that.
No, but.
I really didn't make too much of it.
I just kind of stayed calm and just.
It's kind of let things.
Come as they came at me and.
I I didn't really worry about it too much.
I I think overall my transition you know, once I got settled.
Nick, knowing where I was gonna go, I I didn't really have much, much of a struggle.

 **Researcher** 19:06
OK.

 **Baker** 19:07
Everything.

 **Researcher** 19:09
So then have you picked up any new hobbies?
New skills sports since you've left high school.

 **Baker** 19:25
I I've tried to play tennis a couple times with my brother.
Who wants to play tennis now in high school? So.
Still working on that, that Josh he's trying to play tennis.

 **Researcher** 19:34
Which one?
And Andrew or Josh?
OK.

 **Baker** 19:42
So.
Yeah.
But.
Other than that, I really haven't branched out a little much.
I've kind of just focused on soccer overall.

 **Researcher** 20:01
OK.

 **Baker** 20:02
Yeah.

 **Researcher** 20:05
So then.
Then is.

 **Baker** 20:06
Print.

 **Researcher** 20:08
Is there anything like you would want to try in the future?

 **Baker** 20:18
You have to go today.
Yeah, you do have to go. Yeah.
No.
I'm sorry, could you repeat the question?

 **Researcher** 20:37
Umm is there anything in the future like you would want to try or potentially like look into skip skill.

 **Baker** 20:43
Ohh OK.

 **Researcher** 20:46
Hobby, yeah.
Sport.

 **Baker** 20:51
This is really off of the whole sports thing, but they like to learn how to like, fix cars and killing some of those skills to be able to fix things, yeah.
And really know how to do them.
No, kind of like mechanics and stuff, that'd be kind of fun. Umm.

 **Researcher** 21:12
OK.

 **Baker** 21:17
Think becoming becoming good at pickleball be kind of cool.
And that's that's a that's a new thing.

 **Researcher** 21:22
There's like a pickleball craze going on right now.

 **Baker** 21:25
I know ohm, it's kind of annoying, but yeah, I wouldn't.
I wouldn't mind trying it.
Umm.
And then I mean, those are probably the two biggest ones I can think of.

 **Researcher** 21:45
OK.

 **Baker** 21:48
Yeah.

 **Researcher** 21:48
Umm so then.
Kind of the the last question with that, is there any advice for those you have for those that are about to make that transition out of high school based on your experiences?

 **Baker** 22:10
Make sure you work hard.
Ohh, and if you're playing sports, make sure you make sure you at least run like make sure you get your running in ohh.

 **Researcher** 22:18
Yes.

 **Baker** 22:23
Yeah.
Yeah, you can.
You can physically make it, but you're not going to be very successful if you don't get out there and run.
I made that mistake my freshman year.
Uh.
Say you gotta get out and run for sure.
If it's special playing sports, but if you're not playing sports, it's just.
You know, don't worry about, uh, necessarily to worry about the money aspect or worry about the.
What level or how big the school is? You know?
Just try to find the best place that will suit you and.
And sometimes you may not get it right the first time, you know, might take a a transfer to find you a better place, you know, and keep your grades up so you can get more financial aid and have more options for sure. Yeah.

 **Researcher** 23:18
OK.
OK.
So final wrap up is there like just based on the the questions and stuff and is there anything you want to add, discuss a little more revisit?

 **Baker** 23:36
Umm, is there anything you want more information on?

 **Researcher** 23:41
I mean.
Here you're pretty heavily in in soccer, so you know not much outside of that.
Yeah, I mean, you gave me a good answer on like if soccer was was out of your life, how that would, but impact you.
So I mean, I'm.

 **Baker** 24:02
OK.

 **Researcher** 24:02
I'm I'm good with it so.

 **Baker** 24:05
Yeah, I mean, I I'd be, I would live.

 **Researcher** 24:07
OK.

 **Baker** 24:08
I would live if soccer was taken away, but if it takes some time to adjust for sure, yeah, yeah.

 **Researcher** 24:12
It OK awesome.

 **Researcher** stopped transcription