

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

YSU Athletics

O.H. 2158

Kate Gigliotti
Interviewed
by
Megan Reed
on
February 23, 2004

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INTERVIEWEE: Kate Gigliotti

INTERVIEWER: Megan Reed

SUBJECT: YSU Athletics

DATE: February 23, 2004

P: This is an interview with Kate Gigliotti for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on YSU Athletics, by Megan Reed, at Ms. Gigliotti's apartment, on February 23, 2004, at 8:50 pm. This project was funded by the Ford Foundation.

R: So, I would like to begin by discussing your family background. When and where were you born?

G: I was born on April 14th, 1981 in Fairview General Hospital in Fairview, Ohio, a suburb of the beautiful city of Cleveland.

R: Do you have any siblings?

G: I do, in fact I have two younger brothers, Anthony and Greg. Anthony is 21 now, and Greg is 18. I also have four step siblings.

R: Really? And who are they?

G: Tracy is my stepsister, through my mom's remarriage, and Henry my stepbrother through my mom's remarriage, and then Morgan and Mackenzie are my stepsisters through my dad's remarriage.

R: Did any of your siblings pursue a career in sports?

G: No, not a career. Greg is currently academically ineligible of the Bowling Green State soccer team, but he's playing college soccer, and Anthony played like, club hockey at Miami of Ohio for a couple years, nothing professional.

R: What did your parents do for, you know, an occupation?

G: Well, my mom originally was a marketing executive at American Greetings, but she, you know, she quit to raise me and my brothers, yea it's all my fault. My father is director of purchasing at American Greetings; he worked at American Greetings for a long time, still does.

R: Did either of your parents attend college?

G: Both of them did actually. My dad attended on a golf scholarship to Cleveland State, and my mom was also at Cleveland State, that's how they met.

R: What was your mother's major?

G: Business, I think marketing.

R: And your dad?

G: History actually.

R: Okay, do your parents have a background in sports?

G: Well, my dad like I said, golfed, he's still a pretty good golfer, he'll go out like, twice, well he used to go out twice a year and shoot high 70's, which is pretty good for not golfing that much. My mom was pretty athletic too, she would play, you know, any sport available to her, but at that time, you know, basketball and...the rules were different for female sports but she was pretty athletic, she used to coach us, she used to coach me when I was a kid too, in softball and baseball and stuff.

R: That's cool. Now about your neighborhood upbringing, where did you grow up? Your neighborhood?

G: Well, from about 5, I think on, I lived in Strongsville, Ohio, which is a suburb of Cleveland.

R: You're a suburbanite.

G: I'm a suburbanite, it's kind of one of those hoity-toity suburbs. We didn't live in like a, a really, you know, strictly super upper class neighborhood, but I would say we were upper middle class.

R: Can you describe your neighborhood for me?

G: Yea, it was pretty small; it was actually built in a big loop, and if you turned to the right, in the middle of the loop was our circle, we grew up in a circle called ButterNut Circle. And a lot of the houses, you know, they had like a similar, I guess its called "Colonial," like the similar build where the front was flat, and there were like five windows on top, and four on the bottom, we'd have double French doors in the middle, and then the two car garage. Just like a small yard out front with a tree lawn, I don't know, some people don't know what a tree lawn is; it's just like the lawn between the sidewalk and the street. We called it a tree lawn because there was all...everyone had like a small, decorative cherry tree in their lawn, yea, so that's a tree lawn. And we had a, like a small backyard, I think our total property was like, half an acre, it was pretty small, but, I don't know, we had a little hill, so that was always fun to run around in.

R: Now for school, what school did you go to elementary through middle?

G: Kindergarten I went to Chapman Elementary, which is very close to me, but then I was put into what we called the gifted programs, so from first through fifth grade I went to Zeller's Elementary, and then for sixth grade I went to Surrarr Elementary, which were on the other side of Strongsville and took about 45 minutes to get too. But they were...there was the four of us, and in or very nearby my neighborhood, one of the kids was down the street, my best friend growing up, and we would get bussed together to go. So we kind of had little clicks, that was nice, it wasn't just like me going by myself, it was a group of us that had to get you know, basically shipped out there because Strongsville is really big, it's like 25 square miles.

R: And you were there in high school?

G: Yea for high school. For middle school I went to a place called Albion, we had junior high from 7 through 9, and that was a long drive too, but, you know, is was like the zoning was strange, but, yea, and then Strongsville High School, which, again, 20 minutes to get to.

R: Wow, school was, like, three blocks away! Did you have any influential teachers, and if so, why did they influence you, what kind of influence did they hold upon you? It could be negative or positive.

G: Well, actually, I had really good history teachers. Through elementary school, all the elementary school teachers I had were excellent. I mean, to teach I guess the gifted program, you know, they picked the best teachers, so that was pretty lucky on my part. Those classes were split, there were like ten first graders and ten second graders in a

classroom together and then like third and fourth grade and fifth and sixth grade was together. Until I got to sixth grade it was split, but those teachers were amazing, they were really patient and they were always available for questions. I remember the one in like third grade, I couldn't do fractions, my first foray into the problems of math, and she, you know, helped me during recess and after school, until I understood, and it was nice to have that one on one. And then in like junior high and high school a lot of my history teachers were really great teachers. I had one who was really into like visually interpreting history for us, so during the slavery lectures he brought in a whip, a bullwhip and would crack it, he would ask us a question, then he would crack it around while we were trying to answer, just to show how intimidating it was. And he was always yapping on about the white male Thomas Jefferson country club set, and he would throw his money clip around and be like, "Government money!" He was amazing, we learned so much from him, and he really presented things in a really cool way. But I had a lot of great history teachers, so lucky.

R: What would you say is your favorite subject, history?

G: History, definitely. Well, plus because my dad was a history major, and we grew up doing historical field trips and stuff, and all that fun of course.

R: What extracurricular activities or sports did you participate in while in school? You can pick or choose, I don't care.

G: Well, I started from a very early age. We had these Saturday enrichment programs through junior high, I mean elementary school, and I used to do... I did chess, I was like chess club, I actually got so good that we started doing the time clock. I did like, pottery classes, the pottery classes were really fun though, my mom still has some of the stuff that I did. I took ballet for a year when I was in kindergarten, which you wouldn't think to look at me now, but I was like the best ballerina in class. Very graceful; actually the reason was because I was the only one that could keep time, so everyone else was like, "Ahhh! what am I doing?" And I did sports from a very early age, I started playing soccer, I think I was 5, and back then they had co-ed teams still. And I played baseball and basketball as well. I used to play football at recess with the guys; I was a Tom Boy, a big time Tom Boy. It was fun playing co-ed because I was the only girl who was really aggressive and I'd always like... the boys would kind of back off at first and then I'd take the ball from them and kick their butts, and their dads would be like, "Why are you letting a girl beat you?" And then they'd try to get mean, but I stood my ground and I played soccer all through college, into college rather, and basketball I played 'till tenth grade, and softball I got to fast pitch, but I couldn't... we just got kind of thrown in, and I couldn't bat very well in fast pitch. I did a lot of stuff.

R: Obviously. Now your sport obviously became soccer. View your athletic experiences, can you describe to me like, you know, your first experience in the sport, like the first memory you have of, you know, soccer. Or like when you first, you know, really... I don't know how to...

G: When I realized that I was good at it, or really liked it?

R: Whatever you can recall, even like your very first experience, like if you can remember the first time you stepped out on a field.

G: No, I was pretty young, I don't really...the first definite memory I have is in this indoor place in Olmstead Falls called Concordia. We were playing an indoor game and I was the only girl on the team, and my coach always played me at defense, because for some reason, I mean, "Oh, she's a girl so she has to play defense." But I remember stealing the ball from this boy, and like I said before the boy's father would be like, "You're letting a girl beat you!"

R: How old were you at this time?

G: Seven or eight, pretty young, and I remember being like, "Huh, yea, I did beat him," you know?

R: What made you realize that you wanted to pursue soccer beyond high school? Like what point did you realize, "Hey, you know, I can make a longer career out of this, I can go to college.

G: I don't know, because right before my senior year in high school I was thinking of quitting because I didn't want to, I don't know, I was just kind of getting a little burned out, but when I got to the track, we had a two mile timed run and I was going to tell my coach then, and when we got to the track all of the girls...who, I mean, I was friends with girls on the team, but I wasn't friends with them socially because they were kind of in like, a different click than I was. Because of that...like on the high school team I knew I was good, but I didn't really always feel like I belonged because we had a pretty clicky team up until my senior year, and when I got to the track to run I was like, "Okay, how am I going to tell them I don't want to do this?" And then I get there and all the girls are like, they used to call me "Gigga" then, or "Gigs," and they were like, "Gigs, how are you, oh my God its so good to see you!" So I just started joking around and they were all laughing, and we were all getting along so well, and I was like, "Well, I'll do it after the run," you know, and then it just was, I don't know I just had such a good time I'd thought I'd try it and see what happens and I'm glad I did because that year we won state, so.

R: What determined you moving on from high school into, you know, the college environment of your sport? You know, NCAA? Would you say it was the recruiting that was done on the school's half, or was it a decision that you had made that you were going to pursue it?

G: My high school didn't really do any recruiting for me, so it was more like my decision was like, "Well, you know, I've got good grades, I did pretty well in high school, and we got some attention of course because of the state championship", and that game was like the game of my life. So I got some attention from that, actually Coach Stock, who was our assistant coach at YSU, was at that game so he actually saw me play, and when I sent

out my tape to people we got some responses and that was kind of it, I realized “Well hey, I guess I could, you know, do this.” Actually the reason is because I wanted to go to this school really bad called Kenyon, in Ohio, and its pretty expensive but the soccer coach there really wanted to have me on the team, and I was like, “Well, I could go here because of soccer,” so that was kind of cool, but it ended up that they didn’t come through with the money, so, YSU did, I came to YSU.

R: This would answer my next question, why did you decide to go to YSU?

G: Because I had banked on Kenyon, and then the financial program came through, and I had talked with Coach Stock, and then I thought I was going to go to Kenyon, and then when that fell through I called back and was like, “Well, are you guys still interested?” and they said “Yes,” and I came for a visit and decided to come here.

R: So the other schools you considered were obviously Kenyon, were there any others?

G: There’s a place called Sienna in Michigan, but it was Catholic and that was a little creepy for me being non-religious. Ohio State was interested in me for a while, until they saw my tape and said that I was not the athletic type they were looking for, so you know, that was interesting, but they were interested for a while, but I didn’t really want to go to Ohio State unless I had to.

R: So what would you say had the greatest influence on your decision? Would say it was the sport, education aspect, or financial?

G: It was financial.

R: Financial, okay. What years did you attend Youngstown State University?

G: 1999 to 2003.

R: What activities did you participate in at YSU outside of soccer?

G: Well, does Student Athlete Council count? It’s kind of related to soccer. I was on the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, also called SAAC, I did some volunteering, actually through the Protestant Campus Ministry because they did Habitat for Humanity, and I had done Habitat for Humanity in high school and really enjoyed it, so I did some volunteering through that. Volunteered at the museum, I don’t really do...well I did some volunteering at other places but, mostly that kind of stuff. You didn’t have a lot of time to do that kind of thing, you know?

R: What was your first impression of the campus at YSU?

G: I actually thought it was pretty like, the campus is pretty nice, it’s kind of in the middle of the city, but once you get on campus it’s not bad at all, I mean, I’ve definitely seen worse places, so I thought it was kind of nice, I liked it.

R: It is like a shock...

G: It's like wait a minute, this is kind of nice, there's grass and, well, okay! But no, I don't know, I kind of felt like...

R: Comfortable?

G: Yea, I felt comfortable, exactly.

R: What was your first impression of your team? No name-dropping!

G: Well, to be honest, that first year here I was really...like I don't think I really was myself, does that make sense? Like, I think because, I know why, is because we were here in, you know, the beginning of August, and we didn't start school until the end of September, and to be, for me anyways, to be some place someplace just focusing on something like that and being around like...because in high school my soccer team was separate from my friends, and I liked that because that way I wasn't around all the drama, I wasn't around...and because it is a lot of drama you know, you get a group of girls together, it's a lot of drama. So I wasn't around that and I liked that, I liked just being able to be at soccer we can focus on soccer. But when I was here for that whole month and a half and all we were doing...

R: It was a little overwhelming.

G: It was, and it was my, you know...I had been to Europe twice so I'd been away from home for times, but I'd always been with some people I knew, and just coming here and being on your own and not knowing people, and I like to have time to myself, so being with a group of girls for such...I mean we were having three practices a day, we were eating meals together, we were expected to socialize together...

R: And you had to watch movies...

G: We had to watch movies, we had to watch film, it was just so overwhelming, and I really...I became really anti-social. I remember a lot of the time girls on the team would be like "C'mon, Kate, c'mon, why don't you come out with us," and I'd be like, "No, I'm just going to sit in my room, I'm going to read, I'm going to play on the computer," and I think I was bitching on my roommate a lot, and aggravated, I'm like easily aggravated because I was just so frustrated. But it was just really hard to adjust, so, but once school started and I had...

R: It was like boot camp.

G: It was, and like I had shin splints, I had heat exhaustion, I was a mess. But once I started, school started, and I was in a different...

R: You realized other people were at YSU!

G: Other people existed I know, It was so nice. But in the dorm we were in at Kilcawley it was really like a family atmosphere and all the girls on our floor were really sweet, and that's where I met one of my best friends, Carla, who was my roommate for three years after that, and once I started hanging out with different people it was a little better. But I still didn't think around the team I felt comfortable because some of the older seniors and stuff weren't very nice sometimes...I don't know, maybe that's not the right word, they just weren't very...

R: They weren't accepting.

G: Exactly, exactly.

R: So what was your first impression of your coaches? What was your first impression of Coach Stock, first off? Coach Stock by the way was the assistant coach of YSU soccer team for two years after we arrived in 1999; he had been there for two years prior to that. But what was your first impression of coach Brian Stock?

G: Coach Stock and I got along famously like from the beginning, he and I were like two peas in a pod, it was pretty frightening. But we had like the same sense of humor, and I really respected him because he was an amazing coach. I honestly had never worked so hard for another person, like I...he would bring out like the best praise...like I would be at practice and just try so hard and just live for...this sounds so stupid, but would just live for him, just a good job, you know what I mean? It was so weird.

R: Because he was honest, he would call you out on it.

G: He would, he would, but it was good, and I really do feel like I improved dramatically. I had a goalie coach in high school, so I was kind of used to that kind of stuff...

R: But not that intensity.

G: Not that intensity, and it was really cool because our relationship was such that on the field I mean I had complete respect for him, but we knew...I mean we would joke around, if we were doing a drill we were serious but after the drill or whatever, we could joke around and keep it lite and he was always very motivational, very motivating, and...

R: Very positive.

G: Very positive and you could feel the energy, you know? he was just really...he really made our team, you know, good, and I definitely missed having him around.

R: What did you think of...your first impression now, your first impression of Elizabeth Bartly, the head coach?

G: Ex-head coach.

R: Ex.

G: My first impression actually was pretty good because she was of course on the recruiting visit, and of course she was real nice, you know? So first impression was fine, and like I honestly, am the type of person that doesn't really see the bad in people, so immediately, some people its obvious, but if you know, I don't, I don't know, I'm pretty laid back as most people will tell you I think normally, so stuff doesn't really bother me like it bothers other people, but...

R: But overall you had a good feeling about her.

G: Yea I did. She tricked us.

R: What were your goals...what goals did you have when you first came to YSU, like general, just brief kind of like, what did you plan on doing with your career, academic or sport?

G: I really wanted to focus on academics because I, I mean honestly didn't think I; I knew I wasn't going to play anywhere professionally, like, c'mon. And that wasn't a goal of mine anyways, I didn't want to play professionally, I was planning on stopping after high school but, so I was like "Oh, college will be fun and then that'll be it." Because I'd come from such an emotional season in my high school I mean there was really nothing in my mind that could have topped that, it was so amazing, like that senior year, I mean what a better way to go out, I mean our team was an underdog the entire season and we just proving everybody wrong and we won. We were like tied for tenth in the nation in the polls, it was really amazing.

R: Yea, so it's kind of hard to top a dream come true like that.

G: Exactly. It was funny, like, people in Strongsville would recognize me and be like, "You're the goalie in the state team!" and I was like, "Who are you?" Like I didn't work, you know, at Office Depot and these random, "We cut out all of your clippings!" Okay, you're scaring me, you know?

R: So basically you were focused more on academics.

G: Definitely, because I'd always been pretty academically driven, you know, through school, so academics is pretty important to me. That was kind of my focus.

R: So in soccer can you describe to me what a typical day at practice was like?

G: Typical, so not like three-a-days?

R: Just typical, what it was usually like.

G: Well, during season it was a little different from off season, so we'll start with season first. Typical season day would be you'd get up for class in the morning, and you had to go to all of your classes because if you didn't you'd get in trouble and you'd have to run. And people knew, like there was a spy network or something, because everybody knew, there was something...but you would go to your classes and then we had to have a break, I think it was starting at 2:00, and usually my classes would end at 2:00, 2:15, and then I would go over to the stadium...no, I'd go back to my dorm and get my soccer gear ready, we had to always wear the same outfit...not the same outfit everyday, we had three different sets of shirts and three different shorts and different socks so we'd have to match. So I'd get my outfit for the day and make sure I had my goalie stuff in my bag, I'd toss in my running shoes, some warm ups if I needed it, I had running shoes of course, and then I would usually go to the training room for treatment because I had chronic shin problems, and ankle problems my first year but those actually got better thankfully. But I would usually go do treatment, and then we'd have practice from like 3:00 to 5:00, and practice for the goalies was a little different, when Coach Stock was there it was definitely different, we'd do warm up laps and then we'd stretch of course and then the goalies would usually separate from the team and we'd do our own drills, usually it would focus on one area for the day like breakaways or focus on high shots or distribution or something like that. And then usually we'd get together with the team towards the end to do some team drills like shooting, which we we'd never get shots on goal, so we had shooting accuracy problems, and then we'd do some scrimmaging or something like that, sometimes we'd sprint, and usually the goalies would have to sprint with the rest of the team although it wasn't exactly the best fitness for us, but you know, whatever.

R: What was a typical game day like for you? From leaving your dorm, what was it like...a game at home by the way, because we had many games on the road so we'll do first category, a game day at home.

G: Well usually I wasn't playing, so game day for me was, I don't know, I've always been really baffled, like I liked playing soccer, I loved it, but it wasn't...a lot of the girls on my teams I used to play with, like my club teams, they could tell you what the score was three years ago when we played a team, what the conditions were like, who scored the goals, and for me I didn't care; it was just a game, I had fun playing it, I liked being with the team, it was exercise, it was fun to get out and just roll around in the grass. I didn't really care that much about the scores, I mean you want to win, who doesn't want to win? But at the same time I wasn't going to kill myself over losing because it was just a game. Because like I said I'm pretty laid back, so for me it was, okay, its game day, so I would get up and usually our games were in the afternoon or evening, so go to class and do my school stuff, and then come to the stadium and get treatment and put my uniform on and tape my shin guards up, and I did have a ritual, I used to put my left under sock on, then my right one, then my left shin guard, then my right one, then my left...

R: Typical goalie.

G: Yea, I did have rituals, I used to kiss the goalpost all the time and touch it; kiss the post, then touch the top bar, and shuffle over and that kind of stuff. But, okay, so after getting ready we would go out for warm ups, and you'd have team warm up and then you'd have your goalie warm up, and all the goalies used to warm up, but then I'd just go sit on the bench and for the most part cheer, and I don't know, it was no big deal, but there was one season when I did play, and I don't know, it wasn't...I would try to focus more because I knew I was going to get drilled, so it was kind of like try to relax and realize that nothing that happens today is going to be my fault and just take it in stride and just have fun with it, try to.

R: What was a game day like when you were on the road? What was it like when you were traveling, what was it like waking up in the hotel?

G: It was weird, we were on that bus a lot of time for so long and it was hard to study on the road. A lot of times you're traveling, because our schedule was bad because no one wanted to play at YSU because the turf was so bad, so we had a lot of road games and we were traveling a lot on school days so we would miss a lot of class, and it was hard to get work done on the bus, because first of all it's a bus, you're in close quarters, it smells, the seats are uncomfortable, a lot of times the drives were pretty long, and you have twenty girls on the bus, and that's not going to be complete silence all the time. Plus I don't know about you, but I like to watch scenery where I'm going a lot of times, like I'll look out the window, I really like to do that when I'm traveling, and I fall asleep very easily, so I was asleep half the time. And then you get to the hotel and you get assigned your roommates and you hoped that you didn't get the person that you hated, not that I hated anybody but there were people who you had a better time with obviously, there were people who you weren't so comfortable with, but you just hoped that you got a good roommate or whatever. Because you usually had to share a double bed, and you didn't want to sleep with someone you were pissed at. Then usually a lot of times on the big road trips we would get to the place a day early, and then the next day we'd have to get up really early and have like a morning walk-through, or sometimes that day we'd have to go have like a walk-through. It wouldn't be a big deal, like a little warm up jog or something and then...

R: Did you ever practice in a parking lot?

G: Yea we did practice...actually I don't think I was on that road trip, was I on that road trip?

R: Did you ever fall in the grass in the parking lot of a hotel?

G: Oh, in Texas oh my God! In Texas, we went on a Texas road trip, and this was a major road trip to El Paso, Texas. So we're flying on this plane, where are we flying to, Houston or something?

R: No, we flew from Cleveland to Houston, and then we had to sprint across the airport, get in a small charter plane...

G: Yea, like a pond skipper! In the pond skipper we had to fly from Houston, there was these storms and like Megan Gibson, poor Megan, that's one of our teammates, was like terrified of flying, and we're on a pond skipper right? Of course they're small planes to begin with, and the turbulence is just tossing this thing backwards and forwards, and she was so doped up on Dramamine thankfully, she puked, and all sorts of stuff. But so anyways we get to El Paso and I think, was it later that day...we checked into the hotel and we had to go for a little run...

R: And it was like a hundred degrees outside.

G: It was really hot because of course you're in El Paso in like September. So we get there and our team was short of players because we had a small roster and everyone was hurt, so we go outside the hotel on the run, and I proceeded to step in a hole in like the grass, there was like an island in the driveway of the hotel you know where you can pull up and there's the lobby and registration or whatever, and there's this hole in the ground, I stepped in it and sprained my ankle. And then so I had busted my ankle and our trainer's like, "Well you can't play tomorrow if you can't run," so I was like, "Oh my God!" So I tried to run and they're like, "Okay listen, we need you to play tomorrow so why don't you go ice it and try to walk on the treadmill." And then the hotel was afraid I was going to sue them, so they went out and filled the hole like right away. But that was very memorable. But then the next day at the game, it must not have been too bad of a sprain because I was okay, but that was interesting. But road trips yea were definitely...because usually we had to get up really early for no apparent reason, and eating team breakfasts and, I don't know it was just like...

R: Especially with Stock, 9:02 be in the hotel!

G: Yea and we had curfew at night of course, and it's hard to entertain people on a road trip because you don't know, it's not your home city, you know what to do, you have to have all these girls together, and they were kind of sucky.

R: Well we obviously didn't have any rival schools to play against because we were pretty spread out.

G: Yea I think Oakland...

R: I would say Robert Morris.

G: Robert Morris yea definitely was a big one but I think Oakland too because they had those like huge Norwegian girls, do you remember? The Norwegian National Team girls, and we're like. "Oh my God, they're huge!" And then you know we would always really try to get up for that game because they were good, and you wanted to try to...

R: We just wanted to scare them.

G: Yea, we almost beat them that one time too, that was nice.

R: So obviously we played a wide variety of schools, so we can't...I don't know if we can really name them.

G: There were so many.

R: And we switched conferences.

G: We did switch conferences too that's right, it was our junior year. We were Mid-Continent before and then we were Horizon League.

R: So we did, your right, we did have a whole different group of people to play, and so I don't think it's really been long enough, and plus our team isn't good enough to form a rivalry.

G: Oh, I don't know.

R: So how many spectators would you say came to your home games?

G: Not many, it was mostly like friends and family of the team, except on the days when coach Tressel or someone, the football coach would make the football players go to the game, and they would be there for like the first half. And those were really fun because those guys would really get behind you and they would scream and they were always more vocal.

R: Would you say they had an influence on your team's performance, like the whole mood?

G: Definitely the atmosphere, I remember the season that I was playing at the games there were a couple fans who would come and every time I would kick the ball they would be like, "Boom!" That was always fun, it was just kind of nice when people were doing that and supporting you and cheering for you of course.

R: Do you want to talk about either your best game experience or your worst game experience?

G: My best game experience was definitely my...are we talking about in college?

R: Yea, what would you say that is in college?

G: Marshal was pretty good; I also like the game in Texas.

R: Now why was the game in Texas your favorite game?

G: There's a lot of reasons!

R: Well go on!

G: First of all because I got to see Megan falling into the field, that was so fun always. But because, I think it was because that game, well first of all we got drilled so I was, you

know, “Oh, was that the game that I drilled that girl?” That game I had this play where I came in off my line to get a ball in the air and it was close to the top of the box, this is kind of technical jargon isn’t it? Okay if you don’t understand soccer here it is.

R: Yea what is the box?

G: Okay the box is, there’s eighteen yards from the goal there’s a box, and inside the box the goalkeeper can use their hands, outside the box the goalkeeper cannot use their hands, but they can go out of the box of course but use their feet. The ball has to stay inside the eighteen, if your body goes out but the ball is in than it’s okay, but if the ball goes out and your body is in then it’s a foul. And there’s also the six-yard box, which helps the goalie, that’s where you take goal kicks from, if the opposing team kicks the ball off the end line, then your team gets a goal kick that’s where your goalkeeper takes the goal kick from.

R: Well thank you for that understanding...

G: There you go, a little technical jargon but continue.

R: Yes please proceed with your story.

G: There was this ball that was pretty high in the air, it was towards the top of the eighteen, and I came out, I don’t know why, I just for some reason was like, “That’s my ball!” So I came charging out, and this poor girl went up for a header and I didn’t even see her I was so crazy for the ball I ran in to her, and oh my God she got a concussion, I might have broken her leg, she was in bad shape. She knocked my jaw out of place if it’s any consolation for her, so I couldn’t like talk, don’t you remember? I couldn’t talk.

R: Was she moving after you hit her?

G: No, she was on the ground, she was like knocked out, and I don’t know I was so pumped up about it I stood over her and it was like, “Ahhhh!!” But I kind of felt like Mohammed Ali, but the girl she wasn’t moving because I knocked her out, and I felt bad, they had to carry her off the field in a stretcher and everything. I couldn’t talk the rest of the game because my jaw was knocked out of place, so I was talking like this; (slurred speech) and that game was funny because we were getting drilled of course, like all these fans were like cheering for me, and the ref would come up and be like, “That was a nice try, don’t worry, you want to take a break, are you okay?” Like seriously, after every goal he would come up and go, “Do you need a breather? We can wait a couple of minutes.”

R: So that was a worst day and a best game.

G: Yea, I don’t know, the worst game...there were a lot of those.

R: The worst one was when that team gathered hands and prayed.

G: Yea, no the worst one was when that team when that girl scored eight goals, and they just did...because most of the teams we played...

R: St. Francis.

G: Yea, see how mad I still am about it. Most of the teams we played that year knew that we were short handed, and knew that we didn't have any subs, and knew, you know, that we were going to get drilled, because I mean, we had two goalkeepers play on the field, and even though you guys did a great job that's not your place, you know what I mean? You're not prepared for that.

R: You can't play soccer with eight people.

G: Exactly, so most of the teams we played against were kind of, like they would, after a while they would go easy, they wouldn't come attack, they would just kind of pas the ball around. But this team just kept coming and kept coming, and this girl scored eight goals, and I think they caught a lot of flack for doing it too with the other teams, like the other teams around the NCAA.

R: I think Virginia Commonwealth was the worst team because they scored twenty-one goals on us.

G: It was twenty-one? I thought it was sixteen?

R: No it was twenty-one.

G: Oh my God, I don't remember that.

R: That was the game that we went into halftime, it was 1-1 and then they just took off.

G: Yea, and then there was that one team that prayed, but that wasn't, I mean that wasn't bad, because we had a team that prayed for us after a game because they thought that we had showed such courage, but that, you know that was nice...

R: It made me cry!

G: Well, of course I was appalled because not being religious they were expecting me to join this prayer circle, and I was, you know, that kind of freaked me out, I'm like, "No thank you." How did I get out of that, do you remember? I said I was Buddhist or something, I think? They were like, "Ohhh..." So I just watched that, it was kind of horrifying, I mean it was nice in the idea, but at the same time...that was some school in Virginia wasn't it?

R: It was Liberty. Now with scholastics, how difficult was it for you to maintain your grades while playing sports in college?

G: It was pretty hard, I had to maintain a 3.5 anyways or else I would have lost my academic scholarship. But it was hard because I mean soccer took up so much of your time, and you're a college student you want to try to have some kind of normal social life too...

R: Did you find it difficult to maintain a social life?

G: Oh definitely. Well, I mean I would hang out with my friends; we wouldn't necessarily go a lot of places, sometimes we would do like, well my freshman year, I don't know why I did this, but I didn't sleep a lot, especially during off season, I would get up at 5 a.m. we had 6 a.m. practice, I would get up at five because I like being up and awake for practice, I didn't like rushing around at the last minute trying to find tuff, I always liked to be there early. So I would get up at 5, and there would be nights where I would get one, two hours of sleep, no sleep, I don't know how I did it, I honestly don't, because if I tried that now I think I would just die. But we go out at 3 in the morning and just drive around, go to Perkins to grab some food, stupid stuff like that, so it was kind of fun, you know, we would hang out and be goofy and get in trouble with our RA, but...

R: So you just made the best that you could?

G: Yea, basically. I mean I did my work and you know, obviously I did okay academically. It was pretty hard though.

R: Through all this do you feel that you received the proper amount of respect from your teammates or your coaches within, you know, your sport? Just respect in general as a person.

G: I think academically I definitely did, like a lot of girls kind of looked up to me as the smart one on the team or something, which was kind of cool, plus I know all that useless information, so it was like if someone needed some kind of useless fact I usually knew it. But soccer wise, I don't know, I think I wasn't the coach's favorite, so she didn't always give me the proper respect that I deserved, because I know coach Stock and our second assistant coach Seamus Riley, I know they knew that I was definitely better than some of the people that were playing. But it's hard when you're head coach, it's hard to stay motivated to try to work and be harder and prove that you're better because it's like what's the point? She plays favorites, so you're not going to get the chance anyways, so who cares, which is kind of what happened my junior year I just after a while, after that stupid leg thing I just didn't care anymore.

R: How do you feel about receiving respect from your fellow athletes? Other athletes within.

G: Well, because we weren't very good, it seemed like, it was kind of weird, like a lot of people really respected us for not giving up, especially that sophomore year, I think people gave us respect because we didn't quit, you know? We kept on trying and we had all these injuries and we just kept pushing, and I think that year we were the most

cohesive as a team out of all three years by far, because we were going through this together and we all went on all the road trips, even if we were hurt. We really stuck together, and we didn't give up on each other I think was the biggest thing, but there were people who would of course tease us about it, and we didn't get a lot of respect because we weren't good. I didn't have a lot of other friends who were athletes, I mean I knew some football players, but I didn't really care to associate myself with them that much because in my previous experience a lot of times its not worth hanging out with some of them.

R: Now back to the question about receiving respect. Do you feel that you received respect from fellow students, you know not involved with sports, like classmates, if they knew what you were involved in?

G: Yea, I think I did, a lot of people thought it was pretty cool that I was doing athletics and just because, you know, they say "Oh, you play soccer for YSU, that's cool, what position do you play?" And that would be like a conversation starter a lot of the time, so I think it's because our campus is so non-traditional, you know, everyone has their own story, and mine was just that I played soccer. Everyone kind of had that...they knew you know, it's hard to do school and something else; a lot of people had jobs or they were coming back to school after not being in school for a while, so that was just my trial to go through.

R: What about the community, did they even pay attention, did the newspapers acknowledge the team?

G: No, I don't think so. The community is pretty football oriented I'd say, it's not a big soccer community, which was definitely a change because Strongsville where I grew up is a big time soccer community, I mean Strongsville High School, yea the football team is popular and people like going to the football games, but a lot of people came to the high school soccer games. I mean where we played we had smaller bleachers on the side but the other side was a hill and there were always, I mean soccer games were one that you know, you go to the football game on Friday and you go to the soccer game on Saturday. So a soccer game was like a place to be too you know, it was like a social event, it was great. So we had, and especially the boys soccer team at the high school had won state the year before, so that really got exposure, and then our team coming, so we had fans, if a game was in Columbus we had like a thousand fans in Columbus, we had three thousand people at the game, so that was pretty cool. But coming to Youngstown, it isn't a soccer community, but the community is very supportive of Youngstown State in general, to Youngstown State Athletics. There were a couple of people who, you now, were following the action, a lot of them actually was, "What's going on with you guys? You need a new coach or something, because you're not winning very many games and I don't know what the problem is." But it's a good community, the people here are honest and they're hard working and I have to say it's a nice community; it's just not a soccer community.

R: Do you ever feel that you faced any discrimination from you know, professors or your fellow students or peers because you were an athlete. If you did what was it, did they constantly make comment thinking you were spoiled because you were an athlete?

G: I didn't just because I didn't lord it over people, some people do that, you know, "Oh I'm an athlete so you have to treat me better," for me it was more like, "Unfortunately I'm going to miss some classes, I don't really like it either, but this is how it's got to go, so let me know when I can take stuff early." And my peers they weren't bad about it either, because I know how much really special treatment you get as a soccer player, I mean as a football player yea, but I was lucky in that I didn't have any professors, because I know there are...most of them are pretty good about it, I know there are some professors that don't like athletes period, but for the most part my professors you know I gave them the list when I'm going to miss class, I'd remind them what am I going to miss, when can I make up the assignment so I was pretty responsible about it so they didn't really have any problems.

R: What restrictions if any did you face from your coaches? What restrictions did you have, what were you not allowed to do, what were you allowed to do?

G: Not that it affected me, because I didn't actually start drinking until I turned 21, and I'm not just saying that because I'm on tape, I actually didn't, which is like one of those rare things.

R: I can actually testify for this, this true, this is very, very true.

G: The freshman year we had a no drinking policy during the season, which was stupid because people agreed to it and they said they were going to follow it but they knew they weren't. So after that we had a 48-hour policy, which was no drinking 48 hours before a game, which makes sense. And of course you're not supposed to do drugs, anyway, but you had random drug tests. We didn't really have many restrictions that I can remember; maybe they just didn't affect me because I wouldn't have done the stuff anyways.

R: Well did you face any, because you were an athlete, I mean even with your GPA.

G: Well of course you had to have a certain GPA. Freshman year athletes had to go to study tables ten hours a week.

R: And what are study tables?

G: Study tables is when you go to a specified location, it was a room in the stadium, and you had to sign in and you had to spend ten hours a week in the study table area, which was a problem because there were so many people that you usually couldn't get any studying done when you were there. Like I used to go when I knew people weren't going to be there like later at night, until people started lying about their hours, then you had to go when someone was there to watch when you were there. But you never got any work done there I hated it. And I understand that you want to try to impress upon the students

that you have study time, but I don't know, and then of course the junior year, because after the first semester our team had such poor grades in general, all of us had to go, which sucked because I had a 4.0 that semester and obviously I know what I need to study, I don't need to be babysat.

R: Were you ever aware of any of your fellow athletes or teammates breaking any of the rules? Academics obviously you said lying about study table hours, but what about drugs?

G: Oh yea, people did drugs, people smoked, people drank, I tried to stay out of that though because it's really none of business, and it's just that I don't want to be around that anyways, you know.

R: Were you ever aware of any teammates, like you know the...I almost want to call it an urban legend so to speak of, the athlete receiving exams from the professor because they're an athlete.

G: Oh God no, I never...well it could have happened but I never knew about it, but then again I was frequently out of the loop, most of the time on purpose because the loop was so dramatic that I didn't want to be in it anyways. But I don't think so, not for the soccer player.

R: Overall looking back on it, you know, reflecting, do you feel that you maybe have missed the chance to have you know, a quote-unquote, "normal" college experience?

G: No, because soccer...I had the normal college experience my senior year because I didn't play soccer, and I got a job instead, you know? So I had a normal YSU experience. But I don't know, I feel like I made enough friends and had a good time, I was happy at YSU, I think I made the most out of my education, and that's really all you can ask from college anyways, we didn't have to go into massive debt to put me through undergrad, which is nice, and I had a good time so I think that's important.

R: Okay, well then these are the final sets of questions. With your, you know, college and beyond, how did you end your career and when did this occur?

G: I ended my career because I quit, and I think it was March, February or March...

R: Well, did you quit before me?

G: No I quit after you. Yea my junior year I played through most of the season, then I got this leg infection from the turf, do you remember that? I was in the hospital for like four days, it was nasty, it was called cellulitis, and it's an infection of the skin, and it's pretty serious.

R: And this occurred because the turf was unclean?

G: Yea this occurred because I got a turf burn, and it wasn't cleaned properly even though I asked for it to be cleaned properly but it wasn't. But anyways I got this thing and I had to go to the hospital and the medicine wasn't working for a while, and it was actually pretty scary because if the medicine didn't start working, they had to put me on a higher dose of anti-biotics, and then a higher dose after that, and if that didn't work, it was like amputation time, so it was pretty serious. And it was kind of bad because there were some people who, like there was a couple people who called and actually seemed concerned, but the rest of the team didn't even seem like they cared, I came back from the hospital and everyone's like, "Oh, you were gone?" I was like, "Oh, that's nice, thanks everyone." But no, seriously, like, no Megan called me, but seriously the coach called and you called and like two other people called and that was it, I felt so unloved. I was pissed. And then it's just like, it's such a pain, my stupid leg, and it wouldn't stop, it was just so annoying and I was frustrated, and after I came back I could do like one drill, and then after that I was like, "This is so stupid, my leg keeps swelling, and it hurts, and why am I doing this?" And then I let it heal and then Spring season came around, and we had this whole drama with our assistant coach being let go, and what was going to happen, and our head coach at that point was just out of control, and it was just no fun anymore, so I quit. I talked it over with my mom because I was getting financial assistance, I was on scholarship, but I talked it over with my mom, I asked her if we had enough money to cover if I quit, and she said, "Yes, you shouldn't do it if you're not having fun anymore." So I quit, I didn't want to put myself through that.

R: So obviously you suffered some injuries during your career, now do they still impact you at all today? Your shin splints for instance?

G: Well, I actually know how to deal with shin splints now, and I don't work out like I used to, so it doesn't bother me. My elbows obviously crack all the time. My knee healed up okay, so that doesn't bother me. My shin where I had my infection actually will hurt still on occasion. Like if I go running, sometimes it will hurt if I hit it hard, if I bang it on something it will hurt. There's still like the mark, the indentation where it was and it's still kind of puffy, it's kind of nasty. But I didn't have surgery on my knee or anything, so that healed up okay.

R: What happened with your knee?

G: I tore off, what the heck's it called? The calf muscle, where your calf muscle attaches to your knee in the back of your knee.

R: So you hyper extended your knee?

G: No I tore it. First of all the doctor was amazed because this is a very, very rare injury, somehow I did it. What happened was I was at practice and we were doing this drill, and I had planted my leg because I thought the ball was going to go one way, the ball was supposed to be...

R: What year was this?

G: This is my sophomore year, this was the middle, remember? I got hurt and then, I was like “Another One Bites the Dust” my sophomore year. But it was the middle of the season and the drill we were doing, the ball was supposed to be kicked one way, and so I was preparing to go that way and it wasn’t so I had to stop and plant and my ankle gave out, so my ankle rolls out, and my knee went in, and then I went straight down, so my knee was in and my ankle was out and I sprained my ankle badly and busted my knee. And we thought it was my ACL for a while because I was getting phantom pain where my ACL was, but it was my calf muscle, which apparently is very hard to do, and I did it, so there you go that’s what I did to my knee.

R: Thinking of your first impression of the team, did it change over time, and how? And you can include the coaches, but talk about the team first.

G: It changed over time defiantly because, you know, after my freshman year the seniors I wasn’t too comfortable with, a lot of them were graduated, and there was like six or seven of them, so the team makeup was totally changed. And then the sophomore year I came back and because we were at school...like we switched from quarters to semesters that year so we were not at school for like a month and a half just doing soccer, and that was a big difference! I really just felt like myself and that was really nice. And then people were like, “Wait a minute, she’s different,” you know? And coming back my junior year definitely everyone was happy to see me, you know, and I got a bunch of nick-names, and it’s kind of nice when you have nice nick-names because you feel special and, you know, so the team makeup changed. But the junior year it was definitely more clicky; sophomore year we were a family and supported each other, and then junior year we had a whole slew of freshman that came in, and it was kind of hard not to get clicky because there were a lot of girls on the team, I think the more girls there are the harder it is to keep a very cohesive unit, so we got clicky again and there was a lot of drama that I tried to avoid.

R: Now a little bit of history. There was one solid figure within the coaching staff and that was Coach Elizabeth Bartley, so we’ll discuss her. Now compare your first impression of her, did it change over time? And what was the most drastic change?

G: There’s a whole lot that can be said, but I don’t know how much I want to say, honestly.

R: It’s your interview you can say whatever you want.

G: She played favorites, and she’s fired so I guess you can’t really get her in trouble anymore. But I mean there was stuff that she used to do that was just not good. I don’t know how many NCAA rules she broke, it’s almost hard not to because they’re so strict about stupid stuff, but I mean she just wasn’t a good coach. I think the biggest thing for me was realizing that she just wasn’t a good coach. And again, coming from a high school where my junior and senior year my coach was incredible, this guy was amazing, so you would think college is going to be a step up, and it was like my high school team my senior year could have whooped any of the YSU teams. Okay we had good talent,

maybe better talent, but it was definitely because of our coach by far, because of the way he ran practices, and she just wasn't a good coach. There's no way around it she just was not good. And you could tell the difference when we had our assistant coaches running practice we were great, so it was obviously not the girls, it was her. That was the biggest thing for me when we realized that she was just not good, so it's hard to respect someone when you know that they...

R: They have no right to tell you.

G: They have no right to tell you.

G: Yea, exactly.

R: I agree with you. Do you have any regrets about your decision to attend YSU?

G: No I don't. I was pretty happy here, and I'm still going here so I'm still happy.

R: That's good. These questions you might not find apply to you very much considering you haven't been out of your sport that long. Obviously the facilities are still the same used.

G: Well the turf is different. They changed the turf; it's grass turf now, so it's definitely better. Still turf though, and I obviously don't like playing on turf.

R: How has your sport changed?

G: Well, it hasn't. If I'd been out for twenty years maybe, but it really hasn't.

R: What is your current involvement with sports today, if any?

G: I actually on regular basis don't play any sports. I have played more tennis; actually, I'm not that bad at tennis. The worst part is I'm out of shape and I'm slow, but I'll be objective about it, I was never...I'm out of shape, but I'm not bad at tennis I'll tell you what its fun. I like it because it's not soccer, because I got really burned out on soccer, I haven't played soccer since I stopped.

R: So do you have any regrets about your career?

G: No, I don't because it wasn't my goal to be a soccer player forever.

R: But overall, do you still fell today that it was a positive experience?

G: Yea I'd say so, if only because I made friends that I've been friends with for so long now, and no matter what happens there's really no substitute.

R: So would you change anything?

G: I don't think so, I don't know, there's stuff to be learned for every experience, I don't know maybe I would have liked to have a better coach but that's it I guess...sometimes I would have liked to play, but I played practically every single game in high school so that's enough.

R: Well thank you very much Kate Gigliotti for this interview. This concludes our interview on the YSU athletes, and I probably should have mentioned this but Kate Gigliotti was a member of the women's soccer team from 1999 to 2002, she played goalkeeper, she played under Elizabeth Bartley, and for roughly two years she played under Brian Stock, one year under Seamus Riley, she is, you are still a student at YSU I believe?

G: Yes, I am a graduate assistant in the History department.

R: So she's currently pursuing her Master's Degree in History and graduated with her Bachelor's in History. Well thank you again.

G: Thank you.