

Audio Transcription

Football interview transcription

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Question: What would you say was your first memory of Football?

Tom: My first memory of football was probably, my granddad used to take me to watch my uncle's team, which was like, semi-pro, if that, and I used to have a kick about with the subs on the side with a pitch, so about maybe 3 or 4 years of age, but that got me quite into it to be honest.

Question: And you [Inaudible 00:00:37]

Tom: The first one I could remember was probably Eric Continel, and then later on it was [Name Gerard and Name 00:00:48] I think Continel just early as in the premier league stood and then showed above everybody else and I think he was a completely different player to what the rest of the league that was at that time.

Question: And what kind of football environment that you go was it? [Inaudible 00:01:10]

Tom: Well that was in very young age and then obviously at primary school, we used to every play time I rather kick above, and thankfully from my nursery all the way to senior school there was a core of maybe 5 or 6 of us that stayed in the same class all the way for 10 or 11 years, so we all enjoyed football and we all got very well, so it was nice environment.

Question: Was Forest the first professional club that you evolved as a kid?

Tom: Yes, we played a primary school team that we were 11 a side, so we played the 5 of the side local tournament, luckily enough I got scouted by Forest, when I was 8 years old. They used to have a trials every summer and I ended up staying there for 4 years under, think it was the under 9s to under 12s and I enjoyed my time there to be honest.

Question: And when you came to the end of that period let's say 12, and why did you leave how was it explained to you?

Tom: I was very disappointed at that time to be honest. I was local and I've been there for 4 years, and I remember for the last 2 trials later on when I left Forest, they sort of said to me you've been there long enough and you don't need to do the trials for one of the years, and one for the other year I think I actually played couple of the trial games in goal, just to give lot of to the other players more time so they can show what they can do. I was I little bit surprised and disappointed but I think the official line to the FA which I had to give was they didn't think I would be strong enough, which was more of surprise because I've always been a lot bigger and taller than anybody else in my age especially growing up, so it was a strange one but I think mentally I was overthinking about it and made me thought and work on things more.

Question: At that stage, what kind of player would you say you were? Did you played on field or?

Tom: I think up to then we weren't playing 11 a side so lot of it was 8 a side it was kind of or 9 side, maybe 3 in the back, 3 in the field and 2 strikers, and generally at Forrest I was one of the back players one of the back 3, I always felt that we did a lot of technical work using different part of the foot and I did not like that to be fair, and I think if you can drill in different techniques in early age I think you can stick with them long term.



Question: Do you think as you mention that, being one of the bigger players and the fact that they said you weren't strong, because they had an idea on how big player should play even though you would play even more technical game?

Tom: Yes I think so. There is times when obviously at that age for heathers I would need to jump poor if it was shoulder to shoulder with somebody I would really need to do anything. Which maybe indirectly it had me work on the technical side of the game and as you said, the perception of a big player especially 15-20 years ago is probably go around cluttering people and that just wasn't me really.

Question: How about at the stage when you were released, did you ever supported base on how important were you in that stage?

Tom: Yes, I remember coming out with my granddad and with my mum at that time, and I was with tears in my bedroom and my mum was very supportive as well as the rest of the family, but she used to say in kind of one or two people that opinions matter like don't let this hold you back so, and I think what they did say was, I could have gone back the following season so at the end of foot-in season and go on like 6 week trial at the start of the season and try to earn a contract, but then I said if you haven't seen enough of me over the last 4 years kind a thing so 6 weeks aren't going to make much of a difference, so thankfully my second last game for Forest was against Darby after I've been released and it was the best game probably I ever played for Forest, to be fair, and Darby were interested on the back of that and I think they were willing to offer a contract straight away but my mom being, I don't know over even she said no, nowadays he can't sign anything, he's got to go on trial like all the other kids do, so I went on a trial and thankfully I got accepted.

Question: So, when you went to Darby you still were young. Did you have a mindset or you just thought it is another place to play football?

Tom: I don't know come inside with one of it was obviously almost relatively local leave it that my mom did not drive, my best mate who lived 2 streets away was actually signed for Darby at that time and his dad's friend, his son was our goal kipper as well so we all could share the lifts and it worked well, and we had a decent age at that time to be fair to use maybe 4 of us went to play for England in the 16'ths for a couple of years, and couple others played on Naval Island in Scotland so we had a good group an enjoyable environment and [Gary Name 00:07:00] was on my 1st manager, was actually my only manager so he took us from 1st till 7th so it was very good for us.

Question: Do you think, well obviously being at Darby, and having explained why actually go there, do you think that had any influence on the fact that you know within 3 years of you being released you are playing men's football for Darby?

Tom: Yes, I think so. We had... I think there is stuff in general at Darby that were obviously I was slightly older so you get in close to the full time, full time training and things like that, but [Joan Peacocker Name 00:07:38] academy director who was inn and around the English affair for years so he knows what he is doing, we had quite a few ex-players that were staff.