

Josh: This is Josh Stone interviewing Joe Matiskiel on Sunday August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Ah Joe, where ya from?

Joe: Jersey.

Josh: What city in Jersey?

Joe: Forked River.

**Interviewer: Josh Stone**

Joe: September 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Interviewee: Joe Matiskiel**

Josh: Of what year?

Joe: '88.

**Date: Sunday August 30, 2009**

Josh: So your entering your junior year here at Northern, is that correct?

Joe: Yes.

Josh: And how do you like it so far?

Joe: It has kinda sucked to be honest with you.

Josh: Why has it sucked?

Joe: Well, classes, some of them have been shitty, had a little injury, couldn't play hockey for the longest time.

Josh: Well, what did you injure?

Joe: Oh, I fucked up my knee real bad.

Josh: Well what did you do to it?

Joe: Oh, I tore my meniscus. The asshole Doctors here don't know how to do shit so I had to go out to my specialist in Philly. And ah, he told me what I did so I had surgery, 6 months later I was able to walk.

Josh Stone's Interview

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ya from?

Josh: How was that process? What did you look for, when you were looking at colleges?

Joe: Jersey.

Josh: D1 hockey, and that's it basically.

Josh: What city in Jersey?

Joe: Ok.

Joe: Forked River.

Josh: This is kind of an obvious question then but, why Northern Michigan? What made

Josh: And what is your birth date?

Northern Michigan more attractive?

Joe: September 28<sup>th</sup>.

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and some other schools in New England.

Josh: So your entering your junior year here at Northern, is that correct?

Joe: Well, what made Northern Michigan better than Delta State?

Joe: Yes.

Joe: Didn't have paved roads. It was a worse school and it was still more expensive.

Josh: And how do you like it so far?

Joe: Right. And Northern seemed a little bit easier to get into?

Joe: It has kinda sucked to be honest with you.

Joe: Yeah.

Josh: Why has it sucked?

Joe: So you moved to campus in the fall of 2007 that correct?

Joe: Well, classes, some of them have been shitty, had a little injury, couldn't play hockey for the

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longest time.

Joe: What were your first impressions of it?

Josh: Well, what did you injure?

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Josh: Anyways so, obviously you had to go through a process of choosing the college you wanted to go too?

Joe: Yes.

Josh: How was that process? What did you look for, when you were looking at colleges?

Joe: D1 hockey, and that's it basically.

Josh: Ok.

Josh: This is kind of an obvious question then but, why Northern Michigan? What made Northern Michigan more attractive?

Joe: Well it wasn't really that attractive, but the price tag was something I could afford. You know, I'm not made of money. Ah, it was better then the other shitholes I visited, like Delta State and some other schools in New England.

Josh: Well, what made Northern Michigan better then Delta State?

Joe: Didn't have paved roads. It was a worse school and it was still more expensive.

Josh: Right. And Northern seemed a little bit easier to get into?

Joe: Yeah.

Josh: So you moved to campus in the fall of 2007 that correct?

Joe: Indeed I did.

Josh: What were your first impressions of it?

Joe: Well the first night I sat outside and said holy-jumping-fucking-shitballs what have I gotten myself into.

Josh: Why did you have that impression?

Joe: Well my roommate sucked and it just took a little getting used too. Didn't really care for my 300 level class as a freshman. You know 300, it's just above 200.

Josh: Right. Why were you in a 300 level class your freshman year? Was it a scheduled block or what?

Joe: No, it was what was required for my major at the time. But I got it done.

Josh: What is your major? Or I should say what your major was at the time?

Joe: It was Political Science.

Josh: Why Political Science? What interested you about Political Science?

Joe: Well, it gave me a chance to vent a little bit, make fun of politics, make some jokes.

Josh: So your classes were a bit of a challenge your first year here?

Joe: Well that is true. Especially when your Dad goes into the hospital, your Grandpa dies, and you fuck up your leg. It's a bit taxing on the mind.

Josh: You ended up switching majors halfway through last year, what did you switch it too?

Joe: Sports Promotion, Joshua.

Josh: And why did you decide to do that Joseph?

Joe: Basically it was an easier major and was more interesting to me. I didn't have to go to anymore Poly Sci classes and listen to these pinheaded pricks talk about things they didn't know jack shit about. And at the same time they think they know everything.

Josh: You said Sports Promotion is more interesting to you, what is more interesting about it?

Joe: Well it has to do with sports, as you know I play some puck, and it was more conducive to my needs, basically.

Josh: Lets backtrack here, you said you play hockey?

Joe: Indeed, indeed I do.

Josh: How long have you been playing hockey?

Joe: About 7 or 8 years.

Josh: Alright, so that puts you at middle/high school years.

Joe: True.

Josh: And what interested you about hockey? Why hockey instead of some other sport?

Joe: Well, I tried basketball, that didn't work, swimming is not a sport, it is a way to keep from drowning. Running is running, anyone can run. You know my mother can run and you don't see her on a cereal box. Baseball, that's not really a good sport; tried football but wasn't really into it that much, although I was an all county QB in my day. And I just like hockey, I like everything about it.

Josh: That's good. What position do you play?

Joe: I am a goalie. It's simple, I just take my place between the pipes, I always know where I stand.

Josh: You obviously must have had to practice a lot, starting in middle school which is starting late?

Joe: Oh yeah, still catching up as a matter of fact.

Josh: How many hours have you practiced?

Joe: Well this summer my boy, I put in about 15-16 hours a day at the rink. Lots of hard work.

Josh: How was your high school years playing hockey? Did you, were you on a team?

Joe: I played travel my sophomore and junior years. We went the championship game both years, lost the first year, ah won the second year. So that was interesting. Not a lot of call for hockey around those parts. Which is another reason why I choose to freeze my ass off in the U.P.

Josh: So now you've got about 2-3 years left before your going to graduate from Northern with a degree in Sports Promotion. Do you have a minor at all?

Joe: Not right now, I'm thinking possibly Poly Sci, just so those classes don't go to waste.

Josh: That would be good.

Joe: Yeah but right now I don't have the patience to put up with those assholes so I might wait another semester or two. And ah, see how that goes.

Josh: Well, upon graduating from Northern Michigan, what are your plans?

Joe: Well, I'd like to keep playing puck as long as I can, as long as the good lord will provide. And then I'd like to go into coaching. I am a goalie instructor back home. After that maybe work in the front office.

Josh: Well that leads me to my next question, what do you do with a degree in Sports Promotion?

Joe: Well you promote, sports obviously; you can be an agent.

Josh: Would you want to be an agent?

Joe: No, no, no, I'm not a douche bag. You can work to promote the team.

Josh: So like making commercials and things like that you see for teams?

Joe: No, I hate advertising.

Josh: Well isn't that basically what Sports Promotion is?

Joe: Yes and no. It's not as much advertising as it is public service.

Josh: So you would enjoy setting up the pre-game stuff?

Joe: Oh, fuck that.

Josh: Lets backtrack to Northern; you do play for our Division 2 club team right?

Joe: Indeed I do.

Josh: And being with a club team, you cannot be drafted? You're not eligible for the NHL Entry Draft?

Joe: Well, technically I am, but I'm just not good enough. I haven't been scouted; if I had been I wouldn't be wasting my time here.

Josh: Right. So you want to graduate from Northern, do the honorable thing and then keep playing hockey. So how would you go about getting attached to a team?

Joe: Well just do what I'm doing now. Just keep playing, go to every training camp, whatever, to get noticed. I recently got invited to the Port Huron Ice Hawks training camp in September, not gonna be able to do it though. Ah, just keep trying. I've been working with my goalie coach. I have several, but my main goalie coach back home. He's kinda like my agent. Lets me know what's going on. I technically can't be drafted because I'll have passed the age threshold the next time the draft comes around. So technically I'm a free agent.

Josh: Right, that makes a lot of sense, thank you.

Joe: You're welcome.

Josh: Well, how long are you going to try to play hockey before attempting to get into the front office?

Joe: Well that'll all be up to Jesus. However many more years the knees can take it, and back.

Josh: Would you only want to work in the front office of an NHL club or would you be willing to branch out into other sports?

Joe: Well hopefully just the NHL.

Josh: Well would you ever be interested in say, being a General Manager?

Joe: I could do that. I've played enough NHL '09 in my day to know how to pull off a dandy of a trade. You know, do whatever I have to do to live, whatever brings in the money and makes the boss many happy.

Josh: Let's back up to college here for a second, have you don't summer courses or anything like that?

Joe: Oh hell no, I'm just a fall and winter guy. I've never done summer school. Never have, never will.

Josh: So you're entering your 5<sup>th</sup> semester here at Northern?

Joe: Indeed.

Josh: What has been your favorite class so far?

Joe: Oh, probably skating class.

Josh: Why was skating class your favorite?

Joe: Well obviously I'd get to go to the rink and just bullshit around, hang out with one of the assistant hockey coaches. And ah, just skate. Just free ice basically.

Josh: What do you like to do off the ice, just outta curiosity?

Joe: Well, work out, go online, listen to music. Just hang out, have an occasional drink. I like to entertain sometimes.

Josh: What do you like best about Northern?

Joe: Well, there isn't really one thing I like best about it...I get to travel with hockey.

Josh: What is your favorite memory while being at Northern?

Joe: Wow, this is a hard one, well I could go with the bitch but that isn't really a good memory. I guess just go with hockey and getting to travel to different cities each weekend.

Josh: What does your usual workout consist of for hockey?

Joe: For practice? Well we usually start out with some skating, 10-15 minutes, nothing too taxing on our legs. Then we stretch, don't want to pull anything, then just various drills. It's simple for me; I just stand in the net and make the save. Then I'll do some work on my own. Do a little



skating, some edge work. A little stretching, a normal practice lasts around 1 1/2 -2 hours.

Depending on how generous the rink manager is. I tend to stay as late as I can; I actually had the lights turned off on me once because I stayed so late. I stay after and take shots from the guys; they like to work on their skills too.

Josh: You've made several references to a goalie coach back home, how often do you work with him?

Joe: I've been working with him for 3 years actually.

Josh: What is the difference between working with your goalie coach opposed to a team practice?

Joe: Well my goalie coach actually gives a shit about me, instead of just alright get between the pipes and do this drill. The team doesn't really care about us goalies; we don't get a lot of respect. Ah, but my goalie coach is a friend, mentor, he has helped me out a lot. I probably would not be playing college hockey if it wasn't for him.

Josh: So he has been a big part of your life?

Joe: Yes, yes he has. He has had a lot of the same injuries I have so I can ask him stuff.

Josh: Would you enjoy doing something like he does now?

Joe: Well I actually already do it; I am a goalie coach for him and basically do the same thing he does. I primarily work with the younger kids, coming into high school. His juniors teams scrimmage against mine. I tend to be one of his oldest students so he uses me to demonstrate.

Josh: You say you get to travel a lot with the club team....do you guys do buses, planes...how do you guys tend to travel?

Joe: Well since we are not funded by the school, we carpool a lot; we get buses maybe on one or two road trips depending on funds. We normally just travel with 4 cars, 5 sometimes depending

on trip and where we go. We take a few more guys when we can, sit on the bench, help coach. We'll basically be gone Friday and Saturday. Sometimes Sunday depends on where we're going and we occasionally have Sunday games. We have a couple of them this season. We have a couple of triple headers, most of our games are on the road too, only have a couple home games this season. We have our first home game September 18<sup>th</sup> and the Berry.

Josh: I've noticed you have quoted Slap Shot and Miracle a lot, I don't know anything about Slap Shot but I do know a lot about the 1980 Miracle on Ice, Is Herb Brooks one of your heroes?  
Joe: Not hero, not even for motivation, it's just a good story ya know.

Josh: Do you have a favorite goalie in the NHL or KHL or any other league? Someone you model your game after perhaps?

Joe: Well, a little Marty Brodeur. He is my favorite and anybody who disputes that he isn't the great goalie of all time, I would give you a swift kick north of the 5 hole. I also like Vladislav Tretiak and Ken Dryden.

Josh: How has your goalie coach helped you since you started playing for Northern?

Joe: Well obviously because of the distance, we keep in contact over the phone and through email. He has helped me with some off ice stuff and I'll check in with him once a week or so, let him know how I'm doing. He's also concerned about me in the classroom as well, he prepares his goalies to be student-athletes. Although I'm not really into the whole school thing yet.

Josh: Well you are a student-athlete.

Joe: Well, yes that's true. I'm just having a little trouble getting back into the swing of things, into the groove. But yeah he has helped me out a lot.

Josh: Anybody else who has gotten you to this point, anybody who would be proud to see you in college?

Joe: Probably my Grandpa. He passed away my freshman year. We always talked about Michigan, Marquette, and whatnot. He'd be happy to see me playing.

Josh: You said you didn't get on a team or get to play a lot in high school; did that hamper your ability to get onto a college team?

Joe: It didn't hamper me choosing a college, but it did hamper the process of being on a college team, very much so. I never got to play juniors. I never got to go through the recruiting process; I basically just walked onto a campus onto the team.

Josh: You were recruited by school correct?

Joe: Yes, Plymouth State.

Josh: So obviously Plymouth State was interested in you playing for them? Why give up Plymouth State? Why come here and struggle when Plymouth State wanted you and would have been behind you?

Joe: Oh they didn't want me; they just had a slight interest. I got an academic scholarship from them, not actually hockey. Ah, didn't like the school, didn't like the area. I said screw it, came out here, liked the area, liked the facilities, liked what was going on. And ah, figured I'd take a chance.

Josh: And has that chance worked out so far?

Joe: Yes and no. Yes I'm on a team, but I'd like to make the big club if possible. You know I've got 2 more years to make that happen, and god knows I'm gonna try. I'd say I'm pretty happy with the decision though.

Josh: Alright so now at Northern you've experienced some dorm life, some apartment life, which one do you prefer?

Joe: Apartment life.

Josh: And why is that? equal degrees

Joe: Well, I didn't care for the dorms, lots of immature fuckers running around there. Didn't care for them or their shenanigans. Apartment life I do what I want, when I want. Don't have to answer to anyone, I'm payin' the bill. Great for social gatherings as well. Don't have to live with a roommate. Last year, I was convinced my roommate was Forest Gump. He was an idiot.

Josh: Living the dorms though, it is probably easier to meet people, make friends?

Joe: Well I'm not really here to meet friends; I'm here to win a National Championship. And I have to say this to make people happy, get my degree, because that's why I'm going to school. But ah I got many friends back home, I know many people in many places. Dorm life is like a big community thing and I'm not a big community and friendship person.

Josh: Well you've got 2 years left, you've made it this far, hell seems like a pretty good start?

Joe: Well, that's true.

Josh: Maybe time to buckle down, do some schoolwork?

Joe: Yeah we'll see, see how this week goes.

Josh: What are your expectations for this season?

Joe: We expect to bring home a National Title.

Josh: That a realistic goal you think?

Joe: I think so. We had a break-out season last year. Finished 4<sup>th</sup> out of 60 teams in the Central.

Josh: What are your personal goals for the season?

Joe: Just stop the puck basically.

Josh: How about in the classroom?

Joe: Don't flunk out.

Josh: You obviously have to maintain a "C" average to be on a team, but is that good enough?

Joe: For me, yeah. "C"'s equal degrees.

Josh: Well Joe I'd like to thank you for the interview today and ah on the season and your academic future.

Joe: Thank you.

Interviewer: Josh Stone  
Interviewee: Joe Matiskis  
Date: Sunday August 30, 2009

What the  
question is  
answers short  
Review for  
connections

