

Nordic American Voices
National Nordic Museum

Interview of Pétur Guðmundsson
ID: 2019.029.001

March 16, 2019
Seattle, Washington

Interviewers: Dan Kaylor; Brandon Benson

Dan Kaylor: [0:09] Today is the 16th of March, 2019. This is an interview for the Nordic American Voices oral history project. Today we're at the National Nordic Museum in Ballard, Washington. My name is Dan Kaylor. The other interviewer is Brandon Benson. We're interviewing Pétur Guðmundsson.

Pétur Guðmundsson: [0:34] Perfect.

Brandon Benson: [0:35] Pétur, could you tell us where you were born, and when you were born?

Pétur: [0:39] I was born in Reykjavík, Iceland, in 1958, October 30th, I believe at the Landspítali. I am the oldest of four children. There were four of us. I had three younger sisters, two of them still alive. My parents met in Iceland. My father was from Iceland, born and raised on a farm, Dalasýsla. My mother is actually from the Faroe Islands. So, I guess I'm only half-Icelandic for that reason. But like I said, I was born and raised in Iceland until I was almost 17, when I left Iceland to come here to go to school.

Dan: [1:34] So, you came to the United States to go to school. Did your parents remain in Iceland then?

Pétur: [1:43] My background is... basically that I'm quite tall. You probably can't see that sitting down. I soon found sports as kind of a way to kill time, and then I enjoyed playing sports. At 13, I started playing basketball. When I was 15, I met a college coach from the Seattle area who asked me if I was interested in actually coming to the United States to play at some level, high school, college, whatever. He left me with his phone number. I waited a year and gave him a call. He actually helped me find a host family here in the Seattle area.

[2:32] So, I decided to give it a go. I came over here by myself. At the time, we called it "exchange student," but there was actually no exchange. I came over here and found a host family, and I played high school basketball for a couple years. Later, at the end of that, I earned a scholarship to the University of Washington with that coach that I initially met, Marv Harshman. So, I came over here by myself. I lived with host families here during that time.

Dan: [3:03] That was high school age?

Pétur: [3:07] Junior and senior year.

Dan: [3:09] What high school was it?

Pétur: [3:09] Mercer Island High School. I lived on the island for a couple of years.

Dan: [3:15] Impressive to be asked by Marv Harshman.

Pétur: [3:19] Marv Harshman. And I played for the all-time winningest high school coach in Washington, Ed Pepple. He was my coach in high school. I played with some big-name coaches here in the area.

Dan: [3:31] So, you stayed after high school to go to university here.

Pétur: [3:39] I played my two years in high school. At the end of it, I earned an athletic scholarship to the University of Washington. I did go to the University of Washington. I stayed way past what my mother had expected, or given me permission to do. I wanted to go, obviously, very badly. It sounded like a very exciting opportunity for me to come here. Nobody at the time in Iceland knew that much about... People didn't follow basketball that much, and certainly didn't know much about basketball in America at that time. So, I was really going where nobody had gone before.

[4:19] So, I stayed for two years. I was really lucky; I had two good families that I stayed with— one family my junior year and another family my senior year that took good care of me. So, my parents were comfortable about me being here. Once I graduated from high school, I moved on to the University of Washington and played basketball there for three years. I didn't quite make it four years. I ended up getting my degree a few years later. I took advantage of the scholarship, and used that to get a degree.

[5:02] I left after three years of college in Seattle, and kind of started chasing that bouncing ball around the world. First, I started in Argentina. I played there for a season. I went back to Iceland, and finished a season there. Then I actually got drafted by the NBA. I played for four years in the NBA, professional basketball.

Dan: [5:31] Which team?

Pétur: [5:32] I got drafted by Portland, and played with them for a year. Then I went back overseas and played for three years. Then I came back here and played in the minor leagues for one year, and got picked up from the minor leagues by the Los Angeles Lakers. I played for them for a year. Then I ended up getting traded by them to the San Antonio Spurs, and I played there for two years. Those are three teams I played for. I retired from the NBA in 1989.

Brandon: [6:00] That's great.

Pétur: [6:04] So, the main reason I came to America was basketball.

Brandon: [6:11] Going back, growing up in Reykjavík, did you have grandparents that lived nearby?

Pétur: [6:19] So, my story, like I said before, is that my mother is from the Faroe Islands. Her parents were quite old. I really didn't spend a lot of time with them. I visited with them a little bit. My grandfather died when I was seven, and my grandmother died when I was ten. My father's side, I never met either one of them. My grandfather on my father's side as well as their only daughter (my aunt) both perished in 1918 in the big flu back then. So, they perished in 1918. My grandmother died in 1952.

[7:05] When she passed, my father moved to the city. So, I never saw him be a farmer. However, his brother stayed in that part of the country, so I spent summers on the farm. I grew up as a kind of a summertime farmer. That was a great experience. The funny thing was that my cousins... Like I said, my parents had four kids. I'm the only son. Three daughters. But his brother had five sons, and his sons had a whole bunch of boys, so there was nothing but boys all around the countryside, because they were all living there in the neighborhood. The next farm over were six of those boys. They always came over. Obviously, my uncle and aunt were their grandparents. They always called them *afi* and *amma*, grandpa and grandma.

[8:15] To me, they just became grandma and grandpa, because I was the same age as them as well, because my dad started late. My father was 43 when I was born. So, he started really late. He finished his farmer life at about 40 and moved to the city, and then got married. He must have been about 41 or 42, and then I came along shortly thereafter. Anyway, they were kind of my grandpa and grandma, and I called them that. But as far as my real grandparents on my father's side, I never met them.

[8:57] Much later, I'd say about 1997, the Internet was starting to come around, so I connected to people who were related to me. I had started doing some genealogy. That's when I started studying some of the people who were related to me in the countryside. At that time, I found out that two of my great uncles had moved from Iceland to Canada, and had been part of that group. Many people did move from Iceland. They called them "Western Icelanders." They were people who had been given a piece of land in Manitoba.

[9:46] Like I said, my two great uncles went there. One of them got married to a widow who had one child, and they didn't have any children together. My other great uncle had 16 children, and each one of them had about 10, so my family tree went kind of like this. It wasn't much of a tree; it was like a block. I wish I had started that maybe a couple years earlier, because I found out that one of my third cousins had just passed, and had been living up in Marysville, really close. Had I started this search a little earlier, I would have met him. But I did end up meeting the oldest cousin at the time. He was living in California. So, I did make a trip down there.

[10:43] So, I kind of got interested in that, and found out about some of the family that had originally started in Dalasýsla. I really enjoyed that part of it, finding out I had relatives here. That was 22 years after I moved here. The reason I even started that was because my littlest sister had gotten my dad to talk. He kind of kept quiet about his "former life," when he was a farmer. He came to the city and forgot about the farming life. My little sister got him to talk a little bit. He had it all stored in here. He had it all memorized. So, once she got him to talk, he opened up, and pages started flowing. He remembered all this stuff, and she started taking notes.

[11:36] That's how I started this search. I was a little upset that 22 years after I got here, I actually found out that I had relatives here, and I had been here by myself. I was certainly with good people, but it would have been fun to actually be able to visit with people who were related to me.

Dan: [11:54] I've always heard this story about Icelanders, that number one, they're all related to each other, and number two, your work is probably done in vain, because somebody has already done the whole family genealogy for all of Iceland. I don't know if that's true.

Pétur: [12:14] In Iceland. If you go to Iceland, we have gone back quite a few years. Then you get to a point where there is one person with 23 children, and he's like the father of a lot... He brings a lot of people together, connects a lot of people. But on this side, among the Western Icelanders, it takes a little more work. Again, to your point, if you go to Utah, they have the database you can go to and find pretty extensive, if not all the information you could ever want on Icelanders in America. So, that's where a lot of people go.

Brandon: [13:02] When your father gave up farming and came to the city, what did he do then for work?

Pétur: [13:08] He became a laborer. He first worked in the harbor, loading and unloading fishing boats and freighters. He later became a construction worker, and worked at that until... He was 70 when he retired. A hard worker. He was in good health all his working life, and retired at about 70.

Brandon: [13:48] It sounds like you enjoyed your summers on the farm when you were young.

Pétur: [13:53] Oh, yeah. That was a lot of fun. It's healthy living, hard work. It beats hanging out in the city doing nothing. This was before I got into sports, so I wasn't really missing anything like that. I really learned a lot. I learned a good work ethic. Healthy living, if you want to call it that.

Dan: [14:20] And you had enough other relatives there, too.

Pétur: [14:24] Absolutely. Lots of kids my age, lots of boys my age to play with, so it was all good. It was the same way... Every other summer, I would go to the Faroe Islands—one summer to my dad's people, and my mother's folks the other summers. They were all fishermen on my mother's side. We got to go down when the fishing boats came in. They'd throw you the rope to tie them up, that kind of thing. I was seven years old, but being as big as I was, I could fill in for a 15-year-old. So, that was always fun. Good memories. Good experiences.

Brandon: [15:16] So, when it wasn't summer, you were in school.

Pétur: [15:20] Yes.

Brandon: [15:22] What was school like for you?

Pétur: [15:23] Unfortunately, it was too easy, so I never was a good student. I just kind of floated along and did well enough. In Iceland, you start in seven, grade one. We have eight mandatory years, so you're done at 14. From there, you can choose to go either in the trade direction or the academic. Trade, you go two years, and you go to a technical school. If you go the academic route, you can

actually do those two years in one year. Then on to a secondary school and college or university.

Dan: [16:10] Do you and your family make this choice, or is it left up to a situation where a committee in the school determines where you're going to go?

Pétur: [16:29] A combination. They go by aptitude. I was not a bookworm, but school came easy to me, so I went the academic route. You have the option of taking the two years (grades nine and ten) in one year, and moving on to the secondary school, which is kind of like junior college here. So, I did that and passed that. Then I did one year of the junior college level in Iceland before I came here. So, it was a choice between the parents and I. It was kind of a given. You know at that stage, are you somebody that likes to read, or somebody that likes to do something with your hands? And I was more the guy that liked to read. That came easier.

Brandon: [17:22] So, you went to Mercer Island High School. Did you notice a lot of differences between the school systems?

Pétur: [17:29] Well, the first thing was, before I got there, since my birthday is late in the year, and I was there to quote-unquote play basketball for that high school... First of all, the high school coach didn't know I was coming. He was out of the country. This happened pretty fast. I made the phone call sometime in July, and the high school coach was on tour abroad with his high school kids. When he came back, the decision had already been made. They found me a family, and I had been accepted academically into the high school. So basically he was told when he came back that he had a new player on his team.

[18:13] We started talking, and I just assumed when I got here that I would go for one year. But he said, "Well, you have a late birthday. You could actually be a junior." Even though with my studies, I was probably a year, if not two years ahead. They kind of twisted things around a little bit, and said, "It would be good for you to practice your English." I had had four or five years of that in school. They found all kinds of reasons that it would be better for me to stay two years and play two years. That part was quickly accommodated.

[18:59] Of course, it was a big difference in the way things were taught. Mercer Island is a good academic school, so that made things easier. But culturally, that's where the big shock hit me. Obviously, going from... As I told you before, my father was a construction worker, so I was middle class in Iceland at the time. Mercer Island certainly would not be mistaken for a middle class neighborhood. So, that was a big change. Kind of a fun experience, but it took a while to get used to.

Brandon: [19:39] Did you keep in touch with any of your schoolmates in Reykjavík?

Pétur: [19:42] Well, a lot of my old teammates, people that I played with. I continued to play for Iceland, for the National Team. After I came here, I used to take breaks during the school year. During our season here, I'd miss a couple games of the high school season so I could go home and play for the First Junior National Team, and the National Team later on. That was always a good experience to play for Iceland.

[20:19] The tough part for me, I was only 23 when I got drafted by Portland. At the time, the NBA

was the only professional league in the world. When I got drafted, I was actually the first European to be drafted or actually make the NBA. I became ineligible to play for the National Team, so at 23, I could no longer play for Iceland. That was tough, because we had actually put together quite a good team, obviously on a small scale, but we were growing, and we were getting much better. Not being able to play for the National Team after 23, when I was still growing, that was tough. But I kept in touch with the people that I played with back then, for sure.

Brandon: [21:04] Going to school, did you have the same subject in the different school systems? What was your favorite subject in Reykjavík?

Pétur: [21:13] I always liked math. I was into math. I liked to read. As I grew, as I got older, I liked to read more and more. It took me a while to figure out what it was I wanted to do graduate. I ended up getting a degree in sociology. That became my favorite subject. I've worked with that a lot from being around people and working with people. I've done a lot of coaching. So, that has come in very handy, getting people to work together. A little bit of psychology. Sociology is getting people to work together. You can't just figure people out; you have to figure out how to get them to work together. You learn through sports how to make all that work.

Dan: [22:11] In Iceland, is the English language taught to any degree? I'm making the assumption you knew the English language when you came to the United States.

Pétur: [22:24] Obviously, Icelandic is not spoken by many people—Icelanders; mostly people that are born in Iceland. In the fourth grade, out of reverence for the Danish, because they used to be our rulers, we have to take Danish. So, in fourth grade we take Danish and English. Two languages, for the rest of our schooling. My first year in secondary school, I add to have a fourth language. I added German for a year. I didn't learn a whole lot in one year, but I took that.

[23:02] So, for six years I took [English] in school, as well as all our television material is subtitled. So, we hear it. It's not dubbed. So, we get to hear it and practice it that way. So, you learn a lot from that. So, my English was actually quite good. The funny thing is, when I first got here, I understood grown-ups quite well. I had real difficulty with the kids because of all the slang. They don't have so much of that on TV. We had quite a bit of British material, and obviously that's not American.

Dan: [23:43] That's a whole other story, with their language.

Pétur: [23:46] Exactly. So, I understood their language. I got here, and adults, no problem. I understood everything they said. The kids, it took a little longer to pick up on their vernacular. But my English was pretty good once I got here. No problem there.

Brandon: [24:09] What about your sisters? Did they stay behind?

Pétur: [24:13] Yeah. They stayed behind. They had to kind of take care of themselves, because I was the babysitter growing up. I was three years older than my oldest sister. Then it was three, two, and one between us. My youngest sister was born in 1964, so she is six years younger than me. But like I said, I did the babysitting. She would have been ten years old when I left. They stayed behind. My youngest sister actually ended up coming to the U.S. to go to school as well, but the two middle ones went the trade route. Quite talented. They didn't go the academic route. They were quite

accomplished. My oldest sister actually passed away about ten or eleven years ago, unfortunately. But the other two are still alive. I have lots of nephews and nieces that I get to go visit. They're still in Iceland.

Brandon: [25:21] It sounds like Iceland has a good system for education.

Pétur: [25:24] Yeah.

Brandon: [25:24] You get people in there, and they're able to get good jobs and careers.

Pétur: [25:30] Yeah. There are opportunities there, certainly. Right now things are... We've gone through some tough times since the crash, just like everybody else. The sad thing is, we got hit hard when the crash came because Icelanders have always thought of themselves as a big nation. When the opportunity came along to actually go out there and expand, the government or the Prime Minister started privatizing institutions in Iceland, especially the banks. Money became available. People that thought big, and were smart, had the education... they knew how to, and then were allowed to leverage basically the Icelandic nation, really. They took our GDP and leveraged it and expanded. They went and bought businesses abroad and got quite rich.

[26:43] When the whole thing crashed, we got stuck with the bill. So, we were able to get going again, but we're still not quite out of it. One of the things that helped us get out of it is tourism. We've built a big business in Iceland. It's gotten very popular as a tourism destination. Actually, Iceland Air is celebrating ten years this year of nonstop flights from Seattle to Iceland.

Dan: [27:21] I know when they started and they pushed that... If you're taking Iceland Air to Europe, stay here.

Pétur: [27:32] Yeah.

Dan: [27:32] Does the airline own... There are several hotels you can stay at for no extra charge.

Pétur: [27:39] Right.

Dan: [27:40] To convince people to hang around awhile before they go on to the rest of Europe.

Pétur: [27:50] Yeah. So, tourism has helped people get going again. We always bragged about having brains. People have gone to the U.S. to get their education have gone on to be doctors, bankers, or what have you. And a lot of them have stayed behind, because they've been in demand here. I speak from up close... my little sister, my youngest sister, left for the U.S. to go with her husband, who did his internship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. So, she went with him. She already had a law degree from the university in Iceland. She decided to get her second law degree.

[28:40] When they finished there, they both got jobs in D.C. They could have stayed there for life, he with the NIH, and she with World Bank. That tells you that we have people with talent. What scared them... Well, they always wanted to go home. They thought it would be healthier to raise their kids... By that time, they had two kids. They wanted to raise their kids in Iceland. They happened to be in Washington D.C. when 9/11 happened. So, it was kind of an encouragement...

maybe we should get out of here now and go home. So, they did.

[29:20] But yeah, Icelanders have always kind of bragged about it. Just about every year, you hear somebody now in some IT-related capacity... they have a cloud company; they have some kind of new game, or something. Icelanders feel like we have a lot to offer, and we accomplish quite a lot for such a small nation, on many different levels: sports, music, technology. Our expansion Vikings did accomplish a lot, but they kind of left [inaudible] afterwards. They left scorched earth behind them. But they were bold. Let's put it that way. They were bold.

Brandon: [30:14] And you made the decision to stay.

Pétur: [30:16] Yeah. That's right.

Dan: [30:21] How many of your family are actually here now?

Pétur: [30:29] I'm the only one who ever moved here. Fortunately, everybody has made it to visit me, but nobody has decided to stay. My little sister was the one that came, and she made it as far as Wisconsin to go to school, and then went back to D.C., and then went back home. They must have stayed here five years. But nobody has stayed as long as I have, and it doesn't seem like anybody is really on their way. Although, I have a nephew who is in school here now, in Seattle, studying programming. So, we managed to get one more family member over this way.

Brandon: [31:16] In the time that you've been here, have you been able to be involved in the Icelandic Club, Icelandic activities, and so on?

Pétur: [31:26] I'm the President of the Icelandic Club. So, yes, I'm involved. [Laughter] I was around for many years before I actually got involved. I got involved back in the 1990s. I moved back here in the beginning of 1995. I got involved in the club in 1996, 1997. Then I moved back to Iceland in 2000 for four years. I came back and didn't really get involved again until about five or six years ago. I've been involved in the club now as a trustee, and I became President last year.

[32:15] The old Nordic Heritage Museum—I used to love that place. That to me was a perfect place, the perfect building for a museum to me. I appreciate this place, and it's nice, and technologically it's obviously way ahead. But it's not the same cozy feel. However, it's a great place to have. We actually had our Midwinter Feast, þorrablót, here a couple weeks ago. It went extremely well. I had good cooperation from the museum, and I would like to keep doing that every year.

[33:08] We have a period of the year, late January through February, about a five or six week period (we celebrate this in Iceland as well) where we have some Viking foods, old traditional ways of preparing, showing how people lived and people ate back in the day. They figured out a way to prepare food so they could eat everything off a sheep, which is our main animal that we eat back there. We didn't have beef for a long time. We had lamb and fish. That's what I grew up on.

[33:58] At þorrablót we bring back these foods from Iceland. We bring back the original stuff. That is kind of fading now. It's not so popular with the younger kids, but we still bring some of it back to kind of remind them that this is who we were. We like to celebrate that, but it mostly just brings people together. Meet and greet, and singing Icelandic songs, sing-alongs. We just have fun together.

[34:30] With the club, we try to do things like that. We give out scholarships to kids of Icelandic descent. We have picnics in the summertime, celebrating our Independence Day, which is June 17th every year. We get together and we honor... We have a princess come out there, and read an Icelandic poem in Icelandic and English if they're Icelandic-born. If they're not, we sometimes try to teach American-borns to do that. We try to hold on to some of these traditions.

Dan: [35:18] Have you been able to go to any other Icelandic celebrations around the country? Isn't there a big one in North Dakota?

Pétur: [35:29] I have not. There is one in Gimli every year, early August.

Dan: [35:33] What's it called? Deuce of August, or something? A friend of mine from Ballard used to go back there every year. Those Icelanders that came down from Manitoba, straight down, where the Red River goes comes on the boundary there on the Dakotas and started a settlement there.

Pétur: [35:59] Yeah. Gimli is still a small town, but on that one weekend... I think it's the first weekend in August. I can't remember what it's called. They do have a name for it. The city [population] rises exponentially for that weekend, because a lot of people do go for that festival. I will make it there one of these days.

Dan: [36:24] Seattle is enough.

Pétur: [36:26] For now. I'm still working full-time, so it's hard to get away for that kind of trip.

Brandon: [36:33] It sounds like your family, your sisters, have been here, and made it as far as Wisconsin. Do you keep in touch and travel back to Iceland yourself?

Pétur: [36:45] Yeah. I try to make it back at least once a year to visit, because that is my family. I think for the most part I try to get back there every year. I like it back there. I still... I'm an Icelander at heart. I'll always be that. I have an American passport now, so I'm a dual citizen, actually. Having an American passport helped me, obviously. It makes it easier to get around here, working and such. At the core, I'm still Icelandic, so I have to go back to feed that core a little bit. There are just things that... it feels like going home. I wish I could go more, but unfortunately that's the way it's been. When I get visitors here from Iceland, they get six weeks of vacation. That's just the way things go. We haven't gotten there quite yet in the American system. [Laughter]

Dan: [38:03] Do you have children?

Pétur: [38:05] No, I don't.

Dan: [38:06] Okay. I was going to ask about Icelandic traditions and so on, but that's a yes or no question, but that's a yes or no question, I guess.

Pétur: [38:24] I try to work on my nieces and nephews. I like being the uncle, although I don't get to spend as much time with them as I'd like to. When I do, I try to teach them or try to get them to at least experience and celebrate some of the older things that I grew up on. I don't want to totally

forget where we came from. Iceland has changed a lot. I feel that just in the time since I've left, 45 years, there has been a huge change in the Icelandic society, culturally and everything.

[39:18] The biggest thing to me... I can say the saddest thing to me is, when I go back and listen to the radio and talk to people, kids, younger people, my Icelandic is probably better than theirs. To me, it shouldn't be that way. I speak English and I think in English 24/7. So, when I go back there, I should actually have a little bit of an accent, but I don't. The kids back there have so much slang and so much English. Everything they read, everything they see online is in English, so they're constantly doing English things. They don't transition as well between the two. It hurts to go back there. People are talking about a dying language. That's not fun to hear when you have a small nation like that. It's still only about 330,000 people that live there.

Dan: [40:19] And there's probably a Starbucks on every corner and a McDonald's down the block.

Pétur: [40:24] Well, I'll tell you a story about that. No, there are no Starbucks. We love coffee, but no Starbucks. And two, we are the only country in the world where McDonald's went bankrupt. We didn't like the fact that they were going to tell us what kind of bread we're going to have, what kind of meat. It had to be their kind of stuff. Uh-uh. We are stubborn. You may know this— Scandinavians on the whole are stubborn. It's not just us. We weren't taking any of that.

Dan: [40:56] Talking about chain restaurants and businesses— are there any of them that have been able to encroach into the cultural everyday life of the Icelanders?

Pétur: [41:15] Yeah, there are. I don't know exactly... We kind of laughingly talk about it being the only country in the world where McDonald's didn't make it. But we have all of those. We have Dominos, Pizza Hut, KFC. Yeah. Exactly. They're there. I remember when I left, there was no pizza. We had one place called The Grill, where you'd go get a hamburger. You guys may have heard this— we're famous for our hot dogs, because they're lamb dogs. Everything is lamb. We didn't used to have beef.

[41:57] Even Bill Clinton helped us publicize the hot dog. He was walking one day, and there is this little kiosk down by the harbor. He was walking with his security detail, and of course they cleared the whole area, because he was walking around, so there was nobody at the kiosk. Usually there's a line. People go up there and you can get a hot dog. The place is open close to 20 hours. After people leave the bars, you go and get a hot dog before they go home. That's just what people do in Iceland. So, she yelled at him, "Hey, come on and get the best hot dog in the world!"

[42:48] And he came over and got a hot dog. They call the "Clinton special" a hot dog with just mustard on it. That's all he wanted. We put mustard, fried onions, remoulade— it's kind of like 1000 Island, the mix of mayo... it's really tasty but kind of fatty. We put a lot on the hot dog. He just had mustard. If you go there and get a hot dog and get the Clinton special, you get mustard. That's it. But it's Icelandic hot dog mustard. That's still popular. We do have some chain junk food places. No Jack in the Box yet. For pizza, Domino's is huge, for sure. KFC is big.

Brandon: [43:33] So, Pétur, is there anything that we haven't brought up that you'd like to tell us about your life, or how you got to where you are today here in Western Washington?

Pétur: [43:46] My life has been pretty much about sports. I've been really involved in that. That's what brought me over here. Obviously, I got my education through a scholarship to the university. I've always been a sports fan. I've done some coaching in the area and that kind of thing. Other than that, I've been working the past few years. I'm in sales. I sell hearing aids. I'm enjoying that a lot. Before I got into this, I was working in customer service for quite a while.

[44:28] The older I get, the more I enjoy the customer service aspect of things, working with people, and actually working with... I have always enjoyed that demographic, the older generation. And that kind of came about from joining the Icelandic Club and getting to know the Western Icelanders. Just appreciating what they had to contribute. So now, being able to help them out a little bit, because I see what hearing loss can do to people. It kind of takes them out of the picture. Not able to communicate because they can't hear. So, you kind of bring them back. It's a very fulfilling job for me. I feel like I'm in a pretty good place right now.

Brandon: [45:22] It sounds like sports has really helped you in your own life.

Pétur: [45:26] Yeah. I've learned a lot from sports. It's been a valuable blessing for me to be able to play and pursue that. I chased a dream for a long time. When you're young, you should be able to, and I was able to, and got paid for it. It was fun. Obviously, it was before today's world when money has gotten kind of silly. I was playing way before that. I have played with some big names. I can say I really was lucky in that way. It has been good. It's been fun.

Brandon: [46:25] That's good. Great.

END OF RECORDING.

Transcription by Alison DeRiemer.