

Interview One
Ava Magliaro
Sue Palisak
October 27, 2020

Sue Palisak is our first interviewee. She is my aunt and resides in Stoney Creek, Ontario. Sue grew up in the Canadian-Croatian community; both of her parents were Croatian immigrants. As she grew up, she began a passion and love for sports, joining both her elementary and high school teams. Sue is now the coach of her own family in a sense. Both of her children are in competitive sports, which she believes is not only a way to be active in these COVID times but shapes her children's childhood.

1. What age group/generation are you in?

A: "Generation X. I am 46."

2. Do you identify with a cultural background and heritage? (Describe your cultural heritage, traditions, etc.)

A: "Yes, I am Croatian."

3. Were you born in Canada or abroad? Did you or your parents or grandparents in any generation emigrate to Canada?

A: "My parents emigrated to Canada. My brothers and sisters and I were born in Canada."

4. Did you grow up speaking a language or dialect other than English or French at home? How often was the language spoken or was it only spoken at holidays with extended family or grandparents?

A: "Yes I did. Croatian was spoken every day at home. I did not speak a word of English until I started school."

5. Did you grow up in or live currently within an ethnic community of your own heritage or of a different heritage? (Or do you not see your community identifying with an ethnic community where everyone speaks English or French.)

A: "I was born and raised in Hamilton. My parents were part of the Croatian church which was an extension of the Hamilton Catholic Diocese. My parents were also part of different communities like the Croatian sports and community centre, because my dad played soccer. We also were a part of the Croatian National Home which focuses on music and folklore."

6. Did your community have various sports offered for youth participation in a variety of team sports for recreation or competitive?

A: "Yes. We had Hamilton Croatia which was a Croatian soccer club for males."

7. Did you or someone you know want to play sports? Were you able to join a team in your community?

A: "My younger brother was able to play Croatian based sports while he grew up, since they only offered male teams. My sister and I however were not able to play Croatian based sports until we were in high school."

8. *Were young girls encouraged to play sports? Were they able to join a women's team or join a co-ed team in your community?*

A: "It was not very popular. In school it was but outside of school it was not really pushed."

9. *Were you, young girls, or the person discussed in this interview encouraged or discouraged by your family or community to participate in team sports?*

A: "My family didn't push sports, but they were not against us being on any teams. They supported it and showed up to some games."

10. *How often did you play? Were you on a recreational or competitive team? Were there competitive available for girls in the community?*

A: "I played all of the elementary school sports which were volleyball and basketball. In grade nine and ten I played basketball and volleyball from grade nine all the way to grade thirteen. I had to quit basketball because my grades kind of suffered and my parents made me choose one sport to focus on."

Interview Two
Ava Magliaro
Veronica Rodrigues
October 29, 2020

Veronica Rodrigues is a first-generation Portuguese immigrant and my childhood friend. She attends McMaster University and studies Political Science with the hopes of one day becoming a lawyer. She grew up in Hamilton, Ontario, raised by her native Portuguese parents. Her community and culture heavily influence her. She follows both the traditions and beliefs that her heritage has given her, ethnically and religiously. She played high school hockey, where she was the goalie, as well as some elementary school sports.

1. *What age group/generation are you in?*

A: "I am 19 and part of Generation Z"

2. *Do you identify with a cultural background and heritage? (Describe your cultural heritage, traditions, etc.)*

A: "I am Portuguese. I can't think of any traditions that we celebrate in Canada, but I do travel back and forth from Portugal a lot. When I am in Portugal, we celebrate a lot of religious traditions, since Portugal is mostly Catholic. We celebrate saint festivals, and special masses during Christmas.

3. *Were you born in Canada or abroad? Did you or your parents or grandparents in any generation emigrate to Canada?*

A: "I was born here. My grandpa was the first person to immigrate here. During my dad's childhood he moved back and forth between Portugal and Canada. My mom however was born in Portugal and grew up there before meeting my dad and moving to Canada. Most of my immediate family still lives in Portugal."

4. *Did you grow up speaking a language or dialect other than English or French at home? How often was the language spoken or was it only spoken at holidays with extended family or grandparents?*

A: "I grew up speaking English and Portuguese. I did not know how to speak English until I went to school and during my time in Kindergarten my mom and I were learning English at the same time. Although today, I cannot speak Portuguese as well as I used to, but I can still understand it. We spoke a dialect."

5. *Did you grow up in or live currently within an ethnic community of your own heritage or of a different heritage? (Or do you not see your community identifying with an ethnic community where everyone speaks English or French.)*

A: "I live on Hamilton Mountain, most of the Portuguese community in Hamilton lives downtown. Unfortunately, I grew up away from that, I didn't feel that disconnected to it since we would still go to the events and festivals. But as I got older that connection with my community downtown slowly began to fade."

6. *Did your community have various sports offered for youth participation in a variety of team sports for recreation or competitive?*

A: “No. There wasn’t really any Portuguese community-based sports.”

7. *Did you or someone you know want to play sports? Were you able to join a team in your community?*

A: “Well, I know that my cousins and my dad wanted to play sports, but they had to join general sports teams with no specific ethnicity.”

8. *Were young girls encouraged to play sports? Were they able to join a women’s team or join a co-ed team in your community?*

A: “I did not really experience any type of inequality when it came to sports. Neither did any of my female family members. But then again I did not play a lot of sports.”

9. *Were you, young girls, or the person discussed in this interview encouraged or discouraged by your family or community to participate in team sports?*

A: “No.”

10. *How often did you play? Were you on a recreational or competitive team? Were there competitive available for girls in the community?*

A: “I played the basic elementary school sports which were volleyball, flag football and basketball. I played hockey in high school. I tried to play a little bit of everything.”

Interview Three
Ava Magliaro
Ralph Magliaro
October 30 2020

Ralph Magliaro is a first-generation Italian immigrant and my father. He grew up in Hamilton, Ontario, with immense Italian influence by his parents and his community. Ralph often travels back and forth from Italy and Canada because his brothers, nieces, nephews, and immediate family still reside in Italy. Nonetheless, he is a family-oriented man and prospers to keep the Italian culture alive in his household. Growing up in Canada, Ralph played some sports growing up, including football and soccer.

1. *What age group/generation are you in?*

A: "Generation X. I am 51."

2. *Do you identify with a cultural background and heritage? (Describe your cultural heritage, traditions, etc.)*

A: "I am Italian. My parents are from Avellino. Growing up I had a lot of Southern Italian influence, especially in cooking and certain traditions. We are also Roman Catholic, we identify with many religious holidays including La Festa di San Giuseppe, Santo Stefano, Epifania, and Pasquetta. During the summer my daughter and I travel to Italy for a few weeks to visit my family and celebrate the festivals of my town that are based upon its patron saint, San Audeno."

3. *Were you born in Canada or abroad? Did you or your parents or grandparents in any generation emigrate to Canada?*

A: "I was born in Hamilton. My parents both immigrated to Canada in the 60s. Only myself and my twin brother reside in Canada, as well as our children. All of my immediate family lives in Italy. My brothers are much older than me, when my parents left Italy they already had a well-established life and their own families, so unfortunately they did not move to Canada with my parents."

4. *Did you grow up speaking a language or dialect other than English or French at home? How often was the language spoken or was it only spoken at holidays with extended family or grandparents?*

A: "All I spoke at home was an Italian dialect from my region. Our dialect is similar to the Napolitano dialect since my hometown is so close. I did not know how to speak English until I began school. My parents also never spoke English despite their many years living in Canada."

5. *Did you grow up in or live currently within an ethnic community of your own heritage or of a different heritage? (Or do you not see your community identifying with an ethnic community where everyone speaks English or French.)*

A: "Yes I did. On my street we had many neighbours that were from Italy but different regions, Calabrese, Sicilian, Northern Italian. I also spent a lot of my childhood in Italy as we would visit for months at a time. That vibrant Italian culture was always in my household and around me."

6. *Did your community have various sports offered for youth participation in a variety of team sports for recreation or competitive?*

A: “Yes, I was apart of soccer which was offered by St. Anthony’s Parish in Hamilton. There was no other sport offered other than soccer, since soccer is such an Italian sport. Soccer was mostly recreational, friendly games amongst us.”

7. Did you or someone you know want to play sports? Were you able to join a team in your community?

A: “I never really liked playing sports. I mostly played it as a friendly game between friends, nothing really competitive. It was the same with my friends as well, back in our day no one took community sports to a competitive level unless it was offered in high school.”

8. Were young girls encouraged to play sports? Were they able to join a women’s team or join a co-ed team in your community?

A: “No, girls were not encouraged to play sports in my community.”

9. Were you, young girls, or the person discussed in this interview encouraged or discouraged by your family or community to participate in team sports?

A: “I never had any sisters or female cousins that lived in Canada, so I wouldn’t know what it was like to be a female in the sports community. My parents never encouraged me to play sports, it was up to my own choice.”

10. How often did you play? Were you on a recreational or competitive team? Were there competitive available for girls in the community?

A: “I did not play sports often, mostly high school sports. My high school did offer female sports but my community, however, did not.
