



Drew Bridge

Sport at school – Football for school and AFC Totton

Sport now – High school soccer coach in Tennessee USA and VAR operator for Nashville SC.

1. What made you decide to take A Level PE as part of your 6th form studies?

Alongside PE I took Geology, and very reluctantly Maths. A lot of the help with my decision came from my Brother. I had intended to pick Maths, Biology, and Chemistry as I deemed them best for my future as they seemed more difficult. But I didn't enjoy any of them, so my brother asked 'why are you setting yourself up for a life with things you don't enjoy'.

So I picked PE because it was what I enjoyed most - and it can set you up with a future of more things that you enjoy!

2. Having finished Year 13, give us some idea of the pathway that you took in terms of further studies or career choices

After leaving school I attended Loughborough University, studying Sports Technology - a mechanical engineering degree with a focus in sports products. Think anything from shoe designing to testing golf simulators. My dissertation was the design, manufacture, and test of a watch which extracted the beat from music and sent it out as vibrations so that deaf people can dance. I studied for four years, alongside playing for the University's football team. During this time I worked as a Goal Line Technology operator in the Premier League and Champions League.

Upon graduating, I was offered a scholarship to play "soccer" in the USA whilst studying for an MBA (Master's in Business Administration). So I spent two years playing full time "soccer" across the US. Whilst playing, I volunteered at a local animal shelter (something very close to my heart), started coaching for the local high school, and I also began working for Nashville SC as the VAR operator.

3. Where has this led you to at the present time and what are your plans for the future?

I now work as the Marketing, Volunteer, and Event Director at an Animal Shelter alongside coaching and operating VAR part-time.

In the future I plan to continue to work in animal welfare - I'm hoping to start a new job in Colorado as a Director of Corporate Giving at an animal shelter in January. I do plan to be involved in sport still through coaching and through VAR operating as both can be done part-time.