My Job with SMU Mustang Football Program

Davis Hecksel, son of David Hecksel, TxP2P Volunteer

My name is Davis Hecksel and I am 23 years old. For the past four years, I have volunteered with the SMU Mustang Football program at the Southern Methodist University (SMU) Campus in Dallas, Texas. I volunteer helping Dean 'Flash' Saul, the team's Equipment Manager. It's a lot of fun!

Each week day during the season, I arrive bright and early at 6:30 a.m. for practice. Between 6:30 and 8:30am, I am on the sidelines observing the team's daily practice session and talking with the Assistant Coaches. I have learned each and every of the team's defensive call schemes! Between 8:30 and 9:00am, I eat with the team in the athletic cafeteria. Between 9:00 and 10:30am, I work in the equipment room. My volunteer work involves picking up jerseys after practice and putting them in the wash. During home games, I get to stand on the sideline with the team and watch the game. My first year no one knew who I was, but now I don't even need a sideline pass. Everyone recognizes me.

I really enjoy working with the team because I get to know the coaches and players. I get to be a part of what happens behind the scenes at a college football program even though for many years they have been mediocre. It's true! However, since Coach June Jones became head coach, they have been to three consecutive bowl games. I don't want that streak to end. I get to share my passion for sports with other people who have just as much passion for it as I do. Those who know me well call me "The Sports Savant." I am frequently in the top 10 percent of the ESPN "College Football Pick-em" online contest. I am thankful for the coaches and staff, particularly Director of Operations Coach, Randy Ross, for letting me volunteer and assist their football program.

I live in Dallas, Texas. While I do have a disability (Autism and mild CP), the SMU Coaching staff looks past my differences and accepts me for who I am - a member of the SMU Football program team and a friend.