

Malay Transcript:

Saya rasa bahawa sukan kegemaran orang Malaysia merupakan bola sepak. Tiap-tiap hari Ahad, sesebuah fenomena boleh dilihat iaitu ramai pemuda lelaki akan berkumpul di gerai-gerai mamak di tepi jalan untuk makan dan menonton perlawanan bola sepak English Premier League. Apabila berjalan lalu sekolah-sekolah selepas waktu bersekolah telah berakhir..telah akhir, kamu dapat lihat ramai budak dan remaja lelaki berada di padang sekolah menendang bola sepak. Saya ingat semasa zaman persekolahan saya sendiri, sebaik sahaja loceng rehat berbunyi, pelajar lelaki akan pantas berlari ke padang untuk bermain sikit bola sepak sebelum kelas bermula lagi. Saya ingat mereka selalu kena bom oleh guru kelas selepas rehat kerana baju mereka akan penuh dengan peluh badan dan kasut mereka akan kotor dengan lem.. lumpur. Dan ini semua merupakan kenangan yang baik untuk saya.

Bola sepak telah menjadi.. Saya rasa.. Saya rasa bola sepak telah menjadi simbol yang berfungsi untuk mengeratkan hubungan antara masyarakat Malaysia. Baru-baru ini terdapat beberapa pasukan bola sepak Inggeris yang terkenal seperti Arsenal dan Chelsea, yang datang ke Malaysia untuk menggalakkan sokongan daripada peminat-peminat bola sepak di sini. Tambahan pula, saya berasa bahawa kebangkitan ramai pemain.. pemain skuasy dan badminton di medan sukan antarabangsa telah menjadi sesebuah sumber kebanggaan kepada orang di sini. Sebagai contoh, Datuk Nicole David telah menjadi pemain nombor satu di dunia dalam bidang skuasy wanita manakala Datuk Lee Chong Wei telah menjadi pemain nombor satu di dunia dalam bidang badminton lelaki. Walaupun Datuk Nicole David merupakan seseorang dari kaum India dan Datuk Lee Chong Wei merupakan seseorang dari kaum Cina, mereka berdua gagah berlawan untuk mempertahankan kebanggaan orang Malaysia tak kira dari kaum apa. Mereka berdua telah menjadi inspirasi kepada ramai orang Malaysia untuk melibatkan diri dalam acara sukan dan beryakin pada potensi mereka walaupun berhadapan dengan pemain-pemain negara lain.

English Translation:

I think that the most beloved sport among Malaysians is soccer. Every Sunday, an interesting phenomenon occurs – groups of young men will convene in roadside *mamak*¹ stalls to eat and watch English Premier League soccer matches. When walking past schools during after school hours, you will be able to see many children and male teenagers kicking around a soccer ball in the school playing field. I remember during my schooling years that as soon as the break bell rang, all the male students would make a dash for the playing field to get in a few minutes of soccer before lessons resumed. I remember that they would always get scolded by the teacher because their shirts would

¹ Mamak stalls are hawker food stalls which sell Malay-Indian fusion food.

be drenched in sweat and their shoes would be covered in mud. These are all really good memories to me.

I think that soccer somehow became a symbol of unity among Malaysians. Recently, many famous English soccer teams like Arsenal and Chelsea came to visit their fans in Malaysia. I also feel that the success of many local squash and badminton players in the international arena has become a source of national pride for Malaysians. For example, Datuk² Nicole David is now the world women's number one squash player, while Datuk Lee Chong Wei has been crowned the world men's number one badminton player. Even though Datuk Nicole David is an ethnic Indian and Datuk Lee Chong Wei is an ethnic Chinese, both of them have worked hard to defend the national pride of Malaysia regardless of their race. Both of them are an inspiration to many Malaysians to get involved in sports and to be confident in their own potential when facing foreign competition.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

© 2012 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated

² 'Datuk' is the Malaysian equivalent of the British knighthood title 'Sir.' The same title is granted to both men and women.