

Hello everyone in Pacific Northwest!

My name is David Szotkowski, I am 28 years old and I live in the east part of the Czech Republic about 25 miles far away from the borders with Slovakia and Poland. My first game I've ever watched was our winning Super Bowl XLVIII. At that time I was a student of geography at Palacky University in the beautiful historical city called Olomouc, which you can find in the heart of Moravia. My roommate from college dormitory is a big fan of the New England Patriots, so he wanted the Lombardi Trophy to stay in the AFC. So I decided to cheer for the other team. Lucky me it was Seattle Seahawks - a team with the greatest fan base not just in the NFL, but all over the world. Year by year I was "caught" by this awesome sport and team more and more and I've become as I can tell a die hard Seahawks fan. In fact I'm not watching any other sports anymore. In October 2018 I was in London and I was a witness of a 27-3 demolition of then Oakland Raiders. In March 2019 I started to write the first czech book about football ever. Maybe I'll finish it in this one life, haha... When I'm saying "football" I mean real football, not soccer which comes to mind for most of the European population when the word "football" is said. This fact is in some of my conversations confusing.

From April 2019 I'm building and connecting 12s community in Czech Republic and Slovakia. In that time I took over the facebook page of Czech and Slovak fans of the Seattle Seahawks with 340 people, which was the 5th biggest fan page of any NFL team in Czech Republic and Slovakia. Now we have 760 of the 12th (Wo)Mans there and we are successfully chasing just the Packers and Vikings pages. If we keep up the pace of our growth, we could become the second biggest group of any NFL team sometimes in 2022. For two years of my operations we equipped ourselves with fanclub t-shirts, organized two years of Fantasy League and Score-guess competition, where the best managers and guessers got football prizes we raised money for, etc... But still my main specialization is writing. In these two seasons I've written previews and reviews of our every game and also covered every main events as Draft, signing and releasing players... If something happens around Seahawks, I immediately write an article so every one of the 12th Man here in Czech Republic and Slovakia could know hot news.

In 2014 and 2017 I've also organized two charity actions. This project was called "ZTePíli muži na cestách" which basically means "Fine/hot guys on the road". But the main reason for the project name is hidden in big letters. "ZTP" means "zdravotně tělesně postižený" which is in english "physically handicapped person". Oh yeah. I have type III of spinal muscular atrophy, which means my muscles are getting weaker and it is a question of a few short years I will be dependent on a wheelchair and question of a few longer years it will become impossible to finish my book or make it across the ocean to see my heart-connected team play on Lumen Field. I'm just saying this to illustrate the situation. Anyway, on these events we were spreading knowledge about stem cells, their utilization and we raised around \$11,000. By "we" I mean me and my friend on a wheelchair. In these two projects we walked through our country for about 230 miles in total and in the end the raised money was used for very expensive and still experimental application of stem cells for two people with injured spinal cord. When I found out that Sea Hawkens is a non-for-profit organization and that your spirit is not just about connecting through football but also through charitable events, I felt it was the right time and choose to join you and take our Czechoslovakian blue and green

community to another level. (So many people around the world think we are still one nation, but we peacefully divided in 1993.)

In the end of the story I would like to answer your questions... As Russell's father always told his little son: Why not you? So if you are asking "Why do I have interest in starting a Sea Hawks Chapter" and "Why would I like to be a part of the organization?", let me answer you simply.

Time is running... So why not me?

GO HAWKS!!!

David