

SHOWNOTES - Brick Haley (19/50)






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SPEAKERS

Scott Hilton (Host)

-  **Scott Hilton (Host)** 00:15
Welcome to another episode of Ask my dad got brick Haley here in the studio. Welcome, Brett.
-  00:21
Thank you glad to be here.
-  **Scott Hilton (Host)** 00:22
Appreciate you coming in and a busy schedule, man. It's a busy time for you and you got 1000s of things to do. And you might make time for an old buddy and I really appreciate it.
-  00:32
Well, that's what we do. It's we're family we more than buddies.
-  **Scott Hilton (Host)** 00:35
So for those of you don't know, brick is probably most well known as a college football coach. And my only friend who has his own Wikipedia page. I'm impressed. I'm gonna get you to sign this thing. Yeah, right. Or you leave but been a division one coach for a number of years. Troy stay used and Clemson Baylor Georgia Tech state the Chicago Bears LSU, Texas, Missouri, and Minnesota man. But more importantly than that, you've been married to Tina, for 27 years in the years ago. Three boys, you're the dad to AJ Jeremy and Adrian. Yes, sir. I think that's that's where you real? Your real heart is. But to me, brick, you're still just a kid that I ran around with in seventh and eighth grade. Well, you



01:27

know what, I tried to be that way. I mean, that's just who we were. And I mean, there's no reason to change. It was good enough, then it should be good enough now.



Scott Hilton (Host) 01:34

Yeah. Do you remember ninth grade? It was the Hilton and Haley line. was awesome. To midgets. Yeah, two little guys. Yeah. The problem is nobody told us and we were too short to be playing.



01:47

That's exactly right. We just wanted to play we enjoyed the game. Yeah,



Scott Hilton (Host) 01:51

we had it going on. And then in high school. I got outgrown. We got in fact, we got this picture here. And we were looking at life from our high school days. But I had to move to nose guard. And he moved linebacker and so I took all your blocks major major an All American college scholarship because of me taking all the blocks off.



02:13

Well, that is true statement there. Now we've, we've talked about that a lot. A lot of the guys that I still keep in contact with just like you, but like Richard Dobbs and guys like that we had the biggest fun about stuff like that about our whole days and how we played and how coach gross ran us to death and just beat us down. But when we got out of there life was easy. Yeah. Because we had had the roughest part of our life already. That's right, from the ninth



Scott Hilton (Host) 02:38

grade to the boy. That's true. I have friends can't walk anymore. And you know, the the concussion protocol back then was different to you remember? Oh, there's no question. Yeah, it was like, they hold up four fingers. And if you if you if you said six or two you were close enough. That's it. So you are you are you got put back in the game with a lot of smell and sauce.



03:02

Yeah, we did. It was it was some tough times back then. Now, I'll tell you what now and coach believed and you know, you go until you can't go and say this is what we did. And we didn't know any difference. And I think that's why you've been so successful in your life and the

things that you've done, because you've had that willpower that we was instilled in us when we played ball.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 03:21

Yeah, so that brings me to the first story I want to tell you and I really seriously doubt that you remember this break? I've got a couple. I got to tell a funny one first, and then we'll move in and stuff a little more serious. Okay. I think we were sophomores. And coach was trying to give us some playing time. You were playing more than I was because back in those days freshman and sophomore didn't get in the game. No. So he had a swapping back and forth. You remember this and you lost your mouthpiece.

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Yes. I know what you're fixing.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 03:55

So we, the way it worked is I'd come in and we'd have five and you go to the sidelines to plays and then I go back and forth and you you're you're coming on to the field I'm about to have five either left grabbed you by the elbow, and said Son, you can't go in the game. He looked at me like what and I'm thinking wow, we're bricks gotta get going again. He said you don't have a mouthpiece. And so for those that don't know mouthpiece is this piece of rubber stuff that they mold and makes fishy teeth Oh

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plastic,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 04:23

no plastic and you just looked at me and instinctively reached out your hand. Give me I don't think we even said anything yet. And I want to tell you know,

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I remember that like it was just

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Scott Hilton (Host) 04:35

so I answered my math pieces. I had all my slobber on it. Yeah, you stuck it in your mouth you read it you ran two plays and I went to the sideline my main priority was to find the manager either brown man or none of our managers had a real name. So I'm looking for RAM man man

you got to find bricks mouthpiece because he's got mind I gotta go back again. Oh, no, we're I don't know where it is. We Look, I said man, don't you guys bring an extra mouthpiece? You have extra helmet? You have 15,000 football. Don't you have an extra button now We ain't got no extra mouth. So when I went back in the game, you just handed it back to me. I stuck it back in my mouth and we played a whole half share sharing the same mouth please. Yeah,



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I remember that. Yeah, as soon as you started the story it kept pop right in my



Scott Hilton (Host) 05:27

that was too much flat and actually break. You know, I've got a kick. Three books that are gonna be coming out I wrote that story one of the books because it's you know, it's a it's a funny story, but it's also a story about when the thing that sports can do for you. Yeah, because I don't think he thing about brick Kaylee's slobber. I mean, he slobbered and everybody else, slobber. Trust teaches you to trust people. Yeah, they're in the heat of battle. So, but the more serious story, you probably don't remember this one. But our sophomore year, at the end of the year, one of our very close friends and classmates was killed in a car accident, Phillip Adams. And so we were all torn to pieces. But Philippi our particularly close, we were hunting buddies and played two sports together and went to church together and so forth. So, back in those days, you know, they didn't bring in a team of counselors. You just we have what's called deal with it. We dealt with it. That was tough. And in fact, Phyllis, mom called me the night of the accident, and I went to his house, and I was in school the next morning at eight o'clock. And we just, we just dealt with stuff. But apparently I had not dealt with it quite enough. And so we go through spring training and summer practice, we'll get into the first game of the season, it was a really big hype game team, across town robbery, Glencoe. And we're in the locker room getting ready to go onto the field. And you and I were both starting at that time, finally. And I lost it. I had not dealt with I just broke down and squad. Do you remember that at all? Do not and thank you. So here's what happened. And I've never forgotten this. But I'm in the corner of the locker room ready to run, everybody's ready to run out on the field. And they're whooping and hollering and I'm squalling. And you came over and stood by me, put your arm around me. And just stay there with me. You know, just I don't think you said too much. But you just stayed there right beside me and comforted me. Because I was dealing with the fact that I was about to run onto the field for the first time without, without Philip. And these are the words you said and I've never forgotten. You said, Scott, we got to do this. We got to do this. And that gave me courage to get up and, and run out of the locker room. And in fact, if you look at that film, it's on YouTube. Now. You can see that everybody was out on the field. And I come stumbling out I couldn't even see where I was going. I ran into one of the cheerleaders coming out. But I've never forgotten because over the last four years, there's been time after time, where I've faced adversity or face something I didn't want to do. And the little voice. Sometimes it was brick Haley's little voice that I can hear said, Scott, you got to do this. And gave me courage to go. And I think probably that's, that's probably the motto of your life. And



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yeah, I think so. It's just I've grown up where I grew up, and then in the area and the situation we were in, it was a it was a every day you just keep going you don't worry about tomorrow,

you just go today and then whatever happens happens, but that's what you do.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 08:50

Yeah, you just you got to do it. So so you've got quite an inspirational story. I want to start digging into that. So go back to your childhood. We all know how you got to name brick you rent ran into a brick wall knocked knocked a chip out of the brick wall when you were a little guy. You don't have to tell that story again, because I know everybody asked you all the time. Yeah, but But let's go back to your childhood and talk about that for a minute. Well, I

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grew up, you know, I grew up in a house with 10 kids. It was five, seven boys and three girls. And so it was tough. And I was the youngest. So I guess I had to be tough because I was picked on all the time. I mean, if anything went wrong, they blame it on me. And then that was that was part of the growing experience for me. But I think you know, growing up in that house, the one thing that I can always remember, because we didn't have much when we grew up in the housing projects there in 11th Street, but I never knew that we were poor. I had no clue. Because I always had clothes. I always had food. And I think it was just the fact that we had so much love have in our house, that nothing else really penetrated us. And it was crazy because I would, you know, I didn't realize, I guess I was blind to the fact that life, because it just didn't bother me that I didn't have namebrand tennis shoes, or I didn't have namebrand shirts, I had shirts, I had shoes. And, you know, my brothers were athletes. So coming after them, it was always like my oldest brother was the best athlete in our family. And one of the things that probably drove me more than anything was like, his generation of friends would always, like challenge me to be better than him. And they never really would call me by my name, they always call me little Doug. And that just irritated me. And I was like, you know, I got my own name. And in our life, you know, so I think that was part of the struggle for me that really instilled in me that the attitude that what, you know, you just got to do it just got to do Yeah, just got it got to show people that you can get it done that it's you and not not somebody else. So I lived in my brother's shadow for a long time. And you don't remember this. But we were playing Gadsden high one night at Murphy's stadium, and I was having a terrible, terrible first half. And the reason I was having a terrible first half is because I had broke up with my girlfriend at the time, and my brother, my oldest brother came down to the sideline and grabbed me up from the fence. He brought me over to the fence. And he grabbed me and he said, I don't know who you think you are, or what happened to you today. But whatever happened to you today does not matter. Because right now you're playing this game. And I wound up coming back and playing pretty good. Second half. But that was just the way he was he always felt like, you know, you have to do if it's going to be done, you're going to do it. So I think he instilled a lot of that in

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Scott Hilton (Host) 12:00

me. So what was it like growing up the baby of what do you say nine out of

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10. I was it was tough. You know, the girls had a room, the boys had a room. See, I think seven guys are sleeping in one room. You know, the greatest thing for us was when guys got older, like a couple my brothers, they were older and they went to the military and things like that. So the room kind of dispersed a little bit. So you had a little bit more room to sleep. So kinda like this is funny story. But when I met my wife, she was like, I don't know, where are you not sleep at night, and get up so early in the morning. I said, when you grew up in a house with seven brothers. If you go to sleep early, you get slept on. I was waiting for everybody else to go to sleep so I could go to sleep.

S Scott Hilton (Host) 12:46

So you didn't you didn't grow up with a silver spoon in your mouth?

12:49

No, we didn't. My mom was. I remember, my mom worked at a wall manufacturing, and made very little money at all, just enough to keep everything afloat and do things my dad was in and out of our life for a while. But he was mostly there, you know, for the latter part of my life. And one of the big things is, is my dad never wanted me to play football. Really never. He thought it was the most ridiculous thing ever for really, for men to go out there and knock the crap out of each other and all this stuff. So he didn't he didn't really like he wanted me to play baseball. So my ultimate because my oldest brother was a really, really good baseball player. So I went out and try baseball a couple times. And I was decent as a fielder and all that stuff. But I could not hit a curveball. I mean, there's just not many curveballs thrown to you in the project. Nobody out there throwing curveballs at you. But you can hit Yeah, I can hit it. If I if I got a fastball. I could hit it. But now football was more than my life. And I think a lot of that was, and a lot of people talk about oh, man, you used to really hit people and all this stuff. I think it was part early part of the frustration that I had, in me as a young as a young man trying to prove myself that I was good enough to play.

S Scott Hilton (Host) 14:00

Yeah, so yeah, so your dad was kind of kind of there. And toward the end.

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He was he was there early in my life. Because he was like, you know, being my dad, one time in my life, I felt like we were like the best of friends. You know, and then he kind of faded away for a little bit and came back and but my dad was a different dude. I mean, he you know, he believed in you making your own way. He didn't give you anything. I tell people all the time, like, my dad would be sitting there and he'd be doing something and you could ask him, hey, hey, Pops, you want me to help you with that? And his comment would be are you gonna be here tomorrow at the same time? And I'd say I don't know. He says, Well, don't start anything you can't finish. So that's the kind of guy he was. He was just always just brash a little bit and to the point. Yeah, and so, you know, but that's that was my dad in a nutshell.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 14:54

Gotcha. So you deal with a lot of student athletes and I know that you teach them a lot of X's and O's. But you don't get a whole lot of chance to talk to him about being a father and a dad. So I want to give you a chance to do that. Because you hopefully some of you guys are gonna watch this.



15:13

Well, I hope, I hope they do. But I'll tell you this, I normally start with my guys talking to him about when they come in the room as freshmen or even sophomores or juniors, and all the guys and I talked to him, I said, Let me tell you something, if all I teach you is tackling, and blocking, and how to be a good football player. I've failed you as a man. So there's gonna be live talks in here, there are going to be situations where you're going to not quite understand where I'm coming from at this moment. But later in life, you will and I said, but here's the thing, and it's not like I'm here to break you. I like punishment. And in those things, I'm here to help make you if there's any way I can help make you be a better person, then I'm going to do that. You know, we spend a lot of time talking about those things. You know, I try to do it in the offseason. But I also do it during the season. Because I think it's so important, especially in college athletics nowadays, you know, when we played in one of the coaches want to know, they want to know how much you weigh. Did you work out today? Did you get your run in? Did you complete your your your task? Now, I think you got to reach out to these young men and talk to them about their family, how's your mom, How's your dad, once you been out and you've recruited these guys, and you've been in their homes, then you get a sense of who they are, then you have to take that and then use it to help them become better guys.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 16:41

Let's talk about those boys that are so precious to you. Tell me about that. Your boys.



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They are my boys in my life. I love him to death.



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Adrian came by us by a different route. had been married to my wife for a year. And Adrian came along. He was five years old and told my wife we were taking him in and she said, Okay, I know that was a tough pill for her to swallow because we didn't had our own kids. But he's a great kid. He never got in any trouble. Just unbelievable young man, he played a little football, did things that he thought I wanted him to do. And that's what I told him. You don't have to do this. If you don't want to. Don't do it because you think I want you to do it, do it because you love the game. Because if you don't love the game, you're not going to stick with it. And so we had a great deal. He went off to college and then came with us when we're at Mississippi State. And so Adrian has done a great job. I couldn't be any prouder of him. But he's he's an athletic

trainer. And he were actually worked with me for two years at Missouri. So I had everybody there together. And so he's he's special. He's special. He's a special young man. He does a lot of good things for other people. And I think that's the biggest thing. I tell them all all the time. People don't remember what you say. People don't remember what you do. People remember how you treat them. So treat everybody. Right. And

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Scott Hilton (Host) 18:12

you've done he's trying to do that. Yeah, he watched his daddy. Yeah, yeah.

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Now my middle son, AJ is the gym with a group. AJ is my autistic kid. And as you can see, his name is AJ which was Andre Jr. My name. And you know, you go through life thinking, you're gonna You have a son, and you go, Oh, man, you know, yeah, he's gonna be grow up and be a big football player. He's gonna get scholarship offers here. He's gonna do this. He's gonna do that. Well, when AJ was about six, he got diagnosed with autism. And they put him on a spectrum. Now he's very functional, and does a great job. But that is a blow to an athlete or ex athletes ego. There's no question about that. And so I had to learn to deal with that. Talking about tough time in your life, your firstborn child. He's not gonna be anything like you. But I'm hopeful I can hold this together. But uh, he is what the world should be about loving and caring no matter what my day is like, regardless if we win or lose, whatever. When he hears the garage door come up. He's gonna come and give me a hug. When I walk in the door.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 20:00

For me

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that's what's important. That's really what's important.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 20:10

It's not wins and losses at that point isn't. Nah,

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it doesn't even matter. He's taught me more about being a parent. Since he's been diagnosed than I ever knew. We talk about unconditional love. That's unconditional love. You know? He's gonna check on me every day. He's gonna make sure I'm okay. And so he's he's a special cat to me. No question.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 20:39

Awesome. I was able to spend a little time with AJ and I feel the same way. Let's not forget Jeremy.

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20:46

Oh my goodness. Now that's the pistol letter group. He is everything that I'm not that rascal he will fight me on everything. telling me what to do this he doesn't want to do that. He want to do this. He don't want anything that I suggest he probably don't want to do.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 21:03

Well. That's called personality.

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Yeah. So I try not to suggest things to him because he's gonna knock. So I'll let his mom suggested there you go. And then now we get but no Jeremy's. He's an awesome young man. graduated early from high school. And he's still trying to figure himself out and he wants to do but super kid. Jeremy's a little different. He didn't have the same work ethic that I and AJ and Adrian have. But that's because he's the baby. And we probably spoiled him a little bit. Too much.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 21:41

Yeah, yeah, he'll get there. Yeah, he's

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working out. He's been really, really good. I'm super proud of him. I can't tell you how proud I am of him and how far he's come as a as a young man. So I've I couldn't say anything. But you know, great things about where he is and what he's done.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 21:58

So you've devoted a lot of time and energy and effort into the brick road to success to raise awareness for autism and, and phones. Tell us some about that?

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22:08

Well, you know, that was something that was a was my wife's idea. Because if you remember, back when I was in Chicago, I came home and we had our first Haley, youth football camp,

right? And my wife said to me, okay, you're going to continue to have football camps here every year. And you have a son that has autism, and charity starts at home, and then it goes abroad. So we actually changed our foundation after that, after listening to her logic. And so that was something that we did. And AJ was really on board, he did a good job of embracing it. So that it's been there ever since. But it was her idea to do these things. But yes, I'm very adamant about what we do with autism, because I think it brings awareness to things in this world and people don't realize it. You know, I think we push it on the back burner. Oh, no, he's fine. He'll be this or she'll be fine. No, go get your kid checked out. So you'll know what's going on. So you will know how to treat it. So you know how to handle in a household. It's it to me, it's a must and as much awareness as we can bring. I still think we need more. Because there are so many kids out there that have not been diagnosed. And so they are going through life without a chance to have a life.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 23:39

And so what so your whole foundation is really geared at those kids, so they can have a life.

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23:45

Yes, that I want them to be able to live as comparably as any other kid in the world. And they can understand that. They're different. But they're the same.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 24:01

Man, this has been this has been great. You're super busy. Yeah. And it means a lot to me that that you hadn't forgot your old your old knife curry linebacking buddy,

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24:12

you know, amen. Man, you're never too busy for friends

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Scott Hilton (Host) 24:16

got even got your own Wikipedia and you still remember your friends. Still remember your friends that speaks highly but more importantly than that, you know, I've I've gotten to see I knew the brick Haley, the real brick Haley. And I think the world has gotten to see a little bit of what your heart is really like. It's not all X's and O's.


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24:38

No, not at all.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 24:41

 Scott Hilton (Host) 24:41

And you've earned what we're about to give you. We got a little gift. Thanks. Thanks to Tina. We just like to share this with you because you've earned it. I hear you.

 24:53

Say I want to say thank you for always loving me.

 24:59

day bye Think your best quality is that you're able to experiment with anything no matter what it is.

 25:06

The thing I love most about my dad is the his ability to instill self and family pride within us. And also how he shows it.

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What I love most about brick being the father of my children, is his ability to always be the proudest dad ever no matter what our boys have done

 Scott Hilton (Host) 25:34

how's that make you feel Britt?

 25:43

Makes you feel love? Makes you feel appreciate it. I appreciate you doing that.

 Scott Hilton (Host) 25:53

Yeah, it's been my pleasure, man. You know, I love you. And like said, We're family. And in the back of my mind for 40 years now. I've heard you say we got to do this. Let's do this. And so you may or may not world to me. Thank you so much again for coming. Thank you. Thank you for having me. And I even inspired somebody that'll conclude this episode or that's my dad. We're striving to help fathers become great dads, and to break the cycles of generational fatherlessness. See you next week.