Neil Makin as “Star of the Week” in his kindergarten class at Cornerstone Elementary, Dexter.

Left — Miss Jessica Madley, Neil’s teacher, opens Neil’s bag of pictures and objects.

Right — Neil describes the pictures Miss Madley shows to the class.

Left — Neil describes his England shirt.

Right — Neil proudly displays the cross of St George.

Following pages — the pictures Neil brought to class.
Left — Neil at cooking class, Creekside school; right — Neil and his grandfather, digging for worms, grandparents’ cottage, near Klin, north of Moscow.

Clockwise from top left — Missie and Snuffles; Neil with Snuffles; Stasik; Friendsie.

Neil with his first trout, Little Manistee River, summer 2003.
Neil says that his favorite foods include sausages, pancakes, and the *pel’meni* (Siberian dumplings) his mother Alina makes.
Neil with his first pike, caught in the River Luga, near Lemovzhe, Volosovo Region, Leningrad Oblast’, summer 2003
Neil and his team mates on the Spitfires, celebrating with Michigan Varsity coach Steve Burns, after winning the Under-Seven UM Micro-Soccer Shootout, Oosterbaan Fieldhouse, University of Michigan, 13 February 2005. During the tournament, Neil scored four goals; he conceded only two while playing five shifts in goal.