John Fountain Oral History Interview, 1999 February 8

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EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
HISTORY

INTERVIEW
WITH
JOHN FOUNTAIN
LNS: I'm visiting with Paul Heaton who is working as co-author of this history and John Fountain who is the former Vice President for University Relations at Eastern Michigan University whom among many associations with the institution is the voice of Eastern Michigan University athletics or has been for a number of years and before we get to talk about intercollegiate athletics tell us a little bit about yourself and how you got to EMU.

JF: Well it's a long story. I was working at WAAM at the particular time. One of my tasks was to broadcast Michigan football all over a statewide network and I had done that for the two years prior to that. Had a friend who I was very close with who was the Sports Information Director at Eastern Michigan.

LNS: Who was that?

JF: Bob Briner. And he had been contacted to take a job with Phil Robbie and Dave Dickson when they formed the Miami Dolphins and were joining the National Football League. And it was Bob Briner who talked me into applying for the job and he talked President Sponberg into hiring me for the job. So he worked on both sides. And so I

LNS: What year was that?

JF: This would have been 1966. And so it was a division. Dave Averil was the Head of Information Services at the time. Who was, would have been my direct boss at the time that I was hired and Keith Bowen was the Head of Health Physical Education and Recreation and Athletics at that time. Together they took me over to the president's house on Forest Street and we sat down in the kitchen and Sponberg talked about his vision for athletics. He was fairly new on the job and he was going to take the program to national prominence and he was going to bring in a new Athletic Director and a new football coach and would I like to be part of the team?

LNS: Is this a theme in Eastern's history?

JF: Yeah. So different from the hiring today. And when we got all done the president looked me in the eye and said do you want the job? And I said it really sounds interesting I'll give it thought. I asked you if you want the job. It was put on the table like if you want you say yes and if don't we're gonna move on. And so I took the job right there. And then you go back.

LNS: What was your title in that job?

JF: Sports Information Director.
LNS: Oh ok.

JF: And so then you back and say you know what did I do? You know, cause I wasn't unhappy where I was I didn't dream of doing Detroit Tiger Baseball or University of Michigan Football, I mean the Lion's weren't important when I was growing up. And I was already doing what and had only been on the job for a couple of years. But it ended up being the best decision that I ever made. Then there was the problem, the day that it was approved by the Board of Regents, which was in March of '66, the person who was to be my boss, Dave Averil, was fired and Curt ______ has hired. So all of a sudden, you know you've got this, you're coming into a new job and now who am I working for? I never met this guy before.

LNS: Now why was Averil let go?

JF: I think it was all part of that new movement to bring in new people in Information Services and Athletic Publicity. It was a whole new era. But it was good. I wouldn't be doing the things I'm doing today if I hadn't taken the job.

LNS: So in those days, Sports Information reported to the Director of Public Information?

JF: Yes it did.

LNS: Not like it does now?

JF: And it really stayed that way right up through the '80's. And for me it was the best of both worlds, because, you know the Athletic Director could always go to the president and say what a helluva job I'm doing and if there was a raise, it didn't come out of his budget. Came out of somebody else's budget.

LNS: Where did you go to school and where'd you grow up?

JF: I'm a Michigander all the way. I grew up in Port Huron, went to Port Huron Community College and graduated from Adrian. It was a split education I had, three years and I was in the Navy, and the Korean Conflict came along which we called the War when we were involved in it. And I was in the Naval Reserve, the Toledo Unit and we got activated so I spent a couple of years in the Navy and came back and graduated from Adrian.

PE: Information that I have says you started broadcasting EMU games in the '60's. Did that start when you came as Director of Sports Information?
JF: No. I did my first game of it was a football game in 1963 and I did it for a station that is now WSDS, it was WYSI. I came to town basically because I wanted to get a Ph.D. in Political Science at Michigan. I mean that's what got me here. I was managing a radio station in a little town on the western side of the state, Allegan. And I had finished everything but my thesis and I had done the research at Western Michigan and I got a job opportunity at WSDS as a Combination Engineer got my first class radio telephone license so I could be a chief engineer at a radio station and an electronic technician in the service. And so I came here and it was a golden opportunity because I could do the morning shift. I played country music in the morning from 5:30 till 9:00 and then was the engineer of record from 9:00 and until noon and did maintenance after midnight and could work on a Ph.D. in the afternoon. Unfortunately or fortunately, depending on how it looks, the person who had been doing Michigan football on this network originating out of WHRV which became WAAM had left under a station ownership change and I was doing the games and because I was in the market, they heard me, they hired me to do Michigan. So I got over WAAM and really got disinterested in getting a Ph.D. cause it doesn't matter if you have one if you're doing football.

LNS: Were you always interested in athletics?

JF: I was always interested in athletics. I was always interested in play-by-play athletic part of athletics. I never wanted to do the 6 and 11 and be in a studio or some place. Being at the game, I was always interested. I always wanted to teach Political Science which I never, that's the one drawback.

LNS: Next life. When you look back when you look back at the athletic program prior to your coming, just to take it historical, what stands out in your mind or what were the highlights of the EMU historically speaking? What would you think would be the most important to look at?

JF: There are a lot of things. Just talking briefly, I always wished that I could write a complete historical book on athletics. But the middle part frightens me away. I can outline it, I can phrase the questions, I can write the results but it's the research. I mean so much that I know is hearsay that you can't put in a book if you don't have time to go document to find out whether that hearsay is really, really true. The real highlights, I mean you start back and I really know nothing about the foundation of athletics with Wilbur P. Bowen and back in there. My first association with it would be talking to the people who were involved in the early thirties. I mean, they were the alum's in the 60's when I came here and used to meet with them and the stories that they would tell were really great but they could really, football and I think it was 1929, '30, '31 when they were playing at Soldier Field in Chicago before seventy thousand people and playing at the
Michigan Stadium and how at that time Michigan would play double headers they would play Eastern in the first game and Central Michigan, or Normal College at that time in the second game. And it is documented in places. I remember going back and reading it but there was a whole group of people out of Toledo at that time who came up here and many of the athletes were from there. The greatest of which was a fellow by name of Andy Vanyo and he was probably the first legitimate All-American selection for Eastern Michigan. The second team Walter Camp, major college teams played the All-Star games. But there was one story I remember reading of where he was playing against Michigan and there wasn't a rule at that time that you had to wear a helmet but today you must have a helmet on and how frustrated he tore off his helmet and threw it to the sideline and in the next play charged into the Michigan backfield and made the tackle. And the drama of that play. And I had the chance to meet him once, he had made a vow when he left and although he spent the rest of his life in Toledo that he was not going to return to campus until the 50th reunion of the ball club of which unfortunately, he never made. But we were in Pocatello Idaho to play Idaho State and one of the other team members owned a bar, fellow named Howard Burnhagen. And Andy Vanyo rode the train from Toledo to Pocatello Idaho to go to the game. That was the first time he had seen Eastern Michigan play since he was there.

PE: About what year was that John? Any idea?

JF: It would've been before '72. Somewhere in there because I remember Sponberg was in the bar that day and entertaining people and I think we never saw the light of day. I think we arrived at 2 in the afternoon and went home like 3 in the morning or something. One story after another.

LNS: Sort of one of the peculiarities of the Sponberg Era.

JF: That's right. I always wondered how he could do it and we found out later that he couldn't. And he didn't go on. Cause he could drop you off at 2 in the morning and he could continue to go and you were dead at 2 in the morning.

LNS: And he was back at work the next morning.

JF: Yep.

PE: So you're first football game in '63 sounds like it was a U of M game that you broadcast.

JF: No. My first, Eastern Michigan game. I did Michigan in '64 - '65 after I was hired and then came here in '66 and then moved on. That first year,
1963 was the first game was against Ball State but later that year, I did a game against Kalamazoo College, Eastern Michigan and Kalamazoo College and Jim Harkama who was later the head coach here was the quarterback at Kalamazoo College at that time as well as Defensive Halfback.

LNS: Small world.

JF: Yeah it is. How the circle comes around.

LNS: Yeah.

PE: So but you continued broadcasting somewhat regularly after that?

JF: Pretty much. There was because of some job related problems along the way, I mean there were sometimes and I have trouble even recalling what year, such as 1984; when we were running Eastern Energy and I stepped away that year from broadcasting, I did basketball that year but I didn't do football.

LNS: The two sports that you did announce was basketball and football right.

JF: Basketball and football and I did baseball when I had control of WAMU and they had a broadcaster.

LNS: That's a long time ago. I didn't realize that baseball was on EMU. That's before I came here.

JF: It would've been in the early through 1976, '77.

LNS: See I came in '75.

JF: Well we did it in '75 - '76, cause we did the College World Series.

LNS: What other things stand out in your mind?

JF: I still think they should.

LNS: What else stands out in your mind from olden days?

JF: Well and then there are the stories that and again, I don't know the truth to them, that's why the research. They're first hand hearsay of how the great de-emphasis of athletics that occurred under Eugene B. Elliott and this group of alum's who were basically the same people who played in the 30's that we're talking about, Vanyo, Howard Bernhagen, Pete Mathison, Gus Howard, Oldie Sanders, it was probably the last one that was around.
They used to meet under the guise of being a Football Bus Committee at the Roundtable Club in Plymouth, which was a private club aligned to the Mayflower Hotel. Back when you couldn't drink in Plymouth so you would get around it by forming a club. And supposedly, I mean they really were kind of a group that was in for the overthrow of Eugene Elliott as president to get a president in who believed in athletics and the turning point came with the Constitutional Convention that gave Eastern Michigan their first Board of Regents and really a person you might want to talk to probably the only one that I know is still around is Larry Hussy.

LNS: Well Dean Rockwell was part of that group. Wasn't he?

JF: Yes he was.

LNS: And they went to the State Board, they went to the State Board and they said that he, they put it on the academic level that he was the accreditation was supposed to be coming. And they wanted a North Central Association and they blamed it on the accreditation that he was eroding the acred...they never raised it as football. And they got North Central to come and move up there, I think they moved up their visit by a year. And then the State Board then got involved because the State Board felt that there was something to all of this. And they eventually came up with a motion of censure of Elliott saying that he had not lead the university in the right way and subsequently led to his asking for his resignation, eventually, so they fired him. And then at that same point, the State Board which was over all of this Normal Schools was done away with because the State Constitution came out so the Board of Regents came in the first thing they realized was they had no knowledge of how to run a school and they had no continuity and therefore they re-appointed Elliott and he served until they appointed Sponberg. So that the state, the Board of Regents was really responsible for reinstating but the State Board, I have the article, the resolution was it was very embarrassing, you know, as boss you are not going a good, we're asking you to goodbye you know.

JF: Well that's the right story. The link to athletics is this group was a group of football players from 1930's who met at the Roundtable Club, which was owned by an alumnus of Eastern, Ralph Lorenz.

LNS: Who stayed part of the Eastern alumni voice, so to speak?

JF: Yep.

LNS: Now it was never clear to me that it came as a result of his diminishing the athletics. That's what's interesting to me in this conversation.
JF: I mean again, that's the hearsay part and you wish that you would have documented a lot of this but you know, when you're in your 30's you don't think about these kind of things anymore, the genealogy. And so then with the constitutional convention and Eastern getting their own board with Ed McCormick and Betty Hussy and Pat O'Hara and these people, the influence of this group was to get a president who had a strong belief in an intercollegiate athletic program and they hired this guy who was a little All-American at Gustavus Adophus up in Minnesota and then you get a whole new era of athletics at that particular time.

LNS: Now we were in different conferences prior to that time.

JF: Right. We were in the inter-state intercollegiate athletic conference originally which is the IAC which is what all the Illinois schools, southern Illinois, Illinois State, Western, Northern, Central Michigan and then under Elliott, dropped out of that and joined the president's athletic conference which was Bethany, Teal, Allegheny, Washington & Jefferson, John Carroll, Western Reserve, Wayne State was in it in the latter years.

LNS: This was during Elliott's term.

JF: This was in the latter part of the Elliott administration and that was what we ran when I came to Eastern. The first year I was here.

LNS: President's Intercollegiate Athletic Committee?

JF: President's Athletic Conference, PAC. Simon Pure coaches could not recruit or practice on days when school wasn't in session. If you went on break for Christmas at December 15th until January 2nd, athletes went home, the gym was locked, there was no practice.

LNS: Elliott did away with any money for recruiting?

JF: That's right.

LNS: I mean he did...is that all correct?

JF: All on-campus recruiting by you know, letter out, they come in.

LNS: The alumni could help recruit in those days, but the coaches could not.

JF: Coaches could not.

LNS: That's good that collaborates that for me. This is helpful in another way. So Elliott obviously leaves, you come in under Sponberg, you're now announcing I mean there were some big names that were associated with
the School prior. I know there was during the war, we played Michigan twice, we won both games cause the guys from the military marched down you know they couldn't play they routed us on to victory. We played Wayne University. It was our perfect football season. We played one game and we won both. One of the few perfect seasons. We've had perfect seasons. Except for this one. Any other big names that are associated with this era before Sponberg came?

JF: I gave you the names of the people in the 30's. And then once you get beyond that I know outside of the coaches outside Olds and Rynearson were the dominant people in athletics at that time.

LNS: This is in the?

JF: This would be in the 30's to the 40's. Rynearson had just left prior to my coming here. I didn't know him.

LNS: He was head of the

JF: Well he was the football coach, well he coached football, basketball, they did everything. Olds had been Athletic Director and he was still in town. Cause he was telling me how to run the office for about 2 or 3 years after.

LNS: Dean Rockwell was an athlete in this pre-Sponberg period. So he was there, what about Col. Stephens. He was in the pre-Sponberg era too, right?

JF: Yeah he was in that horrible team they had in was it it's the team that had the worst record in basketball and this ball club came one short of tying it. The team Stephens played on lost their first 15 games. This year, we lost our first 14.

LNS: I wouldn't go around bragging about that.

JF: No I don't think I would. I mean there's certain things that some of these people are very sensitive about.

LNS: And that's one. You don't have to tell me.

JF: You don't tell George Beaudette about the number of interceptions you throw. I mean Stephens will tell you about how he scored over 40 points in one game and they still lost. Stevens at that time. He became Stephens sometime.

LNS: in the military life. What about Walter Briggs, Bingo Brown, he was here before he was here till when, Bingo Brown?
JF: They were all before me, too.

LNS: He was a big name you always hear him associated with athletes and he just went out of his way to recruit athletes.

JF: As the Dean of students.

LNS: Dean of Men.

JF: Right and.

LNS: Started all of his speeches with Men of Ypsilanti.

JF: And in the first few years I was here, I think John Meijers who is an alum has a lot of his tapes again if you want to do a complete story someday and he would always play them at banquets.

LNS: Well he played one at a banquet JoAnn and I went to very early and an older fellow sitting at our table got up and said to his wife, Bingo's here. And his wife kept saying shut up you fool it's on tape and he said, no, no I hear his voice. JoAnn was absolutely stunned and we couldn't get this guy to sit down, he kept looking for Bingo and was so.

JF: He must've been an amazing person. I mean people who knew him speak so affectionately of him.

LNS: Big difference in people's lives.

JF: Briggs was a big donor and again the story in that I don't know the truth to gets back to the bidding of toilets. That he had donated the football stadium, money for the football stadium, the basketball stadium and the Briggs Hall over here was going to be the lobby for a field house. And then they got upset because he didn't have the low bid on the toilets and they got Kohler toilets something other than Brigg's Beautyware and

LNS: I've been trying to research that story.

JF: This is the frustrating thing. If you really want to write a book, these are really interesting things and you can't put them in a book if you don't have the time, the bird-dogs to go out and research it.

LNS: My research shows that's lord, he really came to Ypsilanti, he was from Ypsilanti apparently, Briggs, he came and he wanted to do something for the city and Bingo Brown was showing him around the campus and Bingo Brown influenced him into instead of doing something in the city, to do
something on the campus. And he got him to build a field house, which is the current Briggs Hall, was never supposed to be the large entrance now this is what I heard and I've been trying to check this story out too and he got him to donate, there were 2 sets of stands and Briggs donated the south set of stands. Later on the college funded the north side and that the façade, there was a façade that matched the Bowen Field House façade that was entrance into the football stadium. That's what I've heard and that's all he ever intended to build. I've searched this story up and down. So now we're here and it's Sponberg Era.

JF: The only other one you might mention too is Freddie Trosko who coached. He played in the same backfield at Michigan with Tom Harmon and Forest Devushetski scored a winning touchdown against Ohio State and he's got there's some glamour to the fact and he coached during all of these down years, always fighting the president for more money for athletics. Always trying to upgrade the program and unfortunately Sponberg came in and Sponberg promised that he was going to do all these things and Trosko said I want them now, I've heard all of this. And Sponberg said you've got to be patient I can't do everything in the first three months of my administration and Trosko quit.

PE: When he was football coach?

JF: He was the football coach and he retired to teach Physical Education as so many coaches did, filled up all of the billets in the phys ed. Department.

LNS: For years to come.

JF: For years to come.

LNS: You couldn't get to be a coach unless you were a faculty member in those days.

JF: The coaches all taught at that time. It wasn't until the 60's that it became a separation of athletics and natural hiring of coaches.

LNS: That was only for football basically and basketball right?

JF: Originally yeah.

LNS: So now we're in the 60's and Sponberg is here in '65 - '66, Fountain is here and there was this big blow out was it with George Gerbin. What happened in that one? It was a big turning point in that program for some reason. Who was here and what led up to this?
JF: OK. It was, the one with Gerbin was I think the Semi-Final game in the NCAA College Division Tournament in Evansville Indiana and we were playing Roanoke College and this was an outstanding Eastern Michigan ball club that had won 18 in a row at one stretch of the season. Played an extremely tough schedule.

LNS: What league?

JF: We were independent we were in the NAAA. There's a whole part of history of the vision when Frosty Ferzacca came in as AD. They had a vision of Eastern being major college in athletics. You can define Major College in some people's eyes, it was strong enough to get into the Big Ten and others it was you know, but be able to play with the big guys. But first, they had to get some national recognition and so they charted a path that would go through an organization called the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, NAIA. Basically, small colleges. The advantage of being in the NAIA was that the primary advantage was that you could play one semester, transfers as opposed to NCAA that made an athlete sit out for a full year. So we had a case where Arnold Fontes was the starting Quarterback at Ohio State at the beginning of a season and this is the brother of Wayne Fontes, isn't getting playing time at the end of the year, is upset, transfers to Eastern Michigan. The semester he sits out is the spring, well you don't play football in the spring, but he can be part of spring football and in the fall he's your starting quarterback. And so you were able to get a number of athletes that were transfers from Michigan State, Ohio State, University of Illinois that I remember coming into the program and that's how they began to build up and then go for national champion. There was a period, I remember writing a story once in which would have been the later 60's, early 70's where we won 15 national championships in athletics in the NAIA Tournament. That would be basketball, track, swimming, baseball. Then in the early 70's we took the next step which was to withdraw from the NAIA and join the NCAA but what would now be considered one AA at that time, they had the university division and a college division. And we were in the college division. Similar to one double A. And we had gone all the way to the Final Four which would be the top four teams in the college division and the tournament was played at the Univ of Evansville (IND.). And in the semi-final game, we were getting beat and George Gerbin I think fouled out, he committed a foul anyway. Again, this is where I would have to research to make sure that it was his fifth foul there, anyway, he fouled a fellow named Jay Piccola who was a Caucasian and George was a black and this whole thing.

LNS: This was on TV?

JF: I don't know if it was or not.
LNS: I think it was.

JF: But it has to be placed really in the setting of the time in which there was a lot of racial unrest. And just prior to the Ohio and Minnesota had got into a real Donny Brook and a fellow for Minnesota, a black by the name of Ron Beehagen had punched out a Caucasian Luke Whittey from Ohio State and there were a couple of other of these situations going on. So, I mean some of the things that happened in that game that they happened today wouldn't be that important, but you have to look at them in the setting of the time and the nervousness of everybody that you know, the smallest spark can erupt a riot. Anyway, George, I mean as I remember, George fouled Jay Piccola and walked off to the side of the court and then came back out onto the court and Jay Piccola thought he was coming back out to apologize and kind of raised his hand out and George just took one punch and cold-cocked him and he went... and then Jim Dutcher who was the coach, took the microphone and apologized to the crowd and resigned and saying he could no longer control his ball club and he really resigned.

LNS: Did it hold?

JF: It did hold.

PE: It was at that game?

JF: There at the game. The Chairman of the board of regents, Ed McCormick was at the game and I mean it was a frightful night, I can remember being in the hotel and the problems going on and they were going to suspend George Gertfin from playing in the champion, it would be a consolation game cause we had lost. I think we were going to play Tennessee State I think in the consolation game. So most of the other black athletes were going to boycott the game and wanted tickets back home.

LNS: From all the schools?

JF: No just from Eastern.

LNS: From Eastern.

JF: Eastern's players. And so this went on in the hall all night, chest pumping and I want my ticket to get out of here. And Tony Berkowski was the athletic Business Manager at the time, he was right in the middle of everything. The biggest voice of reason in everything was George Gertfin. Who really was portrayed wrongly, you know from that day forward because of having been connected with the athletic department closely at that time being there. There were a number of athletes that I probably
wouldn't want to take home for dinner but George wasn't one of them. George was a good person, a decent person and you know if I was going to do any research for it there's a fellow named Jerry Tyson who lives in Ann Arbor, who was a friend of George's and they went to King High School in Detroit together and really was partly responsible for George transferring here from Long Beach State. Who played that championship game and basically because George said you know, the right thing to do is not to boycott, it is to go out and play.

PE: Did you ever talk to that George after the incident or remember what he said in terms of you know, why?

JF: I did talk to him, but I don't remember, George was not a great conversationalist.

LNS: Still isn't. Is that how we got the reputation for being an all-black school from that national publicity? Was that where that came from?

JF: I don't know, might have.

LNS: I've heard this, that's another thing I've never been able to...where did this reputation start, how did we become known nationally as a predominantly black institution?

JF: I don't know the answer to that. It possibly could come from the basketball image at that particular time.

LNS: What other things stand out in your mind, now we're going through the 70's.

JF: The growth in the baseball program under the very best in the nation is one. Started in '70 or '71 whichever came one of those years, they won the NAIA Small College National Championship and you know that team Roger Coryell was on it and he was like the number six pitcher and the thing, that team still typifies to me what athletics is all about. You can go down the roster and every one of those people, from top to bottom, successful today. I'm watching television a week ago Sunday and I was talking to somebody this morning cause I was switching channels. It as either from Hawaii or Phoenix there were two tournaments Senior and PGA. The tournament's over and the person who came out to present the keys to a new Chrysler and check for the winner was Jay Kuhnie who is Head of Corporate Relations for DaimlerChrysler and he was a pitcher on this ball club.

LNS: Oh really?
JF: He went to Eastern?

LNS: He graduated from Eastern?

JF: Yes.

LNS: What's his name?


PE: And he was on this team?

JF: He was on that team. Grew up in Allen Park or Melvindale, one of those two. He came here but off of that team, we got one person who is still a major league manager, Terri Collins another Rocky Rose a Major League umpire, you got Jay Kuhnie, you got Terri Trott who is a practicing attorney in Hillsdale, you've got Jerry Cramer who is the Principal of Lake Fenton High school here in Warren the athletic director in Marine City. You go right on down. If you wanted it and they were National Champions.

LNS: That was Qestrike's first big year?

JF: That was the culmination of the college division era and they won that national championship and then they moved into the university division in '75 they defeated Michigan and went to the College World Series which the top eight in the country. And then the following year in '76 they also beat Michigan in the regionals and went to the college world series and made it all the way to the championship game and lost to University of Arizona. And off of that team they had four pitchers who made the Major Leagues. Chico, Bobby Welch, Johnny Martin and a fourth guy. Did I say Johnny Martin?

LNS: Chico, Welch and Martin you said. I didn't realize there was a fourth. Now that was in 1976?

JF: That was 1977. 1976 yeah, 1976. Maybe you're right may be just three, I'm just thinking of '75 with Ken Brushanski who made it to the top level on the Tiger Farm Season and played with Dick ______- that group but he didn't make the Major Leagues.

LNS: He's still around, he's a good friend of Jim Vicks, Ken Brushanski.

JF: He's still a very loyal alumnus and a good person.
LNS: So these guys that you mentioned like Kuhnie, have we really ever honored them on campus since then?

JF: I don’t think we had anything with Kuhnie at all.

LNS: What a mistake. I’ll have to look him up. So we have the highlight of the 70’s then was the baseball team.

JF: That would be one of the highlights. I mean if you wanted to, the football team in that same year ’71 went to the Pioneer Bowl.

LNS: Now who was the coach then?

JF: Dan Boisture.

LNS: Who was pretty popular too.

JF: Yeah. He was a former assistant as Michigan State under Duffy Dougherty when he came here and he was Sponberg and Ferzacca’s first hire as a Football Coach. When he left, he went with the Detroit Wheels.

LNS: Which played at Eastern?

JF: Yeah.

LNS: That’s how we got our first lights in the stadium. I don’t know if you were aware of that. So now we have Dan Boisture was a famous coach, who was the basketball?

JF: Dutcher. Jim Dutcher.

LNS: Dutcher was the basketball coach. He earned some stripes too.

JF: He was the first coach under this new regime with Ferzacca up until the Gerbin incident and

LNS: The he resigned under Gerbin.

JF: And he resigned in that ballgame.

LNS: And who came in after Dutcher?

JF: Al Freund.

LNS: Al Freund, ok. And then we went right down hill except one game where we beat MSU during his first year right?
JF:_________________ and Dick Vitale on one other occasion.

LNS: So then from Froehn we went to

JF: Ray Scott.

LNS: Ray Scott to?

JF: Jim Boyce.

LNS: Jim Boyce then Ben Braun.

JF: Ben Braun.

LNS: Ben Braun to?

JF: ________.

LNS: Ok. Milt Barnes.

JF: Yeah. Yeah. Then Ben Braun replaced Milt Barnes would had been an assistant under Boyce. That's how he got here.

LNS: Oh really?

JF: Yeah.

LNS: Interesting. So in football what's the succession? We had Boisture?

JF: Boisture and then you had George Manns.

LNS: Oh yeah, George Manns.

JF: Who is now in the legislature came from Michigan State Legislature. He was the Mayor of Trenton and then he went to State Legislature.

LNS: Is he there currently?

JF: Yes. Unless he got term limited. I don't know. He was in during the last session.

LNS: So George Manns. After George Manns?

JF: Was Eddie Glowick. Chlebek
LNS: Ed Glevick. Opportunist. Is that true?

JF: Huh?

LNS: Is that a fair characterization?

JF: Yeah. He had a great season like 8 and 3 and then left for Boston College.

LNS: Yeah. Went downhill there.

JF: Went downhill then went to Kent and had a very losing season.

LNS: Where is he doing now?

JF: He’s selling insurance or something in Florida. In Maple Florida.

LNS: That’s what he should’ve been doing in the beginning. OK. So we went from Glevick and after Glevick we had?

JF: Mike Stock.

LNS: Oh Mike Stock. When I was in Buffalo in 1960 he was assistant coach in Buffalo. Mike Stock and then we went from.

JF: He was the only coach I ever fired. One of my ________

LNS: Was it the coach?

JF: He was one step beyond his ability. He was a good assistant coach before he came here and he’s been a good assistant coach ever since he left. But as a Head Coach he didn't have any control over his ball club.

LNS: That was obvious.

JF: And unfortunately at that particular time I had two or three students daughters who were students here who were kind of truth squad of what was happening the dorms with his athletes and he wouldn't believe you know the situation. There were some unmentionables.

LNS: Who came after him?

JF: When he left we had Bob LaPoint as an Interim Coach at the end of the year and then we hired Harkema.

LNS: Harkema and then Harkema gave way to?
JF: He left and then Corliss was an Interim coach and then Ron Cooper and then Rasnick?

LNS: The program's gone up, down and up, up and down over the last. How do you explain that?

JF: Ah. The lack of consistency. I don't know. You've got a leak on all these stories I mean it's hard to make something short I'm telling you anything that I never told Jim Harkema to his face. Jim Harkema did what we hired him to do. At that particular time I was so on the outs with the hirings from the University of Michigan and these people who came in and have been given hundreds of dollars every Friday to go recruit and do all these kind of things and always thought that Eastern was beneath them even though they were here. And like George Manns, I can remember, George was a failure because he never could really accept the fact that he couldn't recruit at Eastern when he thought in his own mind he was a great recruiter and what it really was Michigan was a great recruiter and he was the agent of Michigan and once he came here his replacement at Michigan was invited out on the yachts on the lake and to the parties and he was no longer. So we kind of set a criteria that we wanted a hungry young coach who had been very successful at one step below and that was Harkama who came from Grand Valley and brought his entire staff. And in 1987, he won the Mid-American Conference and he won in the California Bowl.

LNS: And he won that California Bowl with one-second left, right?

JF: And he did it with a staff in which there wasn't one assistant coach who really...with a staff and but they were very good because it's a case where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. They believed in each other they fed off each other and they were a very, very strong staff collectively although you wouldn't just go out and hire any one of them.

LNS: The Rat Team. (or They're a team.)

JF: That's right and second, he won with good kids. Kids who were at Eastern Michigan because it was a school of first choice and weren't recruited by Michigan and rejected. They came to Eastern Michigan because this is where they wanted to be and you could go right down the line from Steve Pompateer's, the Tommy Kiefer's, the Tom Menard's, the Neil Burtrum's, not Neil Burtrum Keith Burtrum. These were all good kids who were coachable and reached the maximum of their potential and they became champions because of it. Then the university made the determination that they wanted big paydays and they wanted to schedule the University of Arizona and Penn State and Syracuse and these schools. And
subconsciously he still has trouble admitting this but I've challenged him on these over old granddad that I can't win with these kids at that level. I may have won the Mid-American Conference but I've gone out to Arizona and got beat 55 - 0 and so I've got to get a different caliber of kid and he went out and recruited better athletes but not better people, not better students and not better coachable people. And when I'm saying better people, I mean you could take some of the people that come, the Sullivan's of the world and they would do it. Some people that played after that had greater ability to make spectacular plays because they had much more quickness but they didn't have to make a spectacular play they only made it because they were out of position. And I think that went down and the other part of it is there's been no consistency in the program. Harkama didn't have an assistant that could take over the program when he left. There was nobody there really ready to take the learning base and move on. You bring in an outsider and they go back and got to learn how to

LNS: Harkama left though because he really lost control of the team right?

JF: No I don't think he did. I think he left because he felt he was going to get fired if he didn't leave so he wanted to leave and so he wanted to leave he felt as though he had no alternative.

LNS: He was having a bad season.

JF: Yeah he had lost. But you know mine as administrator and one of the hard things as an administrator is to understand how athletics works because they're different. Is that you know if you've got a major league baseball player and he's hitting 340, 340, 340 and all of a sudden he hits 260 you get out the tape and say what were you doing when you hit 340. In athletics Harkama wanted Mid-American Conference Championship finished second, finished second and had two losing seasons and now everybody wants to get rid of him rather than say, what were you doing in there three years that you had a successful program that you're not doing now? Let's look at the tape and let's go back. And you go out and you bring in a brand new person. And what I think we would both agree is one of the more unique markets in America. I mean this is not a carbon copy of other areas that people would come from.

LNS: No it isn't.

PE: Would you say the Cal. Bowl victory was the highlight of the football teams history?

JF: Would have to be. Yep.
LNS: What about the basketball team? The two bursts at the NCAA?

JF: I would think, I would say that from a public perception and not a private one. I think from a public perception, the two would be the first tournament game ever played by Eastern Michigan in the NAIA Tournament at the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City.

LNS: What year would that be?

JF: It would be in the '66, '67. Around 1968. I mean, these could very easily verified out of.. Anyway it was our first post-season appearance in any tournament and we had won the NAIA District 23 Championship for the right to go and in the NAIA they take the top 32 teams in the Nation and they all come out and they play like Monday or Tuesday and we were unseeded, unknown and we were matched against the number two seed in the country. Steven at Boston out of Texas and we won that ballgame on a shot at the buzzer by Earl Higgins and I think that game gave us National recognition in the small college ranks but it made people aware for the first time in the program. That was really the starting point.

LNS: Who was the coach there?

JF: The coach was Dutcher.

LNS: Dutcher.

JF: And then the culmination of that growth then on the other end of the swing would be the Sweet Sixteen and the wins over Mississippi State and Penn State. I think from a personal point of view, the second team that went to the NCAA's were the better ball club but the public doesn't perceive it because the Sweet Sixteen has magic the other team beat Duke which is a better team than anybody we beat. And played Connecticut one of the best teams in the nation the second game and gave them a run.

LNS: So, we'll get to the other sports. Swimming, track and field sports.

JF: Track is, track is the greatest.

LNS: What was great?

JF: From Day One, the history of Track and Field

LNS: Who's the Day One Coach?

JF: The first there really have only been three coaches of record and that's Lloyd Olds, George Marshall and Bob Parks.
LNS: All great coaches.

JF: Yeah. And there if you want to see what's the trouble with football and basketball and baseball and you've had Bill Crouch, Ron Oestreicher and now Roger and in Track, you've had those three.

LNS: Before he goes is Roger a good coach here? We haven't had great seasons with him but

JF: I don't know that he is.

PH: Who are the three coaches, Old, Parks and who is the middle one?


PH: Right.

LNS: That's the dynasty isn't it for track?

JF: Yes. I mean and the greatness, I mean two Olympic Gold Medal Winners along the way and Hayes Jones and Haysley Crawford, you know, Earl Jones getting a Bronze Medal, I mean this is the ultimate when it comes to awards and that doesn't even get into the national prominence. That's world prominence.

PH: And what about swimming? They've had quite a run with

JF: Swimming is excellent but it's within the ranks of the NAC. Our swimming teams have done everything that this university has ever asked them to do and excel to the very best. Mid-America Conference frankly is not a great swimming conference in my mind, it doesn't match up to what track and field and baseball have done.

LNS: Other sports like wrestling, Marv Johnson's gymnasts, gymnastics, etc. What's your thinking about those?

JF: There haven't been any other centers of excellence that I in those.

LNS: We weren't a great gymnastics program when we did away with it?

JF: No. I mean we weren't bad. I mean we were good in men's gymnastics but we weren't great.
LNS: Women's sports?

JF: Women's sports, I mean all of that was really after I was closely aligned with them and

LNS: You must have a point of view.

JF: I think you're finally getting some growth in the women's basketball program like Suzie Merchant is probably the best thing that's ever happened to bring a positive force and you actually see some coaching. I think...tapes on.

PE: Isn't it interesting that you know with the major sports, football and basketball pretty limited success I think is an accurate statement.

LNS: But would you feel that? Would you say that's a limited success?

JF: No I wouldn't. You're talking about football and basketball? I mean basketball's had outstanding success. We're colored right at the moment because we're having a bad season but if you look back to the whole Ben Braun era which you know covers 10 years we've really fared pretty well.

PE: What I was getting at was that the major sports in terms of the resources and you know they're the spotlight sports and the degree of success compared to say a track program or a baseball program which traditionally at most schools doesn't get the attention or the resources and yet we have the continued success. I'm wondering if you shared that observation and what do you make of that?

JF: I think the continuity of program is one thing that those programs haven't had and I think that you have seen the result in basketball first with Dutcher and then later with Braun where you allow a person to stay in place for a good number of years, they learn the uniqueness of this institution, they learn how to recruit to this institution and what it takes to win at this particular level.

LNS: So you think we could leave Milt Barnes in there for ten years we will have?

JF: You might. I mean it's too young in the tenure to be able to.

LNS: No profession is more second guess than athletics is it?

JF: No.

LNS: There isn't anything in sports.
JF: No. You're taking a final exam every time you walk out and I don't know why anybody in this society would ever want to be a politician or a head coach. I mean the abuse that you have to take in society today at either level is disgusting frankly.

LNS: Tell me a little bit about Sponberg. Everybody knows that he had a pretty serious drinking problem near the end, was pretty well known on the campus, the way that people would describe him in the community.

JF: I don't think so. I think it was known but I don't think I would say well known. Sponberg was an outstanding president and I loved the man but I am a realist that he could never survive in society today in the way that he ran the institution. He was from a different era and really needs to be judged in the era.

LNS: How would you describe the way he ran the institution?

JF: He was very authoritarian but extremely loyal. I mean if there ever was, a lot of his problems with the Board and with the powers that be came from his loyalty to some of the people on campus who people might be after but I think you saw a situation this week which I thought was very "Sponbergian". In the raising of the ticket prices at the University of Michigan and the criticism of Tom Gauss and then the response of Bollinger who said Tom Gauss has kept me informed, it is not Tom Gauss' responsibility to inform the Regents, it is my responsibility to inform the Regents and he took the heat right off of his Athletic Director and said you know get off that man's case, that's my job to deal with the Regents. That was the way that Sponberg was. You could do something wrong and you would be the only person who knew that you did something wrong I mean face to face he could dress you down like nobody else. He didn't have to read through the lines like Porter or somebody and you were told to your face but nobody else ever knew. Outside, he supported you and you just didn't make the same mistake again.

LNS: Now what brought about his demise?

JF: Who was he loyal to that created the problem?

JF: I think one of them was Louie Profit who was his Vice President for Business and Finance at that particular time. I don't know, so much of it is hearsay at that particular time. And a lot of problems came with the change in the Board of the Regents. You had a change in governorship from George Romney to Bill Milliken. When you went from George Romney to Bill Milliken, the screening of the board candidates went from
one person who was very strong with the Ypsilanti Savings Bank to another person who was very strong with the National Bank of Ypsilanti.

LNS: Was it Warner that was strong? Is that who you're talking about?

JF: Yeah. It was that whole family of Warner, but Barb and Scott Woods, the whole hierarchy of the Ypsilanti Savings Bank that Louie Profit was very close with who had been around here and done a lot of business dealings and now you've got a swing and a replacement of the Board members and you've got the entry of Tim Dyer and Dick Robb and Beth Milford. I mean without putting value judgement on it, those are kind of the facts of the swing and you've got a president who stays firmly loyal to his old friends and in politics you got to sometimes walk the fine line and when the sands begin to shift you know, you shift a little bit with it. But I got a lot of respect for the other but it's not the recipe for survival.

LNS: Survival without the strategy. What were the issues? And I know you weren't necessarily as central as you may have been later on what were some of the issues that led from the campus' perception or your perception that led to Sponberg's falling it wasn't Lou Profit doing it wasn't that he was loyal to a different regime or something.

JF: I can only tell you what surfaced and what surfaced is not always the real reason I mean there was a lot of talk on the drinking problem which came from the other source but like so many other things is that the real issue or is that the saleable issue at that particular time or is the real issue blame politics and community town and gown.

LNS: There was no question when you read the Board Minutes which were kept in very great detail in that Era that Dyer just went after the Sponberg, never was after Sponberg or after anybody it was always, no matter what they produced it was wrong, no matter what they said it was wrong. You know, it was give us more, give us more, give us more, and you couldn't win.

JF: And there's still a lot of bitter feelings in there. My predecessor made the shift from being a Sponberg hire and appointee and an assistant to Lou Profit to a person who is Secretary of the Board who is really an architect with Dyer and the rest of them and you talk to Louie Profit today, there's no love lost. I get to see Louie every once in a while when I go to Florida.

PE: What would you say is your personal kind of brightest moment, bright lights during your tenure here?

JF: I think those two that I mentioned in basketball. I mean and it's hard to separate them because they're almost an era apart and the firsts in
anything you know are always more indelible in your mind than anything that comes later. I mean your first success at anything and that NAIA win was in my mind a bright spot and then the Sweet Sixteen and the California Bowl. I mean the track ones were more significant but you weren't personally involved in them. I mean somebody won a gold medal and you saw it on television and it was a lot.

LNS: It placed status on us.

JF: It's different from being you know right there and present and being part of it.

PH: Along a similar line what people do you think deserve some recognition or note within the program who we haven't already talked about? People whose names don't normally lead the mind when you're talking about Eastern athletics for contributions that may have just been a play or a character that they brought to a program?

JF: That's a good question. One that probably take some thought because the most important people in my mind are of course, Sponberg and Ferzacca. And everything that we have today was built on that base and the unique relationship that they had between them it was a relationship that you don't find in any other administration. I mean they were close.

LNS: They were Buds.

JF: Personal friends. It wasn't just administration and down, it was.

PE: Did Sponberg hire Ferzacca?

JF: yes. And they had met at Northern Michigan University where Sponberg had been a Vice President and Frosty had been and Frosty is now living in Green Bay, 90 years old. They are the most significant. The one who's had the biggest impact on me is Ron Oestrike. He's one of the most unique individuals that I've ever seen involved in intercollegiate athletics. I've learned more about management and

LNS: There's no job he wouldn't do from raking the field to painting the stripes to raised his own money. He really budgeted he really booked his own program budget and everything. These guys would go park cars and they would. Is that true?

JF: Yep.

LNS: He really was the soul
JF: He sold pop bottles to get two cents back on all of them to get the money to begin to get a southern trip to begin to build a ball. He was a frustrating individual as a Vice President because as a friend I had to I'd get requisitions for a new tarp and then I'd try to sweet talk Bill Swihardt into getting it through and he said well what are you talking to me for, they just delivered it last week and then you'd have to go get Oestrike and say, you know I'm not signing this requisition if you don't follow this you better find some private dollars to pay for it or take it home with you. But it's also that kind of determination that built a program.

LNS: You couldn't have gotten anywhere cause there never anybody who...

JF: But his ability to be fair with people and his uniqueness that he could be buddy buddy with his ball players on Friday night, laugh, have a good time and everything and be a coach and an entirely different person on Saturday afternoon and they knew it. And you could be the nicest, he could love you but if you weren't the best first baseman, you aren't gonna play.

LNS: Let's go through the sports and identify players too cause I think that's important. Football. Who stands out for athletes for football?

JF: John Banaczak would probably be number one. Has three Super Bowl rings with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Was a veteran when he came here. I think originally recruited by Assistant Coach Nick Cozelle, still really cares about Eastern Michigan. I'm not around so I don't know what their formal alignment is but I know that they're very cultivable you could cultivate them if somebody wanted to. I think that's number one. Most dominant football players would be Dave Pureifory whose brother was spelled like it sounds, mother didn't spell well on birth certificates. Dominant Linebacker and Defensive Tackle, played for the Detroit Lions and was their outstanding defensive player one year and the other, Ron Johnson. I think those are who was Eastern's only first round NFL Draft Choice, played for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

LNS: How about Rod Slater?

JF: Rod Slater is a successful person, yes.

LNS: But not a successful football player.

JF: But he wasn't bad. I mean he was the Captain of the football team. He was a starting halfback and a rare breed in that he was also on the forensics team.

LNS: Good student.
JF: And extremely successful.

PH: OK. Baseball or pick a sport.

LNS: Well baseball, let's go with Baseball. We named a few of them. Welch and Chinco and Martin.

JF: Right. And then track you've got Hayes Jones, Haysley Crawford. You could go on with all of them. Earl Jones, Gordon Minty, Dave Else.

LNS: How about _______ Dyers.

JF: If you really want to go back, Gene Beatly. Before my time but he's a book unto himself.

PH: Paul McMullen. Would you put him in there?

JF: Yeah. Well he's after me.

LNS: Would he have played.

JF: I just don't know him and never frankly had seen him run.

PH: Basketball? Did we cover basketball people?

JF: From Gerbin to Boykins I guess. One that's really interesting, probably the two most interesting people and from the positive and negative but yet both are successful; Kennedy Maclntosh who is still the leading rebounder in Eastern Michigan history was the top draft choice of the Chicago Bulls, he came out of South Haven, Michigan is now a Screen Writer and lives in Pasadena California and really to know these people as they came out of high school and know them as basketball players and then he came back to campus about three or four years ago and I had the chance to sit and talk to him to see the growth of these people is fantastic. That's what college is all about, you're talking twenty years later and the other one is Earl Higgins. I've got a ton of material on Earl and you probably don't want to put it on your book but other than the end of it as he works for the Chrysler Motor, the DaimlerChrysler now and is very successful.

LNS: This Kuhnie guy, was he any good?

JF: He was a starting pitcher on that national championship team.

LNS: He works for Chrysler too.
JF: Probably the best pitcher on the ball club he didn't have major league potential but was the best on that team. But Earl Higgins when he was here was charged with I think breaking and entering I think was the charge but the thing that makes it an interesting story is really worth the reading, it's a great story of Michigan Daily on a full page story that a student reporter did. He was sentenced by Judge Breakey to not play basketball for a year you know which is the most unique sentence, he said the only thing that this fellow who was a graduate of Ann Arbor High School, no Pioneer but understands is to take his basketball away from him. He sentenced not just to play for Eastern Michigan, not to play rec. ball, he wasn't to play basketball.

PH: Wow.

JF: When you think of unique sentences I mean what makes this story and then he came back and he was part of those bunch of great teams that turned around. His son and Sean Higgins played for the University of Michigan is now playing in the NBA. And Earl was a draft choice in the Indiana Pacers and did play professional basketball and he had all kinds of troubles with the law. There's one story in there when he was a junior in college out in Casper Wyoming he was charged with stealing a television and he said well you have to understand Judge that this is a racist community and I have a white wife who can't go out in public and she needed something to watch at home so he stole her a television.

LNS: Any other sporting things? Do you have any other questions? I have a couple of other questions? You were here during the John Norman Collins era, period.

JF: Don't know a whole lot about it but I was you know Sports Information Director at the time and was far removed when

LNS: Did that create a pall over the campus?

JF: Yeah it really did. And it was a rather eerie and as that scenario continued to grow and grow and one more body was found it really was. It was one of the eeriest probably, people were sincerely worried of the crime rape.

LNS: it wasn't until recently I realized I'd moved out to off of Gale Road and realized that was where he had dumped all of the bodies and they had never and I read the book and all of a sudden dawned hey this is.

JF: And the house just off Cornell over there in your neighborhood where the last one, the Bineman body was found down in the basement.

LNS: Clues were found down there.
JF: That's where they found the blood.

LNS: What about, you were he in the Porter era. What's your impression of Porter? You worked for him as Vice President.

JF: You know I've worked really from different levels for three different presidents who had three different management styles and it's really interesting from a Sponberg, very authoritative, authoritarian style you know, loyalty, right or wrong, you know. If you're my enemy I will get you, if you are my friend, I will defend you. But a person who knew everybody on campus who could go to the Physical Plant and sit with the carpenters and talk with them or leave the carpenter and go over and talk to William Buckley and be able to carry on that kind. To Brickley who almost had a hands-off approach of just don't get me in trouble and you can do whatever you wanted. To Porter who was the most organized man I ever have been around. You could send him a three-page memo that he sometimes knew better than you knew even though you wrote it. You'd go back and say well on page three paragraph two didn't you say, and then, wrote that three days ago, I don't remember. I did it on my way home, please.

PH: Photographic memory?

LNS: No but he was organized. He also worked 112 hours a day. And you'd never throw anything away with Porter because eventually you came back to use it. And he could go from 400 hundred drafts. Porter files line the office with cabinets, Shelton's you could put in one folder. Brickley you anything or not.

JF: Yeah and it's really a tough transition for anybody who had worked for Brickley to go to Porter and be that tight, tight and under control when you had the freedom to do whatever you wanted but the most significant difference from a human standpoint is that working was fun under Sponberg and I never found it fun under John Porter. No matter how much I would say that I have great respect for the man and I think he was a good president and what he did for this university and management skills that I learned under John Porter, his tutelage, you know, day to day I found a lot of frustrations and I didn't find the enjoyment where under the previous administrations, you know coming to work was fun, I really enjoyed and it became work.

LNS: Do you think part of it was because that was the era that you were also Vice President and the demands on the Vice President were a little different?
JF: Yeah.

LNS: And it was probably the job too.

JF: Part is the job. The higher you go in a pyramid, the smaller your peer level group is, you know. When you're down here, your peer group is wide and as you get up and all of a sudden it narrows from 4 to 1 and 1 really doesn't want to socialize with you, you know. Where Sponberg did. I was a Sports Information Director which is the lowest level you can get and yet Sponberg would come to our house. I think the kids were kidding when my daughters would answer the phone, little tikes and they said the president's at the door. But it would be Sponberg. I want to talk to you come on.

LNS: You'd invite him in?

JF: Oh you'd invite him in and then next thing you know he's on the phone and he's invited 5 people over and he's got the meeting going on in your living room like when are these people going to go home?

LNS: What was his drink of choice?

JF: I want to say Scotch but I don't know I don't remember. It was a time that I really wasn't into drinking. I should have stayed away from it too.

LNS: Any other comments about the university or people that stand out in your mind? You started talking about Gary Hawks a little bit while I get you to feel comfortable saying it, you're talking about switched allegiances if you will, joined this new camp and had devastating impact on a number of people.

JF: Gary was very, very good to me. I mean, everything I got at the university had to come from Gary Hawks because he was up in the pyramid wherever I was it was Gary Hawks that made me his Head of Information Services, Gary Hawks who named me as Associate Vice President and actually put me in the position to become the Vice President and I enjoyed working for Gary Hawks because we were two different individuals completely and what I liked to do, he didn't like to do and vice versa and therefore it made really for a good team. The fact that he was a year younger than me and was an Ypsilanti native, I just figured we both retire here. I mean I figured, as Associate Vice President, I was last the rest of my life in that particular position. He could go out and do battle with all of them, I didn't want to do battle with all of them. I've always enjoyed being a practitioner. And that's one of the great joys I got for then next ten years by leaving the university and starting my own business because I made a commitment to myself I wasn't going to get into management. I wanted to
be on the front, I wanted to be a practitioner and stay that way. As a Vice President, you aren't a practitioner that much anymore. The joys are beneath you. I mean, you've got to allow your people at departmental level and your directors have the successes and you're handling all this other stuff that filters through the system that nobody else can handle. So you can handle, I'm not telling you anything, you've had amazing survival through all of it. That with Gary, I mean, Gary was a combatant, he enjoyed going head to head with people and I was much more of a passivist and a facilitator, can't we solve this problem, bring everyone together. So we really made a good pair. I could do the detail work and send him out and make him look good. And I didn't need the spotlight.

PE: Is there any component of athletics we haven't asked you about that you were hoping that we would touch on?

JF: Historically, it's interesting. It's like anything else, I think the chronological history is not as interesting as the personal history and you know if you really wanted to get into it I think that some of the scenarios that