

Maureen and Mike

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**Oral History Number: 191-002, 003**  
**Interviewee: George P. "Jiggs" Dahlberg**  
**Interviewer: David "Dave" Guffey**  
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**Project: George P. "Jiggs" Dahlberg Oral History Project**

Dave Guffey: August 19, 1987. Jiggs Dahlberg, day two. Okay.

Jiggs Dahlberg: There are so many University alumni who were in school during the time I was here. Their memories of these years may be entirely different than mine. I was mainly interested in athletics.

DG: Okay, Jiggs, let's talk a little bit more about your athletic career. Anything you want to talk about, sports-wise?

JD: I was a sophomore in 1921 and [Bernard] Bierman was the coach and Harry Adams, who graduated the previous year, was the assistant coach. That was the coaching staff in football. We didn't have an exceptional year. Probably, we won three and lost three and tied one. In 1922 Bierman left, as I told you yesterday. John Stewart came as coach of all sports and he was coaching football. There was one interesting game that year.

DG: This is '22?

JD: 1922, we played Montana State, out here on our home field. We won 7-6 and early in the game a Montana State player ran for a touchdown and missed the goal, so they had 6. Right toward the end of the game we scored just as the gun went off, kicked the goal and won. However, at that time the way they kept the time, the local timekeeper would hold the watch and the gun, and the opposing team would have a man walking up and down the sidelines alongside him checking. Our timekeeper was Heine Turner, a local businessman, and he kept time for every game. Well, as soon as we scored the touchdown their timer ran out on the field and said the game was over before the gun went off and he didn't shoot the gun until Montana scored. Well, they talked to the officials for a while and the officials had to go with the timer, so we won the game 7-6. Their coach was Ott Romney and Ott Romney was a great public speaker and I heard him say this, "In the eyes of God, in 60 minutes of play, we won."

DG: They couldn't protest or anything back then though. They were stuck with—

JD: No, never. In 1923 in football, [John] Stewart was still the coach and Harry Adams was the assistant coach. I dropped out of school after football that year and was out a year. So that's why my basketball and football years don't coincide.

DG: Why did you drop out of school? To go to work?

JD: I did go to work, yes.

DG: Where did you work?

JD: I worked in Butte.

DG: In what?

JD: Well, I was a teamster. I drove team in Butte there for a year and it was a very cold winter. Being a very cold winter, I decided that I better go back to college.

DG: Were you just trying to help out your family with money? Or disillusioned with school?

JD: No, I guess I got tired with school, that's what happened. In 1923 we were admitted into the Pacific Coast Conference, mainly on the strength of our freshmen team the previous year. When Bill Kelly and [Russell] Sweet were the stars of that team and they won all their freshman games quite handily. We played in 1923-24 in the Pacific Coast Conference Northern Division and we won seven games and lost eight that year.

DG: Jiggs, what was the sentiment in the school and the community when Montana joined the PCC?

JD: Well we were all enthused. We had been playing Washington State, Idaho and Washington and in the Northern Division it would have added Oregon and Oregon State. So we thought that we could compete. In 1924-25, I was captain of the team that year, we were playing Oregon out in Eugene and we had an incident there that I was involved in personally. We had one official at that time.

DG: Is that right?

JD: One official. I was going under the basket and the guy hauled off and punched me right in the jaw. Well I retaliated and hit him in the Adam's apple. You ever get hit in the Adam's apple?

DG: No and I don't want to.

JD: It knocked him flat. Bill Kelly, who was on the bench—he was a sophomore—he came charging out on the floor and pushed me away, "You're too small, you're too small." And he squared off at the guy. But they had to take him out. He couldn't play anymore. There was no foul called because with one official, the ball went the other way, so the official never did see the play, never saw what happened.

DG: What was Kelly like? Was he a feisty guy?

JD: Oh, yes, very feisty.

DG: He must have been a great athlete?

JD: He was a great athlete. He was a tremendous football player and a pretty fair basketball player and he was a good baseball player.

DG: What was he like? Was he cocky or was he a pretty nice guy?

JD: No, he was cocky. Not so much when he was on the basketball squad. We got along just fine, but in his junior and senior year, I understand, he was pretty cocky. Well I can tell you a story about it; we were playing Idaho and the story is that he was going back to catch a punt and on the way back he went by the Idaho bench and said to Coach [Bob] Matthews, "I'm going to take this one all the way." And he did.

DG: You could be cocky if you could back it up.

JD: That's right and he could back it up. Now then, that completed a time when I was playing. I came back here in 1937-38, as I told you yesterday, as basketball coach. That year the center jump was eliminated. I'll tell you a story about the center jump. After every basket we'd walk back to the center [to] jump after every basket. That's why you could play the whole game and never get tired. I don't recall ever getting tired.

DG: Because you're taking a break after every made basket.

JD: Yes, you'd walk back. And we only had one official. What we did though, we'd line up about eight or nine feet, two forwards and their two forwards, and then we'd charge in to get the ball, which is illegal now. There was a lot of bumping going on. Bobby Morris was an official in the entire Northwest, Seattle, and a very good official. This happened in the Idaho game out here. We went in there, the Idaho people and us, and the Idaho guy knocked Bobby Morris flat and Bobby Morris got up and said, "That's a technical foul." The kid said, "You can't foul me for that." He said, "Read tomorrow morning's paper." And another thing he did was, Bobby Morris—I saw him do this—when you were shooting free-throws, they [spectators] had to be quiet, they don't nowadays. They wanted quiet. The free throw man [would] get on the line and if there was noise, he [Morris] would say, "Just keep throwing. They'll quiet down." After about three or four throws they would quiet down. The officiating was good, in spite of the fact that we only had one official. That year, 1937-38, all the members of the team were Montana high school graduates. In basketball in 1938 and '39, 10 players received tuition and a job, earning either part or all board and room expenses. Basketball practice did not start until the football season was over. Because I was the line coach in football, so we didn't get a very good start. 1939—we had two walk-ons in 1937 and '38 that were excellent basketball players. Rae Greene, he was from Chicago.

DG: Hall of Famer?

JD: Yes, and he had an aunt out here when he came to school and the other one was Bill Hall, we called him "Biff," he was from Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

DG: I've heard of him, too.

JD: He was 6'4. He was big at that time for a center.

DG: He is still in the Dakotas. I heard he is very successful businessman.

JD: In Sioux Falls, very successful, that's right.

DG: I know you stay in touch with some of your former athletes around here and Naseby, but how about the network of all the players, coaches, et cetera that you have come in contact with? Do you stay in touch with many of them?

JD: Not too many, no. Kind of an interesting thing along that line, every now and then I'll get a call from somebody and it's interesting. Just last week I had a call from, oh, I can't remember his name. Well anyway, he played for me in Anaconda in 1931, as a freshman and he played halfback. He called me the other day from Kalispell. I haven't heard from him for 41 years. We had a good visit on the phone. And I've had several of those kinds of calls from players.

DG: Seems to me that you keep a pretty low profile around here anymore. Why is that? Like, I had to talk you into doing this interview. I had to talk to a couple of your ex-players to talk to you. Don't you want to be remembered? Don't you realize that you are pretty much synonymous with the University of Montana, because of your brothers and because of your athletic career as a coach and athletic director?

JD: Well, I don't want to go around bragging about myself or the family, so I—

DG: There's a lot to brag about, though I think.

JD: Well, maybe a little bit, I suppose. I was going to tell you about 1939, that was when "Biff" Hall and Rae Greene were playing and Barney Ryan and the others. We were over in Bozeman playing basketball—I believe we won the first game. Was [William] Lazetich on that team? Yes.

DG: Yeah, this is '39-'40?

JD: '38-'39.

DG: So this was your second team?

JD: Yes. Well anyway, we lost the second game over there, and they had that phrase going: "Poor Grizzlies."

DG: It was already going back then?

JD: Yes, "Poor Grizzlies." I got the fellows in the locker room and I said, "Men, I don't want to ever hear that 'Poor Grizzlies' again."

A couple of the players spoke up and said, "You won't while we're here." We never did while they were there. We won 12 consecutive games against the Bobcats.

DG: While I've got you thinking along these terms, this "Poor Grizzlies," "Poor Bobcats" thing, do you have any idea when started? Or who started it?

JD: No, I don't; it was about in that era, I think.

DG: Was it? They weren't yelling it when you were playing in the '20s?

JD: No, they didn't.

DG: It started somewhere in the mid- to late-'30s?

JD: Probably.

DG: Because it's so famous now.

JD: Yes, it sure is. I know I got awful tired of hearing it. Then in 1941 and '42 we won 13 games in succession, which is still the school record. And that year, 1941-42, we went to the National AAU tournament—well, that was 1940. The first round we drew a bye and the second round we played Wichita, Kansas, and beat them 36-27; and the next round we played Gary, Indiana, and we beat them 42-39. Then we played the Denver Nuggets, who were the champions.

DG: You played a pro team?

JD: Well, that's what they practically were, but they called them amateurs at the time. And they beat us 36-16 and eliminated us from the tournament. But that was a good year. Then 1942-44 I was in the army.

DG: Where were you stationed?

JD: I was stationed at Fort Lawton, out of Seattle. I don't know if I ever told you that story.

DG: No.

JD: I was stationed there in special services and the colonel called me in one day and he said, "You are going to coach the baseball team."

And I said, "I don't know anything about baseball. I can coach football and basketball. Right now, you have this man who is a baseball coach in high school from St. Louis." He was a friend of mine.

He said, "He's out, and you're the coach. And it'll be good." Well, all these players were Pacific Coast players.

DG: Probably good?

JD: Good. They were all young. I got these young men together and I said, "Now I don't know anything about baseball, but I'm the manager. I do know one thing, that you got to make runs to win. So we'll have a lot of hitting practice." I had a catcher, a 2nd lieutenant, who I put in charge of running the team, but I'm the manager. I got these kids together and as I say, I told them didn't know anything about it, so I handled them just like I would a college team and we had a lot of fun. We were in three different leagues and we won the championship of every league. Had a wonderful year, had a wonderful time. Had a lot of fun with those kids. Three of them played in the major leagues; Bert Hergason (?) played with Philadelphia and then he played with the Yankees, and a kid by the name of Matteren (?) played for Philadelphia and I forget who the third one played for. But we had a lot of fun there.

DG: Now in those days, was it the whole general student body who enlisted in the service during the war? I mean it just seemed like the war movement was so much different then because it had the nation's sentiment. I know numerous athletes signed up and a lot perished during the war.

JD: Yes.

DG: Was that the thing to do? If you were on campus, you didn't even think about it?

JD: We thought it was. Harry Adams, Doug Fessenden and I, we thought we could get in the Navy. So they had a Navy commander come around and check particularly your eyesight, and none of us could pass, so we couldn't get in there then. Doug Fessenden got in the Air Corps, coached in the Air Corps some big teams down in Texas. And Harry and I went over to Spokane and took the tests over there and we got in the Army.

DG: You were like 42 years old at the time?

JD: Yes, I was 42. Harry was very fortunate he got selected by Major [Frank] Milburn, who was a coach here. Harry was his assistant.

[Break in audio]

DG: Okay, where were we, Jiggs?

JD: We're down to the 1944-'45 season that I told you about yesterday. That was such a sad season. Eleven members did not finish the season that year.

DG: Because of the war?

JD: Well, yes because of the war, I suppose, mostly because of the war they quit. It was a very bad year. I still need to get the names of those two boys—

DG: The two walk-ons?

JD: The two that I got from the physical ed department. Do you have the names there? They didn't make letter.

DG: If they didn't have letter, I wouldn't have it.

JD: No, they wouldn't have letters. We'll have to look.

DG: It might be in your book.

JD: I know it's in the book. So then in 1945-'46 we had an unusual experience where both teams won the game. We were playing Idaho over there and at the end of the game they were one point ahead. Game's over. They had their scorekeeper and our manager [also] kept score and after the game they checked the score. After the game, our manager came down and he said, "We won. We were one point ahead." And Idaho, according to the official scorebook, won. The home scorebook is the official scorebook. Their coach came in later and he said, "You're right, the home book had the score one point in our favor. So I guess you won." Well, that night [Glenn] "Red" Jacoby, who later was the athletic director at Wyoming for many years and very, very successful—he was still in his Army uniform—he came up to my room and he wanted me to say that Idaho won. I said, "I can't do that. I have never determined the score of a game in my life. The home scorebook is the official scorebook. And I don't think it would be fair to my players to say Idaho won." Well he said, "I wish you would, because you know who the scorekeeper was for Idaho?"

I said, "I haven't the slightest idea." "Head of the math department."

DG: Is that right?

JD: So they called it a victory and we called it a victory, so both teams won that year.

DG Talking about Idaho, Jiggs. The Little Brown Jug, did that start around your era? Do you remember when that started? And was that a really significant football game, when Idaho and Montana met, because of that?

JD: Not particularly, I don't think. I think it started after the war, but I'm not sure about that.

DG: Okay, you're working your way up to the '49-'50 team, which I know a lot of people want to know about. You're talking about the '44-'45 team where you lost all the players. You were 7-23 that year, or something, right?

JD: Yes. Well before we get to there, I was going to tell you about fights we had. In 1935—I wasn't here then—was Doug Fessenden's first year. They played Southern Cal in Los Angeles and Southern Cal won the game 9-0. However, [Milt] Popovich ran a punt back for an apparent touchdown and they said he was out of bounds. There was an alumnus from the University that was quite a trackman here, he was in Los Angeles then. He told me this, "I was on the sidelines, right where he was, where he came down, and I'll swear he was two feet inside the sideline." But they called him back. Anyway, they had a ruckus, the players on the field. I got to get this right here someplace.

DG: Oh, you mean after the touchdown was called back?

JD: No, it was during the game, I don't know. The linemen got in a hassle and we, I think, got the best of the in-fighting, according to what I understand. We had one kid on there who was the Golden Glove heavyweight champion of the Pacific Coast.

DG: What was his name? Do you remember?

JD: Yes, I got it here someplace. His name was Roy Babich; he was from Butte. Then we had another kid from Butte that liked to fight, Robert Breen, he played center. And Lou Hartsell from Anaconda, he was pretty tough. But anyway, I think we won the in-fighting, but Howard Jones, the Southern Cal coach, after the game said, "We will never play Montana again."

DG: This was in '35?

JD: This was in '35, and he's still right, we haven't played them since. Well, in basketball we had a few, I guess it was after the war. The kids were kind of feisty. We were over at Farragut, the naval base [in Idaho], and they got in a fight. I never got into them; I just sat on the bench and watched them fight. But anyway, I remember part of the fight. There was Chuck Davis and John Cheek and Ray Bauer and [Lou] Rochleau. They were all competitors and they liked it. The main thing I remember, Cope goes up to Davis and throws his arms around him to keep him from fighting and pinned his arms and one of the Farragut guys punched—

DG: Cold-cocked him, huh?

JD: He punched Chuck in the jaw. But we did have a couple of fights that were kind of rough. We were in Gonzaga—

DG: Was this still the '45-46 season?

JD: No, this was '47. We were playing Gonzaga out there and two kids—well, Ray Bauer was in and two kids ran out from the crowd and started punching him. Well, the course the kids start fighting back. The cops came in and they threw them out. This was in the first half. And the second half, I'll be darn if those same two kids, I don't know how they got in, they come out again and all hell broke loose. They had a good fight. Father [Arthur] Dussault was a priest there and athletic director. Father Dussault was from Butte. He played the same time I—I don't know where he played in high school [Gonzaga Prep], I think he must have played at Butte Central, he didn't play for us. But he played for Gonzaga three years in football as center and three years in basketball as center. A big man, and a good athlete. Well, Father Dussault was out there in the middle of that floor pulling people this way and that way. He finally got it under control.

DG: Now, where did you guys play when you played Gonzaga then?

JD: We played in that little gym at Gonzaga and it was something else, I'll tell you. All the time we played we played there. I forget the name of the gym, but it wasn't very big. It was big enough for the floor, but everything was so close. Then we had another fight that was really quite interesting. It was over in Bozeman. It was the next year, 1948. Montana State had a kid by the name of Joe Kelly, who I tried to get from Butte Central, a real good basketball player. I tried to get him and couldn't. He was playing for them and we had just about the same group playing for us. He took a punch at [Richard] Carstensen. Carstensen was a mild-mannered man; he wouldn't fight anyone on purpose. [Lou] Rocheleau must have been 50 feet away. Rocheleau came running, boy, and he tied into Kelly. Well at that time, right in the middle of the court in the first few rows, the lettermen from Montana State sat, and we did it here too. The lettermen were sitting there. They came out on the floor and boy, did they have a fight! All the subs went in. I remember Ray Bauer in particular, I was trying to hold him back—he's left handed—he pushed me aside and he started out and a Bobcat come to meet him and he hit him with that left like that; the guy went flat. But they couldn't stop the fighting. Hugh Dike was their athletic director [and] Johnny Good was the official. I took a look at Johnny to see what he was doing, and he was purple in the face blowing his whistle but no one was paying attention. Hugh Dike ran over to get the band to play the "Star-Spangled Banner," that didn't help either. But Montana State had a big tackle from Butte, big kid, I think his name was Driscoll, well anyway he started helping us, pulling off the Bobcats, and we finally got it quieted down. But that was quite a hassle at the time.

DG: The game continued then?

JD: The game continued and there were no fouls called.

DG: Rougher than anything?

JD: No fouls called. Here something that's kind of interesting in a way. Harry Dahlberg, our oldest brother, was captain of the team defeating Washington in football for the first and only time in 1920.

I was captain of the team in 1925, which was the first team to defeat the University of Washington here in Missoula. The score was 33-28. My younger brother, Al Dahlberg, was co-captain of the 1934 team which defeated Washington for the next time in Seattle, 32-29. And George Dahlberg beat Washington in Seattle, as coach, in 1941. But we have beaten them since, and we've tied them in football.

I was going to tell you about the Colorado State game. You ever hear about that one?

DG: No.

JD: That's the one I'm coaching in. This was when we were in the Skyline Conference, I forget which year it was.

DG: Need the Red Book for that one, so I don't know.

JD: Well anyway, we were playing Colorado State down there and we had a good lead in the first half. In the second half they came out charging us and really played rougher than hell, particularly on the man with the ball. Actually, before we scored a point they were ahead of us. They kept fouling us on offense and then they'd foul us on defense, so pretty soon there were only three players left, just towards the later part—

DG: Three players on your team?

JD: Seven were out, and there were three players. So I took my coat off and I went out on the court and assumed the defensive position, to guard them. They had the ball. Well, it was probably a minute that I was out there and Nase came out and he talked me into leaving the floor. There was no technical foul called. There was nothing called.

DG: I was going to ask you if they called a technical foul.

JD: They didn't call anything; they just let it go. But after the game, one of the officials from Colorado State, he was [unintelligible] He came in to talk to us, he said, "I want to apologize for the way they treated you tonight. We at Colorado State like to win basketball games, but we don't like to win them that way." And another time we were playing Denver, in Denver. We were ahead going into the last minute or so and then I don't remember whether they fouled us or we fouled them or what, but anyway they won the game. So I'm going off the court and I

happen to be behind their coach, about five feet. The referee has got his arm around him, like this, and he says to him, "We almost lost this one, didn't we?"

DG: No!

JD: Yes.

DG: Did you say anything or just keep walking?

JD: I just kept walking. There's not much you can say. That's like we played down in Utah State one time, we were down there, and that's when [William] "Biff" Hall and Rae Greene and them were playing. Boy, was it a rough ball game. Oh boy, they beat us by 10 points. So I said to the official afterwards, "Is that the way they play?"

He said, "Yeah, that's the way we call them."

I said, "That's all I wanted to know." And I had some pretty tough guys on our team, so the next night I said, "Give it to them. The lid is off." They had a little kid who was a real good shooter and we had a little kid from West Virginia by the name of [Edward] "Butch" Hudasek, who was a good little guard. I told him, "Butch, you get right on top of him and don't let him move." Now that was illegal. Normally you can't stand right up next to a guy, you got to be away from him. But he got right up next to him and stayed there. Well, we won the ball game by 10 points.

The referee after the game said, "Well, I see you found out how we officiate."

I said, "We sure did."

DG: That was real common in those days to play two or three games in a row night after night?

JD: Yes. We'd go down and play Utah State, BYU and Utah.

DG Let's talk about one of those trips. A typical trip for you, like when you make a trip like that, what day would you leave? Take a train, I assume?

JD: Yes.

DG: Okay, tell me a little bit about that.

JD: We would take a train and go by train to Butte, and then they'd go down to Ogden. When we'd go down to Salt Lake and when we went to Denver we went from there [Salt Lake] over to Denver.

DG: How many kids would you take?

JD: Well, normally we took 10.

DG: Ten plus Naseby and you?

JD: Yes. After that incident in Colorado State, they told me to take 12.

DG: So you would have enough players to play?

JD: So I would have enough players to finish. We would get into Colorado State at about 3 in the morning and we'd play that night. We didn't go early like they do today and practice the day before.

DG: Did you all eat together like a team, pre-game type of thing, and you would have a chalk talk pretty structured that way?

JD: Yes, that's right. So we didn't spend as much time—well, we spent more time because we were taking the train.

DG: Now how about the equipment as far as basketball, just the shoes and the uniform? What was the ball like? Was it any different?

JD: No, no differences, not much different. Except when I was playing, they were leather balls that you pumped up.

DG: Harder to dribble probably?

JD: Oh, yes. I remember our coach would pump up balls and we'd roll them down the floor and they wouldn't roll true even. They just wouldn't even roll true. But we had to pump up the balls. Later when they got these, which they had then when I was coaching, the balls were—

DG: Consistent?

JD: Yes, they were consistent.

DG: What kind of money would you have to take? I'm sure you handled the expenses?

JD: Yes.

DG: To make a trip, say like you make that swing through Utah, play all those games, do you remember what your food bill or motel bill [was], what kind of money?

JD: I really don't remember.

DG: No? But you took care of that? Business manager stuff?

JD: I took care of that. I had to have receipts for everything, which was normal, I guess. Once in a while we had a bookkeeper I remember over in the student union [and] once in a while in football somebody may forget to get receipts. Boy, was she on them. We had to have receipts for everything.

DG: How about when you made these trips. You told me the story about the one time you had to boot off a couple of kids because they were in a bar. Did you have many problems?

JD: That was here locally.

DG: That was in town, okay. On the road, did you ever have any problems with your athletes while you were coach?

JD: Very seldom. They'd tell me stories later some of them did, several years later, like when we were playing in Gonzaga and Rae Greene was one of them and Barney Ryan, and I would check their rooms.

DG: What was curfew, 10 or 11?

JD: About 11. And I would check their rooms, and I was checking their room this one night and you know, it was okay, everything was okay, but they told me several years later, "Boy, were we scared! We had two girls in the closet. When you knocked on the door the girls got in the closet and you never caught us."

I said, "It's a good thing I didn't, you would have been through." So I suppose once in a while the kids would cheat and I had that happen in high school. We were playing in Glendive, in the district tournament in 1929, and we won easily. We had a good team. We were supposed to win the state championship, which we did. We had a good team. But anyway, [the] time was 11 o'clock, let's say, the last game, and I'm sitting in the lobby of the Glendive hotel waiting for them and they don't come in. It was kind of interesting because the other coaches were sitting around. They were wondering what old George would do. Players weren't in yet, some of them. Most of them were in. I'm sitting there waiting, so then I go upstairs to check, they're all in bed. They went up the fire escape and got in bed. I was going to fire them. But then I got to think about it and I couldn't fire them; they were in bed.

DG: We'll be talking about your basketball coaching days, the '40s, late '40s teams. How did you recruit some of these great players? Just luck in—

JD: Well on that particular team, '49-'50, '48-'49 was a good group too. But '49 and '50 we had—you got the list there?

DG Yes. [Richard] Anderson, [Joe] Brennen, [Robert] Byrne, [Robert] Hasquet, [Joe] Luckman, [Robert Calvin] Sparks, [John] Earheart, [Robert] Cope...

JD: [James] Graham.

DG: Graham, [Richard] Carstensen, [Ray] Bauer, [Charles] [John] Davis, Graham Nash.

JD: Davis wasn't on that team.

DG: Well he could have graduated by then.

JD: No, he had quit and then he came back later. He should have been on that team; he would have been.

DG Well this has his first-year letter as '46-'47, then he could have quit and come back. That's what it is. But anyway, that's a heck of a lot of talent. Four out of those five guys are hall-of-famers.

JD: Cope was a forward or center—let me go back. When I recruited Carstensen, I recruited Cope and I recruited Graham and they were all centers. Graham wasn't very tall, but he was a good center, so I had to try to figure out which group would be best together. I came to the conclusion that we'd play Cope center and Carstensen didn't like that.

DG: How tall was Carstensen?

JD: Carstensen was 6'5, Cope was 6'3. He's the biggest one. So I got a hold of Carstensen and he said, "I want to play center." I said, "Well, Cope is going to play center, and I'll tell you what we'll do, we'll play you at a guard and Graham at a forward. Then we had Sparks, a sophomore, at the other forward." So Carstensen said okay. So Carstensen played defense, guarded the opposing center, and Cope would guard the guard up front.

DG Now was the center the dominant shooting position then? Or did guards shoot a lot?

JD: No. We left the center more or less open, so Cope played on the side and Johnny Eaheart was a guard with Carstensen and he came on that last year and played awfully well. So what we did, we worked hard on the fast break, worked real hard on it. Carstensen would get the ball off the board and we had either side, we could get it to either side and then they'd—three men laying just like they do today, everybody do the same thing. Get the ball to the middle man and we were very successful with that. Carstensen got so he could shoot from out!

DG 6'5 and he could shoot from out?

JD: Shoot from out around a little beyond the bull ring.

DG: What kind of shot did he have? Was it like a set shot?

JD: No, it was a jump shot, kind of a jump shot one-handed.

DG: Where Cope had the hook shot?

JD: And Cope had the hook shot. Eaheart could shoot from out and Eaheart could drive.

DG: Eaheart is now the namesake for the outstanding defensive player at the University. Was he a great defensive player?

JD: Yes, he was. He was a good defensive player.

DG: Just a hard-working guy? Now how big was he?

JD: He was only 6 feet.

DG: Only! You guys had a pretty good-size team for those days, didn't you? Or was it comparable?

JD: Yes, it was comparable, I guess. Carstensen was the biggest at 6'5, then Cope 6'3.

DG: How about Graham, how big was he?

JD: Graham was only about 5'11, I guess. But he was pretty—

DG: Eaheart 6 feet and who was the other?

JD: Sparks. He was 6'2.

DG: So that's 6'5, 6'3, 6'2, 6'...yeah, that's big.

JD: And they could run. They could run and that's the reason we were successful.

DG: Now let me go back up a little. Talking about these kids, what was recruiting like then? Did you actually get the chance to go see those kids play?

JD: Yes.

DG: Was it word of mouth or through buddy friends?

JD: Well, I saw some of them play, but it was word of mouth reputation. Now, like Carstensen, I was over in Helena I don't know how many times, trying to get Carstensen. Cope was easy to get because [Ed] Chinske had coached those kids in high school, and Eaheart, and the Missoula kids. So they more or less automatically came.

DG All these kids were Montana-based kids, then?

JD: They were Montana-based kids.

DG Right. Because of Montana's location and relative obscurity as far as some of the powers, did you have to go head-to-head with like the Washington schools sometimes?

JD: Well, yes, we did go head-to-head. There was a kid from Havre who was a great basketball player, really. And everybody wanted him and we wanted him, and I thought we might get him. He was going to Southern Cal was the talk, so I wrote the coach from Southern Cal and I said, "We don't get very many good people like this and we need him. And I would appreciate it if you would lay off him." He wrote me back and said, "I will." And he laid off him.

DG: I'll be darned.

JD: But he went to Notre Dame, and he played at Notre Dame real well. Then the war came on and after the war, I'm sure this was illegal, he showed up at Montana State without any transfer or anything and he played immediately.

DG: Who was he? Do you remember? The kid from Havre?

JD: I know his name real well; I can't think of it. He's a good one, one of the best that's ever played in Montana. And another one I remember. I wasn't coaching then, Cox was coaching. Remember [Wayne] Estes?

DG: Oh yeah, went to Utah State.

JD: Went to Utah State.

DG: From Anaconda.

JD: Coach Cox didn't want it.

DG: Is that right?

JD: That's right. He said that he was too small to be a center and too slow to be a forward. When they came up here to play, Utah State, I was down in the hotel and I talked to Estes. I asked him, "Did Montana recruit you?"

He said, "No, they didn't even recruit me."

DG: Did he indicate he would have been interested?

JD: He said he didn't think they were interested.

DG: He still holds the [Harry Adams] Field House record for points scored: 42 points in '64.

JD: Oh, yes, he was a great ball player.

DG: He must have been.

JD: There was another guy from Anaconda, this was in that era '46-'47. [Ed] Kalafat, big kid from Anaconda. Oh, we tried awful hard to get Kalafat. That's the first year we were in the Skyline. I tried awfully hard to get Kalafat. This is kind of interesting because he was going to go to Minnesota. So he went to Minnesota. So we're down at this tournament down in Colorado and I got a call from Kalafat. Kalafat says, "I don't like it back here. I want to come back to Montana."

I said, "Don't tell a soul, just get on the train and come back. Don't tell anybody." Well, he tried to, but you know what his father said to him?

His father said, "I told you you could make up your mind to go to any school you wanted to, but once you made up your mind that's it. Go back to Minnesota." And he played at Minnesota very well. [He played professionally for three seasons.]

DG: I wonder if that's the Kalafat—there have been a couple, well, there's one good football player at Montana State named Kalafat from Great Falls.

JD: That's no relation. I don't think they're any relation They're the Kalafats in Great Falls and they're great handball players. Along that line I'll tell you another story. Now we play, instead of handball—

DG: Racquetball.

JD: Racquetball. We had a professor here by the name of, we called him "Smokey Joe," but anyway, he taught botany but he was always interested in exercising. He was always around the gym working out. Joe finally retired and after he retired he went back to Pennsylvania. He went to school, for some reason or another. So he came back and he had this racquet and I said, "What's that?" He said, "They are playing handball with this back there; this is racquetball."

DG: Now what year was this, roughly?

JD: Let's see.

DG: Do you remember, roughly? Were you still coaching at the time? Or were you AD?

JD: I was AD at the time. It was in the '50s, I think. Anyways, that was the first person that we knew of around here that had a racquet and played racquetball. He would knock the ball up against the wall in the men's gym over there with this racquet. Now of course it's—

DG: Pretty big.

JD: It's pretty big now. "Smokey Joe" Kramer, quite a guy.

DG: Now, looking at your days when you were an athlete, through when you were athletic director—and you probably knew that I was going to ask you this question—but a handful of athletes that really grab you, like obviously Cope in basketball, who you also coached, who was just a great player. Maybe Naseby. Were there some who just stand out in your mind as being not only great athletes but great people, like Naseby?

JD: Well, I don't know off hand anybody like that, but I'll tell you one thing: I venture to say that 95 percent of the kids that earned letter awards in basketball graduated from the University.

DG That's still pretty close.

JD: We encouraged them to graduate and then after that we did everything we could to get them jobs, particularly those that wanted to go into coaching. We worked hard getting them jobs. Let me see the list of players in 1951 or '52. Eddie Argenbright is a state superintendent of schools. Well, Eddie was from Cut Bank and we were recruiting him. Chinske and I went up there and talked to him. We went into the Elks Club and we were asking people about Eddie Argenbright and Chinske said to this one guy in there, "Can he shoot?" This guy says, "Can *he* shoot? Can Eddie Argenbright shoot!" And he could. Today he would kill them on those three pointers.

DG: Would he? Bombed them, huh?

JD: From further out! And a real nice man. He was a real nice person. But he could shoot. Well, of course, one reason we got him was Willie DeGroot, who played for us, was his coach. Willie told him. Willie says, "Now you're going to go to the University." And he was recruited.

Going back again to recruiting, when Willie DeGroot was in high school he was recruited heavily by Oregon State and it looked like he was going to Oregon State. One thing about recruiting that is worth knowing and that is this: You've got to contact the person who is closest to that boy. It may be his father, it may be his mother, it may be his brother, it may be his best friend, it

may be his girlfriend, you don't know to begin with, but if you can find out who that person is then you might get him. We were recruiting Willie and we found out it was his older brother, so we're off to Billings and talking to his older brother. And we had quite a time convincing him, but we convinced him. This is what he said, "Ok, he'll come to the University. He'll be on the train at such and such a day and he'll arrive in Missoula and we want you to meet him at that train and you take care of him." That's what we did.

Al Dunham, Ray Howard and Rudolph Rhodes were the best players in Montana, and boy, did I have a job recruiting them. See, I did the recruiting at that time, or Chinske and I did. Anyway, Ray Howard, who was a great ball player, he lived in Helena and he's a black. So we go over and visit his folks. His father worked as a janitor in the statehouse. I'm going over to there, I don't know how many times that summer, and I'm looking to his father and talking to his father, his mother, and I get kind of a promise from them and then I'd get a telephone call from a friend of ours over there someplace that he's going to go to some other school, going to Washington. And back I'd go, all summer, Rhodes in Kalispell, Dunham up in Shelby. So I spent that entire summer going back and forth, back and forth, trying to get these kids.

Howard—his folks said, "Now how do I know that he's going to be accepted there? He's a black boy." I said, "Well, we don't know, but I'm sure he would be accepted." But anyway, going back to finding out who is next to him, we found out that there was a guy, a black, going to school here who was a good friend of his and he had a good chance of helping us. So I got talking to him and finally—he was going to graduate from the University, looking for a job and he thought he'd like to work at Boeing—he was a graduate in business. So I said, "Well, we can help you there, because the president of Boeing is a graduate of the University of Montana and he went to school when I did." So I called him up and asked if he would see this kid got a job. He said, "Send him out; we'll put him to work." And that helped us get Graham.

Then Dunham. I was working the three of them together. See, I'd say, now these two are coming and these two and we get you three together. So then we get Rudolph Rhodes from Kalispell and my wife says, "On our wedding anniversary I spent the evening having dinner with Mrs. Rhodes and her sister." Which was true, at a tournament. But we got all three. Now Howard, Ray Howard, had a good hook shot, real good, and I think he holds the record now and some kind of a—hold the record for rebounds. He played sophomore year for me and then the junior year he didn't shoot the hook shot so much as he did before, and then he got injured so he didn't play, but he was a good player.

DG: How many blacks were attending the University of Montana in those days? What, two or three?

JD: Two or three was all. We had one in—I'll have to back up here, this was early. A kid from Chicago I had.

DG: Speaking of a kid from Chicago [and] out-of-state recruiting, was that pretty much if there

was an alum that you had heard from?

JD: I did very little out-of-state recruiting. We didn't have the money. I couldn't go from here to California and recruit anybody, or go to the coast. We just didn't have any money. So we did very little recruiting from out-of-state. Now this was back in 1940-41, just before the war, there was a boy, he was a walk-on, Joe Taylor. He was about 6'2 and he played here while I was gone one year, but he played a couple of years for us and then he went back to Chicago. He graduated here [and] he got a job in education. He's been out a few times. I saw him at Homecoming a couple of years ago. Had a real good job in education in Chicago [and] he was a black. And of course, Zip Rhodes was a black.

DG: Go back a few years now. A lot of people say that "Wild Bill" Kelly was the best football player to ever play here. Do you think that's—

JD: I think it's probably true. He weighed about 185 pounds, I guess, and he could run with that football and he could throw the football. In fact, in the Shrine Game that they have, Kelly and Sweet were there the same year, which would be January 1927. Kelly threw the pass to Sweet that won the game. He was a great football player and then he went back and played pro.

DG: Where'd he play pro? Do you remember?

JD: I thought it was New York, but I think it was Brooklyn.

DG: Did he have a pro career?

JD: He didn't play long enough. He got poisoned somewhere [and] the story was he got poisoned eating hotdogs. I don't know.

DG: Oh, really? Is that what happened to him?

JD: Yes, he died.

DG: Real young?

JD: Oh, yes.

DG: Oh, I didn't know that.

JD: He couldn't have been more than 25 or 26 years old. [He died at age 29 after eating hot dogs at a Fordham football game.]

DG: Oh, really. I wondered what happen to him.

JD: Yes, he died.

DG: How about Sweet? Did he ever get a chance to play pro ball?

JD: No, he didn't. Russell Sweet quit after his junior year here and went to California. He ended up coaching down there. He coached a junior college—I forget the name of the school now—but he was coaching there until he died. [San Francisco Junior College.] He died suddenly [at age 39 in 1944].

DG: Another great athlete who comes to mind is a sprinter, Jack Emigh, who was like one of the best in the world.

JD: Jack came here from Kankakee, Illinois, and I don't know, but I think he was a walk-on. Harry Adams may have contacted him, I'm not sure. But he was a real good sprinter, good 440 man. In fact he held the record in the 440 for, oh I don't know—this is kind of interesting. I was timing and the Bobcats were timing and he ran the quarter—somebody else was timing—but anyway, I had him under 47 and the Bobcats had him at 47 and they argued like hell about it, so he finally settled for 47, I think it was. He could run.

DG: If you look at his 220 time back then he had to be one of the fastest.

JD: Yes. We had some excellent people before that, as you probably know. When Sweet was running we had Arnold Gillette. Arnold Gillette was a little kid, weighed about 126 pounds, and he won the coast conference in the mile and the two mile and set records in both of them. Then he won the mile in the NCAA one year and second another year. He could run. He later became a professor of art at the University of Iowa.

Well, what else do you want to know?

DG: Well, I would like to talk about—and we touched upon it a little yesterday—that athletics now have come a long ways. You know it's a big business?

JD: Oh, yes.

DG: What do you think some of the positive changes have been from eras past? And then some of the negative things as well? Just your personal philosophy on that aspect?

JD: On the positive thing, in the first place they have more money to work with.

DG: That sounds like an ex-athletic director talking.

JD: Yes, that's right. The last year I was there we had a budget of \$100,000 for all sports and now it's over half a million. That, to begin with, makes quite a difference. Of course, as far as

personnel are concerned the kids are so much bigger and better and everybody works so much longer and harder that there are bound to be excellent athletes and real fine football teams everywhere. When we were coaching, Doug Fessenden brought his high school team here from Chicago. He coached at Fenger High and he brought both those kids out here and they were very good ball players. Fenger High had won the championship in Chicago. Recruiting had gone on previously. Back in 1914, around in there when Joey Nissen was coach, they kept the kids down here in the university apartments on Higgins Avenue across from the high school and they had a training table there, and they lived there.

DG So it was pretty sophisticated then?

JD: Yes, more so than it was later, I believe, but it's a different game entirely now. So much time is spent on individual personnel.

DG: Now you got a lot more coaches?

JD: You got a lot more coaches.

DG: Of course, the equipment in football is drastically different?

JD: Oh, yes.

DG: How about the athletic training? I mean the injury situation in the '20s through '50s?

JD: I had a sore shoulder. I had to play anyway. We had a leather thing that fitted over the top, here. But injuries weren't so bad. The equipment was fair, I guess. It was nothing like it is today. And they didn't hit as hard and they weren't as big. But we did have a lot of tackling practice.

DG: Well you had to be in pretty good shape to play both ways?

JD: Yes, that's right, you had to be in pretty good shape to play both ways.

DG: One thing I want to ask you too; this is completely off that subject. You were talking about your wife. You met her in summer school. Did you meet her in a class?

JD: Yes. How did you guess? Well, what happened was, that first year I was here, I went out to the Coast Conference meeting. They were trying to get into the Pacific Coast Conference in basketball, which we were successful in doing. But I went out to that meeting and that was just when they were enrolling the students at the university. And Doc Schrieber enrolled my class and when I came back there were about 10 girls in the class. And I said to Doc, "What is going on? Girls in my class! We've never had girls in there." I never thought of having a girl in a basketball class. "Well," he said, "they wanted to enroll, so they enrolled." We'd practice, we'd have special days for the girls, special days for the boys and so on. But anyway, she was in the

class. Good looking girl, I thought. Jimmy Brown, who had been an assistant coach here, and his wife was working here at the time and she was going to school and she was in the class. I don't know what she was doing there but Jimmy Brown's wife, Isabel, was in the class. Then Jimmy and Isabel were trying to get me dates, and Isabel says, "How about that little girl who sits next to me in class?" So we were going out on a date to the Happy Bungalow, so I called her up and asked her for a date. I think she was scared to death.

DG: Why do you say that? Why was she scared?

JD: Well, she seemed to be kind of scared.

DG: Bashful?

JD: Yes. Bashful.

DG: Now this was the summer of '38?

JD: This would be the summer of '38. So we went together then the whole summer. She went back and taught school another year. Her home was originally in Pingree, North Dakota. She had graduated from Concordia. She is Swedish, her folks are Swedish, they're from Sweden and my folks are from Sweden, our two children are both Swedish; that's the last of them.

DG: What was her maiden name?

JD: Freda Forsberg, Scandinavian name. So that's how I met her.

DG Okay, I knew we didn't talk about that very much yesterday, and I wanted to get an idea there.

JD: This is interesting, one day I had a guy, salesman for the Yellow Pages book for the telephone company out of Great Falls. He used to come to coffee club and one day he was telling me, "You know the Campbell boys earned more letters than anybody in the history of the University." I said, "Not quite."

He said, "What do you mean?"

I said, "The Dahlbergs made more letters." There were four Campbell boys who played and there were four of us who played. The oldest Campbell boy made three letters in football and then the other Campbell came from junior college and he made two letters and then one of the younger boys played [and earned] three letters and then the fourth one played in baseball. I don't know what their total was. Ours was 23 letters.

DG: Twenty-three letters for the Dahlbergs.

JD: But anyway, that's another thing.

DG: Could you name the five best players to play for you?

JD: I wouldn't try to do that.

DG: How about some of the top ones? You talked about Cope, you talked about Howard, you talked—the different phases, were there any great passers that you coached that you remember?

JD: Not particularly.

DG: No, that was more of a shooting-rebounding type game?

JD: When Greene was playing with us, and Biff Hall and [William] Lazetich and that group, that was a good basketball team. Lazetich wasn't tall, but, boy, was he tough off the boards! I'd have to pick three here and three there. You know, when I played basketball at the University my brother Oscar played with me. We played together for three years. He was a back guard. Teams used what we called a back guard. Washington State had Red Reese and Montana State had Brick Breeden and Gonzaga had, I forget what his name was, but everybody we played had what they called a back guard. So it would be a four-man offense against a five-man defense and the back guard seldom went past the middle of the floor. But his job—

DG He was a defensive player?

JD: His job was there were to be no fast breaks. And the other job was to get the ball off the board when they missed. And they missed more in those days. They got that ball off the board and started the fast break. That was kind of interesting.

DG: The rules were substantially different until when? When did they eliminate the center jump after every made bucket? Do you remember?

JD: Well, I think I have it right here. [In] '37-'38, they eliminated the center jump. It was a real good thing for us because we never had anybody who could jump. You see what happened in those days, if you had a big center you had the ball.

DG: Yeah, you controlled it. If you score, then you get the jump score again.

JD: When I coached at Miles City, we had a good-sized center and a big guard. So he'd just tip it; we'd get the ball. It wasn't fair.

DG: The one thing I'm interested in the history of the University of Montana [sports is about]

Naseby Rhinehart [and] how he became an athlete, then the school's first trainer. It seems odd to me that a black man—Naseby, as much as I love the guy, he probably had to put up with a lot when we traveled, because I know he's told me stories, but how was he received here? Was he just like—oh, it's Nase? Did he have some barriers to overcome here?

JD: Nase is low key, as you know. This was before I knew Nase. I didn't know Nase until I came here to coach. But my youngest brother played with Nase, football and basketball. Everybody just liked Nase right from the beginning. They were playing Gonzaga, I guess, this was in football and they were in the showers afterwards and one of the Gonzaga guys said something bad about Nase and boy, they had trouble right there! The kids were on him immediately!

JD: My brother said everyone wanted to room with Nase. Everyone wanted to room with him when they were on trips, so there were no questions about it, everybody was that way.

DG That's kind of neat.

JD: He was just, his personality was such that you just liked him.

DG: Just a class person.

JD: Yes, everybody liked him when they played. Now we had trouble at various times. Do you want me to tell you about them?

DG: Sure, yes.

JD: Well, we were down playing Texas Tech and they were going in to eat the first time.

DG: Basketball?

JD: Football. I was along on the team. Fessenden and Adams, I don't where they were. So they went in to eat and I was out in the lobby. I didn't go in with them. Here comes the head waitress, comes running out into the lobby. "Who's in charge of that football team? Who's in charge of that football team? Get that nigger out of there! Get that nigger out of there!"

I said, "Don't get excited."

"Excited," she said, "excited! My god, a nigger in the dining room and you're telling me not to get excited!" Well about that time the whole team was coming out, along with Nase. We're there in the lobby. What to do? And Nase had quieted down and said, "Well, you might as well go in and eat, boys, because you won't eat anyplace else in Texas with me with you." So they fed Nase in the kitchen at that time. But our kids weren't going to go in. I had trouble right here in Montana, in Billings, with the basketball team. We were in Billings and we were in the hotel and we were going to eat at this restaurant. In the morning Nase and I were up early, so I said

to Nase, "Let's us go down and have a bite to eat before the kids do." So we go down. This restaurant, I don't know the name of it now, but anyway we sit up to the bar and we're sitting there and the waitress is going by, going by. We sit there for about five or six minutes, I guess, and they weren't busy. I stopped the girl and I said, "We want to get ordered."

And she said, "I can't serve you, with a black man."

I said, "Who says? Who's the boss? I want to see the boss."

She said, "The cook is the boss."

So I said, "Ok." And I tear into the kitchen and he was in the big walk-in freezer and I'm right in behind him and I'm giving him hell. He's not paying much attention. And I said, "Do you know that the owner of this café—I forget his first name—is Egan." He was from St. Ignatius or one of those places, Ronan. He was from Ronan. And I said, "He certainly wouldn't stand for not allowing Nase to eat here."

And the guy says, "Egan's dead. He got killed last night. He's not in charge." And that was right, he was killed in an auto accident. [He was beaten to death in November 1945.] Ken Egan was his name. And he did know Nase; he was a friend of Nase. Then he finally said, "Well, I'll tell you, if Nase comes in with all the team at one time, there'd be no problem." So that's what we did. But he wouldn't serve us two.

DG: When was that? What year? Do you remember? I know the Texas Tech game was 1940, I just looked it up.

JD: This was about '46, '47.

DG: After the war.

JD: It was after the war.

DG: Well, I've talked to Nase about this. He says as late as in the '60s he was refused service in Moscow, Idaho.

JD: Well I'll be darned. See, a lot of the time when I was coaching, Nase didn't go along.

DG: Oh, he didn't travel at that time.

JD: He didn't travel all the time. He traveled sometimes and sometimes he didn't. Yeah, I suppose he's right. But god, it's enough to kill you.

DG: Well, yeah. He's such a class person.

JD: Yes, he's such a class person, you know.

DG: Now let me sway from the subject again. Looking through your Red Book you refer to publicity men pretty far back.

JD: Yes.

DG: I guess, basically with the first sports information directors. Were those people who just worked on another part of the campus and volunteered their time? Or was it an actual position?

JD: No, it was not an actual position. I don't remember who the first one was. I just read in this morning's paper, where Bob Gilluly—he works for the *Great Falls Tribune*—was going to take a trip to Africa and he called it off. Well, he's the same one that was writing publicity here for a while. He's the one that wrote that book that took *my* material. Wrote the book and sold it.

DG: Well, I'll tell you what, and I've told Harley this, if he can give me a year's sabbatical and I can talk to you, Naseby, John Campbell and the few people like that that are around, I could write a hell of a book from your book! Using a lot of facts from your book. You'd have to do a lot of other research. Potentially you could write a heck of a book. Something I wouldn't mind trying to do some day.

JD: You couldn't do it with what you're doing.

DG: No, It's impossible.

JD: That takes a lot of time. Once you start the research that takes a lot of time.

DG: Anyway, I know. I've looked at this book and of course, your Red Book, and it's just verbatim.

JD: Yes, that's right. He copied.

DG: This could have been a lot better done, if he would of—

JD: Yes.

DG: He just kind of did it pretty quick.

JD: He did it pretty quick and he did it on football only.

DG: But anyway, I was just curious on that.

JD: I don't know who the first one was that we—

DG: I know Bill Schwanke was here like in the '67-'68. I can't remember who was here ahead of him. But I was just kind of curious for my own benefit. [Cato Butler preceded Schwanke.

JD: Well. I always complained about the thing because we didn't have any publicity man. I was always complaining about that.

DG: Seems that all the larger schools have that?

JD: It was just a part-time job or whatever it was. You couldn't get anything done.

DG: A lot of the other schools, I would assume, had it. You know larger schools would need it.

JD: Larger schools all had them, but we didn't.

DG: Do you have a highlight or a fondest moment or whatever, in your career? Something, maybe as a coach? Maybe as an AD? Other incidences as you think back? Obviously, that '49-'50 basketball team had to be a highlight?

JD: From the standpoint of wins and losses, yes, that would be it. Some of the other teams were—like after the war we had, '47, '48, '49, they were a good group of people that I liked. You know I used football players. I didn't eliminate football players because football players as a general rule are competitive. Of course, basketball players can be just as competitive. I'll tell you a competition we had. [Charles Bill] Jones and [Willie] DeGroot playing, this is kind of interesting in a way. Jones played football—halfback—and DeGroot did not play. He played just basketball, but they were buddies anyway. We were playing over at Montana State, on night Jones fouls out near the end of the game, close game. DeGroot comes over as he's coming in and he said to Jones, "Don't worry, I'll beat them." He got in there and he took that damn ball and he threw in two or three baskets and we win. The next night it's just the opposite, DeGroot's on the bench, Jones says, "We'll get them," and the same thing. They were competitors.

DG: Now you can't coach that, can you?

JD: No, you can't coach that. Lou Rocheleau was the guy.

DG: I've heard so many people talk about Lou Rocheleau, as just a competitor, as a great athlete, and just a mean guy, because I guess he was so competitive. Well you know Gene Cote, the guy that works at the 'Mo Club, talks about Lou all the time. A lot of people allude, talk about Lou Rocheleau as an athlete. He must have been something.

JD: He was awful good. He was too little to play much in high school. Eddie Chinske tells this story about him. He was too small, but he said he liked the way, he said, when he'd send him into the game: "You go in and throw that ball in the basket." And Lou would go in and throw it in. But anyway, he was a great competitor and that's the kind of guy you'd like to have on your ball club.

DG: Getting back to my question: anecdotes—you've done a lot of it as we've talked, of course. Reflected back on some of the things, like the fights. As far as just moments in your career. Obviously a big part of it is that you get to know those kids so well, they become like part of your family, and then three four years later you bring another group in. That's what coaching is all about.

JD: Yes, that's right.

DG: That's what most people love about coaching, is that you get to shape young people's lives. How involved did you have to become, or did you become, in some of your athletes' lives?

JD: I'll tell you one thing, I tried not to get too close to any individual. For instance, I wouldn't invite a kid into my home.

DG: As a coach?

JD: As a coach. I didn't think that was the thing to do. I tried to treat everybody about the same way.

DG: Keep it on more of a professional level? Coach-player relationship.

JD: Yes, that's right. But again, going back to discipline. Chumrau Miller liked to tell this story—this is going back to high school: the bus leaves at 8, that's when it leaves. The star player in Anaconda, when I was first there, the star player was several blocks back, I guess, but anyway I said, "Take her away." Poor old Thompson, he was the star athlete and he didn't get to go on the trip, but he never missed again. And one time here at the University I left our regular center home, going to Montana State. He was not there and I said, "Take her away." I tried to get people to go on time.

DG: And there's nothing they could do if they missed the bus? They couldn't afford to hop on a train?

JD: No, there was nothing they could do. Not very well. After our last game at Montana State, Rock's [Rocheleau] last game, I don't know what happened after the game, but I know the next morning he wasn't there at 8 and we left him. I don't know if he celebrated the night before or not. He might have; it was the last game.

DG: He had that reputation in later years that he liked to celebrate, as do a lot of players of course.

JD: Yes, he got to drinking too much.

DG: Lived a hard life, I guess?

JD: But as far as I was concerned, he was a real good kid, I mean real good young man.

DG: Hard working kid?

JD: Yes, hard working. I liked him. He was always at practice, always worked hard at it. We didn't have any trouble that way with anybody either.

DG: Seems like a lot of the former athletes from the University went into coaching?

JD: Yes.

DG: And a lot of them came back here.

JD: Yes, that's right.

DG: Did you encourage them?

JD: I didn't necessarily encourage them, but if they wanted to get a job, I worked hard to get them [one]. I'd go talk to the superintendent or I'd write to the superintendent and I'd get them a job. This might be kind of interesting; this is a story on basketball: when I was at Miles City, we won the state championship [and] went back to Chicago. The teams that won the national championship for three years in a row used the zone defense. So when I went out to Hoquiam, Washington, I'd been successful with the zone defense. We had just won the state championship, so I go out there and I was going to put in the zone defense. The previous coach was down there one day visiting with me—he went to Seattle—asked me what I did and I told him, "zone defense."

"Oh," he said, "They'll kill you. Nobody uses the zone out here; they'll kill you. You won't stand a chance." I said, "Well, I saw the best shooters in America trying to shoot over the zone in Chicago and they couldn't do it." "Well," he said, "they'll kill you." So I installed the zone defense and we only lost a couple games in the two years.

Well, then the superintendent was one of those guys that was real interested in athletics, so they're going to hire a new coach. Some of those fellows come down to talk to me that were applying. One of them asked me what I did and I said, zone defense. I told them about it, so

when he's interviewing the superintendent asks him what sort of defense he used. He said, "I use the zone defense just like Dahlberg." "You're hired."

Well then, in placing guys, when [Jack] Swarthout graduated they had an opening in Hoquiam, Washington. I told them what a good boy I thought Swarthout was, so they hired Swarthout. And he did an excellent job for them, you know.

When Swarthout left to go to the University of Washington, the superintendent wrote to me and said, "Send us another Swarthout."

I said, "There are no other Swarthouts, but I'll send you another one." Sammy Leeper, who played guard for us. So Sammy went out there. He had to leave because the wet weather was too tough on his wife, so he moved to Eastern Oregon. But anyway, for several years they'd contact me and want me to recommend somebody.

DG: Hoquiam, Washington connection?

JD: Yes, it was a good connection.

DG: How about some of the coaches who worked under you as an AD. Some of those really grab you? We really haven't talked that much about you being an athletic director?

JD: No.

DG: You said you miss coaching. Did you think being AD was a pain in the rear? Did you just miss coaching?

JD: One reason that, I told you yesterday I guess, the one reason I quit coaching basketball was because I was athletic director and some people thought I was favoring basketball. But the other main reason was recruiting, the main reason was recruiting. That was a terrible job at that time. Now it's not bad because they set a date when they're all finished. Like I told you, when I was recruiting I had to recruit all summer, almost every day, and you didn't get a boy to come to school until he was enrolled.

DG: So they couldn't make a verbal commitment?

JD: No.

DG: You didn't believe until they showed up?

JD: No, they could change their mind anytime they wanted.

DG: There was no national letter of intent?

JD: No, there was no national letter of intent.

DG: Kind of tough with a family and raising kids, being gone so much?

JD: Yes, that's right. You didn't have any free time. It was pretty tough to get free time. But I don't know [about] the coaching. Let's see, who were the coaches that I—well, Cox and Jenkins. But I had no—

DG: Oh, you were a head football coach for a year?

JD: Yes, when I first come back from the war.

DG: When you came back from the war. That's right when you didn't get paid for—

JD: I'll tell you, when I quit coaching basketball, while we were interviewing people, and I tried to get the coach from, I can't think of his name, but anyway he came up and looked it over. His wife didn't like it and so he did get the job at Oregon, where he stayed until he retired as the basketball coach. But Cox had been coaching Colorado and he was successful. Then he quit coaching. I don't know why, but he was in the cattle business and then he wanted to come back to coaching. So he applied here and we interviewed some of those people and then he was interviewed. We had our committee, but you have to know Carl McFarland, the president, to know how he handled things. So we're talking to him and interviewing him and McFarland says, "Mr. Cox, step out here in the other room." So he and Cox went out in the other room. He come back in and said, "Mr. Cox is the basketball coach." He didn't contact me at all. He just said, "Cox is the basketball coach." They were talking about this other guy. You know, he's from Colorado too. Pleasant, but I didn't have anything to do with it. So those were the ones that were hired while I was here but I had nothing to do with them. After I was out, they didn't last. One of them lasted one year and one of them lasted two years.

DG: Now when you retired in '70, what did you do then?

JD: Well, I had permanent tenure so they had to put me to work.

DG: Were you teaching classes?

JD: I taught bowling.

DG: Bowling.

JD: Yes, I taught bowling for several—beginning bowling, not advanced. I taught just the beginners and I enjoyed it.

DG: When did you start working on your book? That's what I'm leading up to, your "Red Book."

JD: Oh, I started that shortly after I came here.

DG: Oh, really?

JD: Yes. The reason I started it then was there were no records. You know what happens, a new coach comes in and he just opens the files and throws everything out.

DG: Files, everything, permanently?

JD: They don't have anything as far as he's concerned. Only thing he's interested in is his coaching. But I tell you, they did keep the basketball records from 1925. [John] "Jock" Stewart was the coach then until 1931 and they kept the basketball books, so we had basketball books from 1925 up until the time that I retired and I suppose they still keep them, I don't know.

DG: So roughly speaking you worked on that book for over 30 years?

JD: Yes.

DG: You stopped in '78.

JD: Yes, I stopped in '78. You know, you couldn't do it all at once. I spent a little time working on the *Kaimin*, and then I'd go down to the *Missoulian* and spend a half a day or so.

DG: Did many people even know that you were doing this? Or that this existed?

JD: No. They didn't even know I was doing it, nobody knew.

DG: Boy, I tell you, I'm sure glad you did.

JD: Well, I am too. I just was interested.

DG Now, how would you like to be remembered? I mean a lot of people know you as a basketball coach, the winningest coach in Montana's history with 222 wins. What mark do you feel that you've left at the University?

JD: Not much. [Laughs] Oh, I don't know.

DG: Do you ever think about things like that?

JD: No.

DG Because I look at the history of the University, not only your book, but your tenure, your brothers, you know. And of course Naseby. Naseby is synonymous with the University, as you are.

JD: Yes. See, I didn't only do the research on this book, but I started the Century Club. Did I ever tell you the story about that?

DG No, I've heard it, but not in great detail.

JD: What happened was, we were playing Iowa in Iowa. Paul Chumrau was our business manager and I was athletic director. So I told Paul to go with the team. Paul goes with the team to Iowa and he meets some alumni.

DG: Now what year was this? Is this the '50s?

JD: '55, I think that's when it started. He talked with some alumni over there and they were telling him how they raised money in Iowa, that they had a Century Club, that people paid \$100 and joined the Century Club. Paul comes back and tells me the story and I said, "Well, maybe we ought to start it here." And Paul agreed, so we go to Doctor McFarland and Doctor McFarland thinks about it for a while and he said no. Then I go back to him a little later and tell him maybe we could take in some money. "Well," he says, "you won't take in enough money to pay the postage. But if you want to try go ahead." So we went ahead and that's how we started a Century Club.

DG Did you have Paul run it? Or did you run it?

JD: No, I ran it.

DG You ran it.

JD: Yes, I ran it. I ran the Century Club. Well, I guess Paul helped. We contacted as many people as we could and we got a start on it, but now it's grown so far away, it's something else. But it started that way.

DG: I think they raise about \$300,000 now.

JD: That's pretty good.

DG: Yes, that is. I mean there are schools that raise a lot more, but that's big business.

JD: Of course, somebody else probably would have started it later on, I presume. But at least I started it.

DG: Do you remember any other innovations that you brought to the University? I know you were talking about zone defenses that were really relatively rare in high school.

JD: My story on that zone defense like I told you, the last three championships in the nationals and I used the zone in high school, very successfully, all the time. We played a zone when I was in college. Well then when I came to the University everybody was using man-to-man and I said, I must be out of line using zone defense. Because everybody's using man-to-man, so I went to man-to-man. Now everybody uses zone. I should have used the zone.

DG: But you did—you played almost all exclusively man-to-man when you were the coach?

JD: Yes. We used zone some, but just as a secondary. But if I had it to do over again, I'd have used the zone. Oregon State used the zone, [Amory] "Slats" Gill used the zone all the time; he won the coast championship one year with it and he won the northern division. He'd pretty near knock you off the court with those guards. You'd come down there and they'd charge you. Zone defense, if it is used right, is pretty good.

DG: How about offensively, what did you like to do on offense? Did you like to fast break?

JD: Fast break. That's another thing, I used the fast break in high school, always. In matter of fact when they used the zone we used to coach our kids this way; they had a forward that when the other team would shoot over the zone—so many people tried to shoot over the zone when they didn't know how to penetrate, see—so just as soon as that ball leaves his hand that forward's gone and then we'd start the fast break. That meant they had to have a guy back there or he's gone, we'd get the ball off the board. I'll tell you a story what I did with a big kid, that Rieder [?] played for the University of Washington. He was a tackle, all-coast tackle. He was a sophomore for me in high school. He played junior high basketball. Big kid, 200 pounds, about 6'1, as a sophomore. So he played junior high basketball as back guard. Well when he came next year I didn't have a center, so I took this Chuck Baun (?) and I said, "Now we're going to play you center. All you do is get the ball off the board on the defense and give it to our team and get out of the way. And on offense we're going to put you"—there was no zone, you could stand under the basket—I said, "you're standing under the basket and all you have to do is get the rebound and put it back in." That's all we practiced with him. He practiced every day standing in there getting the ball and throwing it back in, or if it was on the defense getting it off and passing it off. That's all he did. I said, "You ought to remember no one is ever going to throw you the ball." He was kind of clumsy. I said, "No one is even going to throw you the ball." Which they didn't. Before the season was over, he was averaging 16 points, just standing in there, you could do that in high school.

DG: I'll be darned.

[Break in audio]

JD: But you couldn't do that with a big kid, so that's what we did with him. Then the zone defense, he could play in the zone but he could never play man-to-man.

DG: Just too slow. How about when you were football coach, offensive line coach?

JD: We didn't go through all that detail or signals and that stuff that they do now. One thing that I did every day was charge off the ball. The important thing on offense and defense is to get the charge on the guy, always. It is today.

DG: Yes, get the jump.

JD: Get the jump. And we practiced that every day, off the ball, offense and defense. That was one of the main things. Then of course we ran double teaming and blocks for plays and so forth and so on. But I'll tell you an interesting story though. Doug Fessenden, one year there, this was before the war, he wanted me to—see, they used a wingback and an end to block and tackle, so the tackle is supposed to get across there. So on the tackle he wanted me to get this guy this way and [demonstrates] shoulder this guy this way and get in there. And we did a lot of that. But then we had a kid by the name of Bill Keig from Anaconda. He was a tackle. This was just prior to the war. He weighed about 175 pounds. I was trying to teach him this and Bill said to me, "Just let me run across the scrimmage line and tackle the guy with the ball. That's all." I says, "I don't want to fuss with it; go ahead Bill." Nobody ran over him. We played Oregon State out in Oregon. They won the Rose Bowl that year; they played at Tennessee or someplace, but anyway they won the Rose Bowl. They didn't make an inch over him. He's in there so damn fast that—

DG: They couldn't get the play off?

JD: And that's what it's all about today, isn't it?

DG: Sure it is.

JD: Get across that line on defense.

DG: Speed, that's a big part of it.

JD: Yes, you got to get across. So that's the way we tried to teach the ends.

DG: Just to beat the guy.

JD: Just in there. In other words, you can make it too complicated and I think it is today.

DG: Well it's more of a game then, it seems like.

JD: I think even today they make—you know those good ends, you see them in the pros?

DG: They just follow in fast.

JD: They just go in there as fast as they can go and tackles—all of them do.

DG: Do you remember when you coached the offensive line, some of your better players? Some of the guys you remember?

JD: Well I suppose that '37 team would be the best of the group, but it all goes back to your personnel. If you have good personnel, you're going to have a good team [even] if you're an ordinary coach.

DG: A little luck and good personnel?

JD: If you don't have the personnel, you can't do it. I don't care who you know.

DG: When you went from a coach to an athletic director, did your personal philosophies change much? You know, you were a disciplinarian as a coach. Did you have any problems with any of your coaches? Or did you have to make decisions like that?

JD: Well, I had problems with—I certainly had problems with Cox and Jenkins.

DG: Yes.

JD: God, they just wanted to do everything their own way and spend money their own way and do everything. I was against it and we didn't get along.

DG: Now, you don't have a lot of contact now with [Athletic Director] Harley [Lewis] and what he does.

JD: No, I have no contact.

DG: But even the administrative end of things changing a lot?

JD: Oh, it's changed tremendously I think, yes.

DG: In what ways do you think?

JD: Well, the budget for one thing. I don't know I think it's a tougher—

DG: More people? More money demands?

JD: Money people, more money and it's a tougher job, it's just a tougher job.

DG: Yes, I agree.

JD: The main thing is money. What's the athletic director at Miami?

DG: Jankovich.

JD: Sam Jankovich was here, played a little football [on the varsity in 1957]. Sam has always been a go getter, a pusher. And at Washington State he raised more money and that was a big job. He's doing the same at Miami. That's his job.

DG: That's at one of the biggest schools in the nation.

JD: If he doesn't raise money he'll be in trouble.

DG: So you raise money and then you'll have more money to recruit and win?

JD: That's right. It solves the whole problem when you got more money to recruit. So money raising is a big one.

DG: What do you do nowadays with your time? I know you go to Grizzly football and basketball when you get a chance?

JD: Well, I don't do very much. I try to go to Coffee Club most every day when I'm feeling well. And I enjoy that very much. And of course, I try to go to all the football and basketball games at the University. I used to go to the high school games, but I don't seem to have the time to do that. Otherwise I don't do much.

DG: Just curious.

JD: I can't do too much.

DG: You got to take care of yourself?

JD: Yes.

DG: Well, I think that we covered everything I need to cover. I appreciate your time.

JD: Well, I'm happy to do it. But as I said, I don't want you to write like I'm bragging about—

DG: No, no don't worry about that. I'll write it from the aspect of your recollections, this is the way you observed it and that's all. As long as we write it that way people will know.

JD: You'll let me see a copy of it?

DG: Sure, be happy to. Be a good idea, because it's so confusing with all the facts.

DG: These interviews conducted by Dave Guffey, sports information director at the University, on Tuesday, August 18 and Wednesday, August 19, at the University of Montana Sports Information Office located in the Adams Fieldhouse, Room 205.

[End of Interview]