

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:59,230

2

00:00:59,230 --> 00:01:04,209

OK, I was asking you if there
was any sort of special feeling

3

00:01:04,209 --> 00:01:10,240

or pride in being a
Black American winning

4

00:01:10,240 --> 00:01:12,490

the gold medal in Berlin.

5

00:01:12,490 --> 00:01:14,950

It was very definitely
a special feeling

6

00:01:14,950 --> 00:01:18,880

in winning the gold medal
and being a Black man,

7

00:01:18,880 --> 00:01:23,380

because here, I was doing
something, and particularly,

8

00:01:23,380 --> 00:01:26,620

this particular event, had
not been won by an American

9

00:01:26,620 --> 00:01:30,010

in 24 years.

10

00:01:30,010 --> 00:01:35,570

And that was won by a
white man, not a Black man.

11

00:01:35,570 --> 00:01:40,060

So I was very proud of
that fact, very proud

12

00:01:40,060 --> 00:01:42,370
of that achievement.

13
00:01:42,370 --> 00:01:51,960
And I was very happy for myself
as an individual, for my race

14
00:01:51,960 --> 00:01:52,890
and for my country.

15
00:01:52,890 --> 00:01:57,990

16
00:01:57,990 --> 00:02:02,040
Now, you had started to mention
something about auxiliaries.

17
00:02:02,040 --> 00:02:02,790
What's that about?

18
00:02:02,790 --> 00:02:05,770

19
00:02:05,770 --> 00:02:09,000
Well, after the Olympic
games were over,

20
00:02:09,000 --> 00:02:12,300
I think it must
have been published

21
00:02:12,300 --> 00:02:17,670
in the German publications,
the German newspapers,

22
00:02:17,670 --> 00:02:21,120
that Hitler made the remark
that if it wasn't for the Black

23
00:02:21,120 --> 00:02:24,960
auxiliary, the American would
not have won the Olympics.

24

00:02:24,960 --> 00:02:27,930

25

00:02:27,930 --> 00:02:31,640

That's what I heard,
and I didn't read it,

26

00:02:31,640 --> 00:02:35,390

but I heard that that was
a remark that he made.

27

00:02:35,390 --> 00:02:38,650

How did that make you feel?

28

00:02:38,650 --> 00:02:42,000

Well, it made me feel
good, because what we did,

29

00:02:42,000 --> 00:02:44,370

we destroyed his
master race theory.

30

00:02:44,370 --> 00:02:47,810

31

00:02:47,810 --> 00:02:51,200

It made me feel very
good, because you know,

32

00:02:51,200 --> 00:02:57,620

he had that master race
theory that the superior race,

33

00:02:57,620 --> 00:03:04,730

only the pure Germans could do
certain things in this world.

34

00:03:04,730 --> 00:03:09,140

That was what he was advocating,
but we destroyed his theory.

35

00:03:09,140 --> 00:03:11,680

36
00:03:11,680 --> 00:03:14,770
when we started winning
those gold medals.

37
00:03:14,770 --> 00:03:18,420

38
00:03:18,420 --> 00:03:21,870
Tell me a little bit about your
return home as an Olympic hero.

39
00:03:21,870 --> 00:03:22,920
How were you received?

40
00:03:22,920 --> 00:03:26,100
Where did you come first?

41
00:03:26,100 --> 00:03:32,395
We came to New York, and
they had a big parade for us.

42
00:03:32,395 --> 00:03:33,270
Can you say it again?

43
00:03:33,270 --> 00:03:34,620
Say, after the Olympics.

44
00:03:34,620 --> 00:03:40,260
After the Olympics,
we came home.

45
00:03:40,260 --> 00:03:43,800
We came home on
the SS Washington.

46
00:03:43,800 --> 00:03:46,860
Now, of course, Jesse
Owens came home ahead of us

47
00:03:46,860 --> 00:03:50,760

because he didn't do any
running after the Olympics

48
00:03:50,760 --> 00:03:53,700
outside of Dresden, Germany.

49
00:03:53,700 --> 00:03:55,830
One week after
the Olympic Games,

50
00:03:55,830 --> 00:03:59,070
Jesse ran in Dresden,
Germany, and of course he

51
00:03:59,070 --> 00:04:03,870
was defeated by Ralph Metcalfe,
who took second to him

52
00:04:03,870 --> 00:04:07,230
in the Olympic Games in Berlin.

53
00:04:07,230 --> 00:04:11,460
But he had some offers that was
made, some professional offers,

54
00:04:11,460 --> 00:04:15,360
and of course, he came
back on the Queen Mary

55
00:04:15,360 --> 00:04:16,829
to take advantage
of those offers,

56
00:04:16,829 --> 00:04:19,200
because Jesse came
from a poor family too.

57
00:04:19,200 --> 00:04:22,860
Most of the Blacks came
from poor families, you see.

58
00:04:22,860 --> 00:04:26,630
None of us came from any wealthy

homes or middle-class homes,

59

00:04:26,630 --> 00:04:29,340

most all from poor families.

60

00:04:29,340 --> 00:04:34,350

But many of those offers
didn't pan out for him At all.

61

00:04:34,350 --> 00:04:36,600

And of course, due to the fact--

62

00:04:36,600 --> 00:04:42,640

see, he was scheduled to
run in various countries.

63

00:04:42,640 --> 00:04:43,390

He didn't run.

64

00:04:43,390 --> 00:04:47,240

He came home, so they
declared him a professional.

65

00:04:47,240 --> 00:04:50,860

So Jesse, his amateur days were
over with after that scene.

66

00:04:50,860 --> 00:04:53,800

But I ran after
the Olympic Games

67

00:04:53,800 --> 00:04:57,080

I ran in White City
Stadium in London.

68

00:04:57,080 --> 00:05:00,520

Then from there, I
ran up in Oslo, Norway

69

00:05:00,520 --> 00:05:02,320

before coming home.

70

00:05:02,320 --> 00:05:06,880
But we all ended up
in New York, and they

71
00:05:06,880 --> 00:05:11,200
had a big ticker tape
parade for us in Manhattan

72
00:05:11,200 --> 00:05:14,260
up Fifth Avenue.

73
00:05:14,260 --> 00:05:17,830
And there was a lot of cheering,
and of course, Mayor LaGuardia,

74
00:05:17,830 --> 00:05:21,790
who was the mayor of
the city at the time,

75
00:05:21,790 --> 00:05:26,410
gave us a medal from
the City of New York.

76
00:05:26,410 --> 00:05:29,470
And then from there, we
all departed New York City

77
00:05:29,470 --> 00:05:31,120
and we went to
our various homes.

78
00:05:31,120 --> 00:05:33,730
And of course, when I got back
to Connellsville, Pennsylvania,

79
00:05:33,730 --> 00:05:37,150
they had a big parade
for me in my hometown,

80
00:05:37,150 --> 00:05:40,060
which was the biggest parade
that they ever turned out

81

00:05:40,060 --> 00:05:44,270
for anybody in that small town.

82
00:05:44,270 --> 00:05:45,526
That must have felt fabulous.

83
00:05:45,526 --> 00:05:46,026
It was.

84
00:05:46,026 --> 00:05:46,526
It was.

85
00:05:46,526 --> 00:05:49,760

86
00:05:49,760 --> 00:05:53,720
It was a fabulous time,
a fabulous occasion,

87
00:05:53,720 --> 00:05:56,780
and a happy time for
me and for my family,

88
00:05:56,780 --> 00:06:01,240
and for all my friends back
there in Connellsville.

89
00:06:01,240 --> 00:06:05,190
How long did the euphoria last?

90
00:06:05,190 --> 00:06:08,100
Well, it lasted for quite
a long time, you know,

91
00:06:08,100 --> 00:06:09,600
because you know,
I used to go out

92
00:06:09,600 --> 00:06:14,460
and do a lot of
speaking to young kids

93

00:06:14,460 --> 00:06:15,570
after the Olympic Games.

94
00:06:15,570 --> 00:06:17,760
And of course, I
was still in school,

95
00:06:17,760 --> 00:06:21,570
and I was still making
records as an athlete

96
00:06:21,570 --> 00:06:26,460
because I won every
major track meet

97
00:06:26,460 --> 00:06:30,840
in the country at
that particular time,

98
00:06:30,840 --> 00:06:35,460
right up until I
stopped running in 1940.

99
00:06:35,460 --> 00:06:39,240
Did winning the Olympics
open doors for you

100
00:06:39,240 --> 00:06:42,480
that wouldn't have
been opened otherwise?

101
00:06:42,480 --> 00:06:43,950
Some doors.

102
00:06:43,950 --> 00:06:50,700
Some doors, because you
know, I never received

103
00:06:50,700 --> 00:06:56,220
any fabulous offers in
terms of making any money,

104
00:06:56,220 --> 00:07:00,450

because you see, first of
all, I was still in school.

105
00:07:00,450 --> 00:07:06,390
And I had three years
to go to get my degree,

106
00:07:06,390 --> 00:07:10,608
and when I was graduated,
right after I was graduated

107
00:07:10,608 --> 00:07:12,150
from University of
Pittsburgh, then I

108
00:07:12,150 --> 00:07:15,030
went to New York University.

109
00:07:15,030 --> 00:07:19,030
And while I was in
graduate school,

110
00:07:19,030 --> 00:07:23,520
I got a job at John Wanamaker's
running an elevator.

111
00:07:23,520 --> 00:07:26,730
And of course, you know, there
was quite a lot of publicity

112
00:07:26,730 --> 00:07:30,120
that came out about an
Olympic champion getting

113
00:07:30,120 --> 00:07:31,655
a job running an elevator.

114
00:07:31,655 --> 00:07:33,780
And the only thing that
John Wanamaker wanted to do

115
00:07:33,780 --> 00:07:37,650
was give me a permanent

job running an elevator.

116

00:07:37,650 --> 00:07:38,220

That was all.

117

00:07:38,220 --> 00:07:41,370

118

00:07:41,370 --> 00:07:44,160

Then I got a job as a social
investigator for the City

119

00:07:44,160 --> 00:07:46,800

of New York, working
with disadvantaged people

120

00:07:46,800 --> 00:07:50,010

who were on welfare.

121

00:07:50,010 --> 00:07:54,615

Then I got a job working
for the Police Athletic

122

00:07:54,615 --> 00:07:58,380

League, director of one of the
centers up in Harlem, New York,

123

00:07:58,380 --> 00:08:00,960

working with disadvantaged kids.

124

00:08:00,960 --> 00:08:02,752

And while I was
working in that job,

125

00:08:02,752 --> 00:08:04,710

I took the examination
for state parole officer

126

00:08:04,710 --> 00:08:08,100

for the state of New York,
and I became a parole officer,

127

00:08:08,100 --> 00:08:11,910
supervising parolees who were
released from the New York

128
00:08:11,910 --> 00:08:17,370
State reformatory state prisons.

129
00:08:17,370 --> 00:08:22,650
Then from that, I worked
for a short period of time

130
00:08:22,650 --> 00:08:27,390
with Schieffelin and
Company advertising

131
00:08:27,390 --> 00:08:30,162
alcoholic beverages.

132
00:08:30,162 --> 00:08:31,620
I didn't particularly
care for that

133
00:08:31,620 --> 00:08:37,530
because I couldn't see myself
making a permanent job pushing

134
00:08:37,530 --> 00:08:39,299
booze.

135
00:08:39,299 --> 00:08:40,919
So I got out of that.

136
00:08:40,919 --> 00:08:45,120
Then I got a job as
an insurance agent

137
00:08:45,120 --> 00:08:48,570
for the Prudential
Insurance Company.

138
00:08:48,570 --> 00:08:51,000
I worked a while in that job.

139

00:08:51,000 --> 00:08:57,120

Then I ended up my career
with the Job Corps program.

140

00:08:57,120 --> 00:08:59,250

You know about the
Job Corps program,

141

00:08:59,250 --> 00:09:02,370

again working with
disadvantaged kids.

142

00:09:02,370 --> 00:09:06,990

I never made a lot of
money, but I made a living.

143

00:09:06,990 --> 00:09:10,740

But the compensation that I
got from the work that I did

144

00:09:10,740 --> 00:09:13,590

was helping people,
and I helped a lot

145

00:09:13,590 --> 00:09:15,790

of people, a lot of people.

146

00:09:15,790 --> 00:09:20,410

147

00:09:20,410 --> 00:09:27,430

Did being an Olympic winner
open doors in other ways?

148

00:09:27,430 --> 00:09:31,090

Well, not from my experience.

149

00:09:31,090 --> 00:09:34,420

Not from my experience.

150

00:09:34,420 --> 00:09:37,510

Get you access to

places that you weren't

151

00:09:37,510 --> 00:09:38,755
able to go and do before?

152

00:09:38,755 --> 00:09:43,590

153

00:09:43,590 --> 00:09:51,600
I can't recall just looking
back on my early career

154

00:09:51,600 --> 00:09:58,180
after winning the Olympics that
it opened any particular doors,

155

00:09:58,180 --> 00:09:59,760
being a gold medal winner.

156

00:09:59,760 --> 00:10:03,120

157

00:10:03,120 --> 00:10:05,430
Did you expect it to?

158

00:10:05,430 --> 00:10:09,060
Well, I expected
and I had hoped,

159

00:10:09,060 --> 00:10:13,620
but nothing materialized
in that regard.

160

00:10:13,620 --> 00:10:18,720
Now, I'm sure many of
the white Olympians

161

00:10:18,720 --> 00:10:22,590
were made offers,
very fine offers.

162

00:10:22,590 --> 00:10:29,480

But I can't recall
any Black Olympians

163
00:10:29,480 --> 00:10:30,995
making any great offers.

164
00:10:30,995 --> 00:10:33,530
Now, Jesse did pretty well.

165
00:10:33,530 --> 00:10:36,590
He got in public relations work.

166
00:10:36,590 --> 00:10:38,780
But when he first came back
from the Olympic Games,

167
00:10:38,780 --> 00:10:44,060
he found it very difficult
to get any decent work.

168
00:10:44,060 --> 00:10:45,350
He came back.

169
00:10:45,350 --> 00:10:46,860
He ran against racehorses.

170
00:10:46,860 --> 00:10:49,423
You may have heard of him
running against a racehorse.

171
00:10:49,423 --> 00:10:50,840
He did a number
of things in order

172
00:10:50,840 --> 00:10:53,570
to try to make a
living for his family.

173
00:10:53,570 --> 00:10:57,980
But only in the later years,
he started a public relations

174

00:10:57,980 --> 00:11:02,730
organization there
in Chicago, and he

175
00:11:02,730 --> 00:11:04,490
was on a lot of
speaking engagements.

176
00:11:04,490 --> 00:11:07,710
And he picked up quite a
bit of money doing that,

177
00:11:07,710 --> 00:11:11,660
but he didn't have any big job.

178
00:11:11,660 --> 00:11:14,840
He never had any real
big jobs, you know.

179
00:11:14,840 --> 00:11:17,000
What I'm trying to get
at here is, it seems that

180
00:11:17,000 --> 00:11:20,540
after all of the excitement
of winning this medal,

181
00:11:20,540 --> 00:11:25,790
winning this race, coming
back to all kinds of parades,

182
00:11:25,790 --> 00:11:28,520
how long did it kind of
take to come back to Earth

183
00:11:28,520 --> 00:11:31,460
and realize that things
hadn't changed much?

184
00:11:31,460 --> 00:11:36,680
Were there any moments that
kind of showed you that clearly?

185

00:11:36,680 --> 00:11:37,970
Yes.

186
00:11:37,970 --> 00:11:44,850
When I came back to the
University of Pittsburgh,

187
00:11:44,850 --> 00:11:50,220
they didn't want to let
me into the English class

188
00:11:50,220 --> 00:11:52,410
because I was a month late.

189
00:11:52,410 --> 00:11:54,120
And of course, I
guess the chancellor

190
00:11:54,120 --> 00:11:57,760
straightened that matter out.

191
00:11:57,760 --> 00:12:03,250
Then one day, I went downtown
Pittsburgh one evening

192
00:12:03,250 --> 00:12:07,170
to [? Chow's ?] Restaurant.

193
00:12:07,170 --> 00:12:08,340
They refused to serve me.

194
00:12:08,340 --> 00:12:13,160

195
00:12:13,160 --> 00:12:14,490
That was one incident.

196
00:12:14,490 --> 00:12:17,520

197
00:12:17,520 --> 00:12:23,010
Then when I was graduated

and they had the University

198
00:12:23,010 --> 00:12:28,382
Hall of Fame, here I'd brought
international recognition

199
00:12:28,382 --> 00:12:28,965
to the school.

200
00:12:28,965 --> 00:12:32,250

201
00:12:32,250 --> 00:12:35,220
The All-American football
players like Marshall Goldberg,

202
00:12:35,220 --> 00:12:37,650
they brought national
recognition to the school.

203
00:12:37,650 --> 00:12:43,840
They made the Hall of
Fame, but I didn't make it,

204
00:12:43,840 --> 00:12:46,270
in spite of the gold
medal that I'd won,

205
00:12:46,270 --> 00:12:50,200
and bringing the school
international recognition.

206
00:12:50,200 --> 00:12:53,030

207
00:12:53,030 --> 00:12:57,230
So that let me know just
what the situation was.

208
00:12:57,230 --> 00:12:59,510
Things hadn't changed.

209

00:12:59,510 --> 00:13:02,360
Things hadn't changed.

210
00:13:02,360 --> 00:13:07,160
But I was young, and of
course, as the years went on,

211
00:13:07,160 --> 00:13:10,140
things got better.

212
00:13:10,140 --> 00:13:14,580
And to date, things have gotten
much better for the Blacks,

213
00:13:14,580 --> 00:13:16,200
but we still have
a long way to go.

214
00:13:16,200 --> 00:13:18,984

215
00:13:18,984 --> 00:13:24,430
Can I ask you a
little bit about what

216
00:13:24,430 --> 00:13:29,670
was going on, what was unfolding
in Germany and in Europe?

217
00:13:29,670 --> 00:13:31,950
When, after the
Olympics, did you

218
00:13:31,950 --> 00:13:35,010
become more aware of
what was going on,

219
00:13:35,010 --> 00:13:39,510
and how did you find out?

220
00:13:39,510 --> 00:13:42,350

221

00:13:42,350 --> 00:13:45,860

Well, I personally
became aware of what

222

00:13:45,860 --> 00:13:49,380

was going on based
on the publications,

223

00:13:49,380 --> 00:13:54,920

on what was printed in
the various newspapers

224

00:13:54,920 --> 00:13:59,450

and magazines of what
was happening in Germany.

225

00:13:59,450 --> 00:14:06,360

Of course, right after
the Olympics, in 1939,

226

00:14:06,360 --> 00:14:12,170

Hitler started World War II when
he marched on Czechoslovakia.

227

00:14:12,170 --> 00:14:15,170

That was the beginning
of World War II.

228

00:14:15,170 --> 00:14:20,705

And of course, we all knew
what happened after that.

229

00:14:20,705 --> 00:14:22,080

How did you get
that information?

230

00:14:22,080 --> 00:14:23,480

How did you start learning more?

231

00:14:23,480 --> 00:14:26,240

Was that the point at
which you became more aware

232
00:14:26,240 --> 00:14:27,560
of the atrocities?

233
00:14:27,560 --> 00:14:28,150
Yes.

234
00:14:28,150 --> 00:14:31,220
I became aware of those
atrocities and things

235
00:14:31,220 --> 00:14:38,780
from what was printed
in the newspapers

236
00:14:38,780 --> 00:14:41,880
throughout the United States.

237
00:14:41,880 --> 00:14:44,480
After having this
glorious week in Berlin,

238
00:14:44,480 --> 00:14:46,730
this is hard to believe.

239
00:14:46,730 --> 00:14:49,340
Yes, it was very
hard to believe.

240
00:14:49,340 --> 00:14:52,100
It was very hard
to believe, but we

241
00:14:52,100 --> 00:14:55,970
knew what was going on
based on the publicity

242
00:14:55,970 --> 00:15:01,110
prior to the Olympic Games,
what Hitler was doing.

243
00:15:01,110 --> 00:15:05,660
And as I said, he declared

a moratorium, opened up

244

00:15:05,660 --> 00:15:10,330

everything, made

everything very pleasant,

245

00:15:10,330 --> 00:15:18,215

very accommodating for the

visiting Olympic teams,

246

00:15:18,215 --> 00:15:18,715

the nations.

247

00:15:18,715 --> 00:15:21,780

248

00:15:21,780 --> 00:15:26,370

But after the Olympics, then he

went right back to the things

249

00:15:26,370 --> 00:15:27,820

he had planned.

250

00:15:27,820 --> 00:15:30,210

And of course, all these

things he had planned

251

00:15:30,210 --> 00:15:34,860

was laid out in his

book, Mein Kampf.

252

00:15:34,860 --> 00:15:37,530

So the Olympics were

really a propaganda coup.

253

00:15:37,530 --> 00:15:39,010

It was.

254

00:15:39,010 --> 00:15:41,640

He made it so.

255

00:15:41,640 --> 00:15:42,450

He made it so.

256

00:15:42,450 --> 00:15:44,980

257

00:15:44,980 --> 00:15:53,445

He made it a propaganda
coup to further his cause,

258

00:15:53,445 --> 00:15:56,430

or to further his program
that he had set up.

259

00:15:56,430 --> 00:15:59,120

260

00:15:59,120 --> 00:16:01,580

When you started
learning more about all

261

00:16:01,580 --> 00:16:03,590

of the horrible things
that were happening,

262

00:16:03,590 --> 00:16:08,480

did you think about the
Olympics in the context

263

00:16:08,480 --> 00:16:10,520

of politics at all?

264

00:16:10,520 --> 00:16:16,340

Or were you just still feeling
the same way you did at age 21?

265

00:16:16,340 --> 00:16:22,130

Well, I would think it was
pretty much the latter, pretty

266

00:16:22,130 --> 00:16:27,170

much the latter, because we
had some background on what was

267

00:16:27,170 --> 00:16:30,290
going on prior to the games.

268

00:16:30,290 --> 00:16:33,320
And of course, it
was brought out more

269

00:16:33,320 --> 00:16:35,542
pointedly after the games.

270

00:16:35,542 --> 00:16:37,250
See, when after the
Games were over, then

271

00:16:37,250 --> 00:16:40,490
Hitler continued
with his program,

272

00:16:40,490 --> 00:16:43,670
you see, marching
on Czechoslovakia

273

00:16:43,670 --> 00:16:46,500
and starting the war.

274

00:16:46,500 --> 00:16:52,040
And of course, it was something
that we more or less expected.

275

00:16:52,040 --> 00:16:55,020
We more or less expected it.

276

00:16:55,020 --> 00:17:00,760
You know, the world
didn't think Hitler

277

00:17:00,760 --> 00:17:01,970
was doing what he was doing.

278

00:17:01,970 --> 00:17:04,839
You see, they should have
known what he was doing.

279
00:17:04,839 --> 00:17:08,920
You know, Germany was part
of the League of Nations,

280
00:17:08,920 --> 00:17:13,339
like all the nations
were part of that league.

281
00:17:13,339 --> 00:17:16,210
And the reason that they set
that league up, as you know,

282
00:17:16,210 --> 00:17:18,790
from history, was
to more or less keep

283
00:17:18,790 --> 00:17:22,480
a tab on each nation in
terms of them building up

284
00:17:22,480 --> 00:17:26,290
war armaments to start a war.

285
00:17:26,290 --> 00:17:28,570
Now, Hitler withdrew from
the League of Nations.

286
00:17:28,570 --> 00:17:31,470

287
00:17:31,470 --> 00:17:35,710
They should have known then
what he was going to do,

288
00:17:35,710 --> 00:17:37,310
but they didn't believe him.

289
00:17:37,310 --> 00:17:38,310
They didn't believe him.

290
00:17:38,310 --> 00:17:41,542

They didn't believe what he
had printed in that book Mein

291
00:17:41,542 --> 00:17:43,230
Kampf.

292
00:17:43,230 --> 00:17:45,840
Winston Churchill, the
Prime Minister of England,

293
00:17:45,840 --> 00:17:48,810
called him the little corporal.

294
00:17:48,810 --> 00:17:50,190
They downplayed Hitler.

295
00:17:50,190 --> 00:17:52,900

296
00:17:52,900 --> 00:17:56,980
They didn't believe
what he was about to do.

297
00:17:56,980 --> 00:17:59,835
So therefore, they didn't
put a curb on him, see.

298
00:17:59,835 --> 00:18:01,710
They probably could have
stopped World War II

299
00:18:01,710 --> 00:18:04,170
if they had done
so at that time.

300
00:18:04,170 --> 00:18:06,420
When he withdrew from
the League of Nations,

301
00:18:06,420 --> 00:18:10,230
if they had put a clamp on
him at that particular time,

302

00:18:10,230 --> 00:18:12,570

there probably would have
been no World War II,

303

00:18:12,570 --> 00:18:15,880

but they didn't do it.

304

00:18:15,880 --> 00:18:21,610

Do you think if we had believed
what was going to happen

305

00:18:21,610 --> 00:18:25,960

and had exercised a boycott, it
would have made any difference?

306

00:18:25,960 --> 00:18:28,060

You mean exercised a
boycott of the Olympics?

307

00:18:28,060 --> 00:18:29,110

Yeah.

308

00:18:29,110 --> 00:18:32,410

I don't know that it would have
made any difference or not.

309

00:18:32,410 --> 00:18:33,940

I really don't.

310

00:18:33,940 --> 00:18:39,160

I can't answer that question.

311

00:18:39,160 --> 00:18:42,910

In retrospect, because I know
how you felt at the time.

312

00:18:42,910 --> 00:18:48,190

Learning how bad
things became, do you

313

00:18:48,190 --> 00:18:51,910

think we should have

participated in the Olympics?

314

00:18:51,910 --> 00:19:02,890

Well, in retrospect,
based on all the training

315

00:19:02,890 --> 00:19:04,540

that the athletes
had gone through

316

00:19:04,540 --> 00:19:08,900

in preparing for
the Olympic Games,

317

00:19:08,900 --> 00:19:12,770

I felt that they should have
gone on with the Olympics

318

00:19:12,770 --> 00:19:18,000

as they did, because I think
that would have been a very

319

00:19:18,000 --> 00:19:21,570

bad thing to have taken place.

320

00:19:21,570 --> 00:19:25,560

It would have been very
hurting for the athletes who

321

00:19:25,560 --> 00:19:29,640

made so much preparation, who
trained so long over the years.

322

00:19:29,640 --> 00:19:31,740

Fortunately for me, I
didn't train like that.

323

00:19:31,740 --> 00:19:33,240

I was more or less
a gifted athlete.

324

00:19:33,240 --> 00:19:35,910

I came up very fast, but

there were other athletes who

325

00:19:35,910 --> 00:19:39,180
had trained for the Olympics,
trained for years to prepare

326

00:19:39,180 --> 00:19:42,900
for the Games, and that would
have been very, very bad

327

00:19:42,900 --> 00:19:46,250
if they could not have gone.

328

00:19:46,250 --> 00:19:48,755
That's my feeling
personally for me.

329

00:19:48,755 --> 00:19:50,130
Now, I mean there
might be others

330

00:19:50,130 --> 00:19:54,780
who would feel differently
about it based on the question

331

00:19:54,780 --> 00:19:57,900
you posed to me, but
that's my feeling.

332

00:19:57,900 --> 00:20:00,590
That the Olympics and
politics should stay separate.

333

00:20:00,590 --> 00:20:01,160
That's right.

334

00:20:01,160 --> 00:20:04,340

335

00:20:04,340 --> 00:20:07,690
Let's take a break.

336

00:20:07,690 --> 00:20:09,490
I want to-- you're great.

337
00:20:09,490 --> 00:20:15,592

338
00:20:15,592 --> 00:20:18,050
There are a couple of specific
questions I want to ask you.

339
00:20:18,050 --> 00:20:19,580
You had mentioned
one incident where

340
00:20:19,580 --> 00:20:23,250
you had contact with a German
athlete at the Olympic Village.

341
00:20:23,250 --> 00:20:23,750
Mm-hmm.

342
00:20:23,750 --> 00:20:26,120
Did you have other contact
with German athletes?

343
00:20:26,120 --> 00:20:27,440
That was the only one.

344
00:20:27,440 --> 00:20:31,130
That I remember this
young man that came in.

345
00:20:31,130 --> 00:20:35,810
He was young like we were,
and he came to visit with us,

346
00:20:35,810 --> 00:20:36,740
you see.

347
00:20:36,740 --> 00:20:41,630
And of course, we heard all
this information about Hitler,

348

00:20:41,630 --> 00:20:43,370

and that's when we
posed the question.

349

00:20:43,370 --> 00:20:46,910

What did he think, what did the
German people think of Hitler?

350

00:20:46,910 --> 00:20:50,960

And he said they thought he was
a very good man because of what

351

00:20:50,960 --> 00:20:54,140

he'd done for the country
economically speaking, made

352

00:20:54,140 --> 00:20:57,110

it possible for all
of them to work.

353

00:20:57,110 --> 00:21:01,070

And of course, you know, all of
them worked in these factories

354

00:21:01,070 --> 00:21:02,840

where they were making weapons.

355

00:21:02,840 --> 00:21:06,290

And that's why they felt,
because after World War I,

356

00:21:06,290 --> 00:21:11,360

you know, the Germans,
they really were beat down.

357

00:21:11,360 --> 00:21:14,390

They were in a bad
way, and I guess

358

00:21:14,390 --> 00:21:18,080

they were looking for a savior.

359

00:21:18,080 --> 00:21:20,540
And that's when
Hitler came into play.

360
00:21:20,540 --> 00:21:23,360
They were looking for
somebody to pull them out

361
00:21:23,360 --> 00:21:27,020
of those doldrums that
they were in, you see.

362
00:21:27,020 --> 00:21:30,680
And of course, when he withdrew
from the League of Nations,

363
00:21:30,680 --> 00:21:34,820
started building all
this war armament,

364
00:21:34,820 --> 00:21:37,760
putting all these
young people to work,

365
00:21:37,760 --> 00:21:40,730
he was a great guy as far
as they were concerned.

366
00:21:40,730 --> 00:21:42,550
But they didn't know
the whole story.

367
00:21:42,550 --> 00:21:46,910

368
00:21:46,910 --> 00:21:49,710
Did you encounter any other
international athletes?

369
00:21:49,710 --> 00:21:54,380
No, no, no.

370
00:21:54,380 --> 00:21:58,490

Was there much of a bond
or camaraderie that sort of

371
00:21:58,490 --> 00:22:02,375
lasted with the other
athletes after the Olympics?

372
00:22:02,375 --> 00:22:04,730
That lasted from other teams?

373
00:22:04,730 --> 00:22:06,740
From here.

374
00:22:06,740 --> 00:22:07,490
Yes, yeah.

375
00:22:07,490 --> 00:22:08,210
Quite a bond.

376
00:22:08,210 --> 00:22:13,550
You know, we became very,
very close friends, and we--

377
00:22:13,550 --> 00:22:14,020

378
00:22:14,020 --> 00:22:16,020
Can we have you start,
and instead of saying we,

379
00:22:16,020 --> 00:22:19,910
you can say, you know,
the other athletes.

380
00:22:19,910 --> 00:22:27,590
The other athletes on
the team were very close.

381
00:22:27,590 --> 00:22:29,330
I was very close to them.

382
00:22:29,330 --> 00:22:32,880

I'm still very close to some
of them that are still around.

383
00:22:32,880 --> 00:22:34,910
I still make contact
with them, you see.

384
00:22:34,910 --> 00:22:37,490

385
00:22:37,490 --> 00:22:39,980
But of course, many
of them are gone.

386
00:22:39,980 --> 00:22:43,470
Many of them have
passed, and as I said,

387
00:22:43,470 --> 00:22:45,510
I'm the only one who's
left now, you see.

388
00:22:45,510 --> 00:22:47,360
Archie Williams, who
won the 400 meters,

389
00:22:47,360 --> 00:22:50,030
he died about three
years ago, and he

390
00:22:50,030 --> 00:22:51,980
was the last of the
gold medal winners

391
00:22:51,980 --> 00:22:56,070
other than myself
that was still living.

392
00:22:56,070 --> 00:22:57,560
So it was really a special bond.

393
00:22:57,560 --> 00:22:58,340
Oh, yes.

394
00:22:58,340 --> 00:23:03,270
Stronger than a fraternity,
much stronger than a fraternity,

395
00:23:03,270 --> 00:23:08,740
because of what we go through
in training and what have you,

396
00:23:08,740 --> 00:23:10,960
the feeling of pain
when we're training,

397
00:23:10,960 --> 00:23:14,460
the feeling of
pain when we race.

398
00:23:14,460 --> 00:23:19,490
That gives us a lot of
strength, and it's something

399
00:23:19,490 --> 00:23:22,820
that we have in common with
each other and something

400
00:23:22,820 --> 00:23:24,530
that we understand.

401
00:23:24,530 --> 00:23:26,555
See, one athlete
understands another athlete

402
00:23:26,555 --> 00:23:28,250
and what he has to go through.

403
00:23:28,250 --> 00:23:31,015
If he's a football
player, a football player

404
00:23:31,015 --> 00:23:32,390
understands what
another football

405

00:23:32,390 --> 00:23:34,440

player has to go through,
and that same way

406

00:23:34,440 --> 00:23:35,330

in track and field.

407

00:23:35,330 --> 00:23:37,970

408

00:23:37,970 --> 00:23:42,200

When did you become friendly
with Marty Glickman, or how?

409

00:23:42,200 --> 00:23:43,850

We lived in the
same neighborhood

410

00:23:43,850 --> 00:23:45,980

up in New Rochelle, New York.

411

00:23:45,980 --> 00:23:49,010

His family and my family lived
in the same neighborhood.

412

00:23:49,010 --> 00:23:50,870

But you met at the Olympics.

413

00:23:50,870 --> 00:23:52,080

We met at the Olympics.

414

00:23:52,080 --> 00:23:54,170

OK, I need you to say his name.

415

00:23:54,170 --> 00:24:00,360

Marty Glickman, I met in
Olympics as part of the team.

416

00:24:00,360 --> 00:24:04,160

I didn't know him before that,
but I knew him after that,

417

00:24:04,160 --> 00:24:08,030

after the Olympics, where
he resided in New Rochelle

418

00:24:08,030 --> 00:24:10,970

and where I resided with my
family in New Rochelle, New

419

00:24:10,970 --> 00:24:12,680

York.

420

00:24:12,680 --> 00:24:15,410

Do you remember him
at the Olympics?

421

00:24:15,410 --> 00:24:20,870

I used to see him on occasion
because he was a sprinter,

422

00:24:20,870 --> 00:24:22,940

and I used to see Sam Stoller.

423

00:24:22,940 --> 00:24:25,760

Also, incidentally,
is Sam Stoller dead?

424

00:24:25,760 --> 00:24:30,170

425

00:24:30,170 --> 00:24:34,690

From your memory of
1936, what kind of a guy

426

00:24:34,690 --> 00:24:36,960

was Marty Glickman?

427

00:24:36,960 --> 00:24:40,120

Nice fella, very nice fella.

428

00:24:40,120 --> 00:24:45,790

Very friendly, as all the
athletes that were on the team

429
00:24:45,790 --> 00:24:49,630
were all very friendly,
all very cordial, all very

430
00:24:49,630 --> 00:24:50,880
accommodating.

431
00:24:50,880 --> 00:24:53,520

432
00:24:53,520 --> 00:24:55,800
We were just like
one big happy family.

433
00:24:55,800 --> 00:24:58,770
Was there anything that
set him apart in your mind?

434
00:24:58,770 --> 00:25:00,600
No.

435
00:25:00,600 --> 00:25:07,130
No, he was just another athlete
like all the rest of them

436
00:25:07,130 --> 00:25:12,150
that were over there
to win a gold medal.

437
00:25:12,150 --> 00:25:14,780
And I was very, very sorry that
he didn't get that opportunity

438
00:25:14,780 --> 00:25:15,370
to do so.

439
00:25:15,370 --> 00:25:20,510

440
00:25:20,510 --> 00:25:23,270
Did you go to the

closing ceremonies?

441

00:25:23,270 --> 00:25:27,230

The closing ceremonies
at the Berlin?

442

00:25:27,230 --> 00:25:28,730

Yes.

443

00:25:28,730 --> 00:25:29,230

Yes.

444

00:25:29,230 --> 00:25:29,930

Tell me.

445

00:25:29,930 --> 00:25:32,150

It was very, very,
very exciting.

446

00:25:32,150 --> 00:25:34,490

We need to start--

447

00:25:34,490 --> 00:25:38,132

The closing ceremonies
were very, very exciting,

448

00:25:38,132 --> 00:25:40,340

because of course, I witnessed
the closing ceremonies

449

00:25:40,340 --> 00:25:44,360

on the Olympic Games
that I attended,

450

00:25:44,360 --> 00:25:48,320

but this one was
much more important

451

00:25:48,320 --> 00:25:51,680

because I was part of it.

452

00:25:51,680 --> 00:25:54,950

And they put on quite
a show, quite a show.

453
00:25:54,950 --> 00:25:58,340

454
00:25:58,340 --> 00:26:00,530
Tell me about it.

455
00:26:00,530 --> 00:26:07,310
Well, they had the
athletes-- of course,

456
00:26:07,310 --> 00:26:11,660
one thing about the closing
ceremonies, the closing

457
00:26:11,660 --> 00:26:13,700
ceremonies are not as
exciting as the opening

458
00:26:13,700 --> 00:26:18,170
ceremonies because a lot of
the athletes after competing

459
00:26:18,170 --> 00:26:19,580
go home.

460
00:26:19,580 --> 00:26:25,100
So the whole team is never
there at the closing ceremonies.

461
00:26:25,100 --> 00:26:29,750
So therefore, it's not quite
as exciting as the opening

462
00:26:29,750 --> 00:26:35,360
ceremony when they march in
each country with their flags,

463
00:26:35,360 --> 00:26:39,500
and of course with the Olympic
flag preceding everything,

464
00:26:39,500 --> 00:26:43,790
you see, the five-ring
Olympic flag.

465
00:26:43,790 --> 00:26:48,260
But as I said, it's
not as exciting.

466
00:26:48,260 --> 00:26:51,980
But it's still exciting
for those who participated

467
00:26:51,980 --> 00:26:54,933
in the closing ceremonies.

468
00:26:54,933 --> 00:26:55,850
What did it look like?

469
00:26:55,850 --> 00:26:59,710

470
00:26:59,710 --> 00:27:04,530
Well, it looked like
a closing ceremony.

471
00:27:04,530 --> 00:27:06,360
That's all I can see.

472
00:27:06,360 --> 00:27:07,820
I don't know what you--

473
00:27:07,820 --> 00:27:09,307
I've never been to one.

474
00:27:09,307 --> 00:27:11,640
I don't even know what the
opening ceremonies look like.

475
00:27:11,640 --> 00:27:14,578
Well, the opening ceremonies
were all these various nations.

476
00:27:14,578 --> 00:27:17,450

477
00:27:17,450 --> 00:27:20,950
All these Olympic
athletes representing all

478
00:27:20,950 --> 00:27:23,520
these various nations march in.

479
00:27:23,520 --> 00:27:26,610

480
00:27:26,610 --> 00:27:33,450
The host country
athletes march in last.

481
00:27:33,450 --> 00:27:34,230
It's all set up.

482
00:27:34,230 --> 00:27:39,030
It's all organized, and of
course, all these countries,

483
00:27:39,030 --> 00:27:44,550
it's preceded by the Olympic
flag, the five-ring flag.

484
00:27:44,550 --> 00:27:47,640
And of course, right
after they march in

485
00:27:47,640 --> 00:27:54,600
and the Games are declared
open, they have pigeons,

486
00:27:54,600 --> 00:27:59,100
and they release all these
pigeons, and they all fly.

487
00:27:59,100 --> 00:28:02,498

And that's the
opening of the games.

488
00:28:02,498 --> 00:28:03,335
It was beautiful.

489
00:28:03,335 --> 00:28:04,960
And you were on the
field at that time?

490
00:28:04,960 --> 00:28:09,590
On the field as part
of the American team.

491
00:28:09,590 --> 00:28:16,010
We came in with our white
trousers, blue jackets

492
00:28:16,010 --> 00:28:21,640
and straw hats with a
red, white, and blue band,

493
00:28:21,640 --> 00:28:23,470
white shirt.

494
00:28:23,470 --> 00:28:29,600
And I think the tie
was white, if I recall.

495
00:28:29,600 --> 00:28:33,880
It has been a little while,
but I remember the hat.

496
00:28:33,880 --> 00:28:37,090
I remember the jacket and
I remember the trousers,

497
00:28:37,090 --> 00:28:39,490
and of course, white shoes.

498
00:28:39,490 --> 00:28:41,770
How were you feeling?

499

00:28:41,770 --> 00:28:43,570

How were you feeling
marching across that?

500

00:28:43,570 --> 00:28:44,650

Oh, felt good.

501

00:28:44,650 --> 00:28:45,820

Felt good.

502

00:28:45,820 --> 00:28:49,810

You know, you always felt
good marching in the parade.

503

00:28:49,810 --> 00:28:51,520

Always did.

504

00:28:51,520 --> 00:28:53,320

It kind of does
something to you.

505

00:28:53,320 --> 00:28:55,922

506

00:28:55,922 --> 00:28:57,450

It was a big parade.

507

00:28:57,450 --> 00:28:58,400

It was.

508

00:28:58,400 --> 00:28:59,060

It was.

509

00:28:59,060 --> 00:29:02,510

510

00:29:02,510 --> 00:29:05,620

I'm going to ask you,
is there anything else

511

00:29:05,620 --> 00:29:09,310

that you can remember about
what the stadium looked,

512
00:29:09,310 --> 00:29:10,750
like what the track was like?

513
00:29:10,750 --> 00:29:15,250
Was it similar to other
tracks that you competed on?

514
00:29:15,250 --> 00:29:18,610
It was a very beautiful
track, a very fine track.

515
00:29:18,610 --> 00:29:24,430
It was made with some kind
of red dirt, red cinders

516
00:29:24,430 --> 00:29:25,210
or something.

517
00:29:25,210 --> 00:29:26,540
It was different.

518
00:29:26,540 --> 00:29:28,720
It was very different
to the tracks

519
00:29:28,720 --> 00:29:32,540
here in America at
that particular time.

520
00:29:32,540 --> 00:29:36,880
And when I was over there
for the 50th anniversary

521
00:29:36,880 --> 00:29:40,540
and I got a chance to
visit the track again,

522
00:29:40,540 --> 00:29:42,550
that track was still
in excellent condition,

523
00:29:42,550 --> 00:29:44,770
and the stadium was in
excellent condition.

524
00:29:44,770 --> 00:29:46,660
All the facilities
that the Germans

525
00:29:46,660 --> 00:29:48,980
built for the 1936
Olympic games,

526
00:29:48,980 --> 00:29:54,280
they did a marvelous job, a
marvelous job, and everything

527
00:29:54,280 --> 00:29:58,690
is still intact even
today, even today.

528
00:29:58,690 --> 00:29:59,950
Did the weather cooperate?

529
00:29:59,950 --> 00:30:02,270
It cooperated very well.

530
00:30:02,270 --> 00:30:04,660
We had no inclement
weather at all.

531
00:30:04,660 --> 00:30:07,320

532
00:30:07,320 --> 00:30:08,870
So it was kind of
an ideal situation?

533
00:30:08,870 --> 00:30:09,370
Ideal.

534
00:30:09,370 --> 00:30:13,250

535

00:30:13,250 --> 00:30:15,210

End the tape.

536

00:30:15,210 --> 00:31:06,000