

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:46,880

2
00:00:46,880 --> 00:00:49,400
For over a month.

3
00:00:49,400 --> 00:00:50,110
That's fun.

4
00:00:50,110 --> 00:00:51,245
Yeah.

5
00:00:51,245 --> 00:00:55,885
How did exhibition baseball in
the 1936 Olympics come about?

6
00:00:55,885 --> 00:00:57,260
Are you ready for
the answer now?

7
00:00:57,260 --> 00:00:59,300
Yes.

8
00:00:59,300 --> 00:01:03,800
Exhibition baseball
in the 1936 Olympics

9
00:01:03,800 --> 00:01:09,230
really started because there
was an American committee

10
00:01:09,230 --> 00:01:14,060
on baseball that was pushing
very hard for baseball to be

11
00:01:14,060 --> 00:01:18,560
introduced and attached
to the Olympics.

12
00:01:18,560 --> 00:01:28,950
The number of baseball

players in the world

13
00:01:28,950 --> 00:01:33,630
were limited pretty much
to Central American teams,

14
00:01:33,630 --> 00:01:38,160
to all the American
teams, of course,

15
00:01:38,160 --> 00:01:40,035
all South African teams.

16
00:01:40,035 --> 00:01:43,450

17
00:01:43,450 --> 00:01:51,000
The kinds of athletes who got
started early through films,

18
00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:57,150
through television, and began
to play at a very early age.

19
00:01:57,150 --> 00:02:02,670
It really got introduced
because frankly,

20
00:02:02,670 --> 00:02:07,020
and I don't take this as
a compliment for myself,

21
00:02:07,020 --> 00:02:10,650
because of Herman
Goldberg, who was

22
00:02:10,650 --> 00:02:19,890
in charge of developing baseball
in the country of Italy.

23
00:02:19,890 --> 00:02:22,140
OK, but I want to go
back to Berlin, because--

24
00:02:22,140 --> 00:02:22,280
Oh, yes.

25
00:02:22,280 --> 00:02:23,780
--that really needs
to be our focus.

26
00:02:23,780 --> 00:02:26,010
Please.

27
00:02:26,010 --> 00:02:28,770
So the American
Olympic Committee

28
00:02:28,770 --> 00:02:31,720
decided that they were going
to try to promote baseball?

29
00:02:31,720 --> 00:02:34,200
They were going
to try to promote.

30
00:02:34,200 --> 00:02:37,530
Who came to this decision?

31
00:02:37,530 --> 00:02:43,530
Judge JL Hoffman
of Cincinnati, Ohio

32
00:02:43,530 --> 00:02:47,940
was the one who
headed the group that

33
00:02:47,940 --> 00:02:54,530
pushed very hard for baseball
to be an Olympic sport.

34
00:02:54,530 --> 00:03:01,740
Also, the American
Olympic committees

35

00:03:01,740 --> 00:03:04,980
wanted to see baseball
in the Olympics.

36
00:03:04,980 --> 00:03:11,100
They had seen ski they had
seen all the other sports,

37
00:03:11,100 --> 00:03:14,490
and they really wanted
to see baseball in them.

38
00:03:14,490 --> 00:03:21,870
And it came about
because the committees

39
00:03:21,870 --> 00:03:25,380
of the various
sports finally agreed

40
00:03:25,380 --> 00:03:29,370
that it would be a good
thing for American baseball

41
00:03:29,370 --> 00:03:31,840
to be on the calendar.

42
00:03:31,840 --> 00:03:36,750
And as far as I can tell that's
when it started because I began

43
00:03:36,750 --> 00:03:45,360
to get mail, I began to get
my first pieces of information

44
00:03:45,360 --> 00:03:51,530
about the possibility of
baseball tournament being held.

45
00:03:51,530 --> 00:03:55,500
So you must have been pretty
exciting to be in this early.

46

00:03:55,500 --> 00:03:59,220
It was very exciting because
well, first, the stadium

47
00:03:59,220 --> 00:04:06,240
was very large, 125,000 people
watching a baseball series.

48
00:04:06,240 --> 00:04:11,250
Unheard of, unheard of before.

49
00:04:11,250 --> 00:04:17,250
Most of the baseball teams
in America, 40,000, 50,000,

50
00:04:17,250 --> 00:04:24,930
60,000, maybe, but 125,000,
who ever heard of such a thing?

51
00:04:24,930 --> 00:04:30,420
You heard of it in Berlin,
Germany for the first time

52
00:04:30,420 --> 00:04:38,160
and it was promoted by the small
group of 28 American baseball

53
00:04:38,160 --> 00:04:39,360
players.

54
00:04:39,360 --> 00:04:45,900
There were 28 of us assigned
to play a series of exhibitions

55
00:04:45,900 --> 00:04:52,080
against each other and then
to go out into the countryside

56
00:04:52,080 --> 00:04:58,320
and demonstrate baseball
to schools, to colleges,

57
00:04:58,320 --> 00:05:04,320

to many German institutions
how it's played,

58
00:05:04,320 --> 00:05:11,340
what the difference is between
baseball and soccer, what

59
00:05:11,340 --> 00:05:17,580
the rules were, how the
umpires played the game.

60
00:05:17,580 --> 00:05:23,730
It was done because
of America, and I

61
00:05:23,730 --> 00:05:27,600
was very proud to be
part of the group that

62
00:05:27,600 --> 00:05:31,230
kept pushing without pushing.

63
00:05:31,230 --> 00:05:36,270
We kept encouraging,
encouraging, demonstrating.

64
00:05:36,270 --> 00:05:40,260
This is how left-handed
first baseman behave,

65
00:05:40,260 --> 00:05:44,820
this is how right-handed
pitchers do this.

66
00:05:44,820 --> 00:05:48,810
If you are left-handed,
this is how it's done.

67
00:05:48,810 --> 00:05:56,112
And we put it on the map.

68
00:05:56,112 --> 00:05:57,570
What was the reaction

when you were

69

00:05:57,570 --> 00:05:59,008
playing these games in Berlin?

70

00:05:59,008 --> 00:06:00,300
What was the audience reaction?

71

00:06:00,300 --> 00:06:05,230
The audience reaction
was very poor, very poor.

72

00:06:05,230 --> 00:06:09,240
They didn't like the game,
they didn't know the game.

73

00:06:09,240 --> 00:06:12,240

74

00:06:12,240 --> 00:06:14,520
The diamond, the
baseball diamond

75

00:06:14,520 --> 00:06:17,640
was never laid out
like a diamond.

76

00:06:17,640 --> 00:06:25,070
They took a 4-inch
white silky tape

77

00:06:25,070 --> 00:06:28,610
and they pressed
it into the grass

78

00:06:28,610 --> 00:06:34,850
and they made a diamond
out of it for baseball.

79

00:06:34,850 --> 00:06:40,910
But they never actually made
a baseball field, never.

80

00:06:40,910 --> 00:06:46,640

It caught hold to some extent,
not to such great extent

81

00:06:46,640 --> 00:06:51,290

as in other countries,
especially Central America.

82

00:06:51,290 --> 00:06:59,390

But it became a vivid activity
because it came from America.

83

00:06:59,390 --> 00:07:02,960

A lot of the kids wanted
very much to know more

84

00:07:02,960 --> 00:07:04,020

about America.

85

00:07:04,020 --> 00:07:09,110

And sports were very
important to them too.

86

00:07:09,110 --> 00:07:10,940

But the audience wasn't excited.

87

00:07:10,940 --> 00:07:17,510

The audience was not excited
because the pace of baseball,

88

00:07:17,510 --> 00:07:21,920

much slower than soccer.

89

00:07:21,920 --> 00:07:25,440

In soccer, the ball is moving,
moving, moving, moving,

90

00:07:25,440 --> 00:07:28,710

moving all the time and
the kids are kicking in

91

00:07:28,710 --> 00:07:31,430

and kicking and then
kicking in and circling

92
00:07:31,430 --> 00:07:34,640
and they're beating
out the other guy.

93
00:07:34,640 --> 00:07:43,565
Whereas, in the other sports,
you play hard, we jump hard,

94
00:07:43,565 --> 00:07:50,750
you run hard, you do all
of the things yourself.

95
00:07:50,750 --> 00:07:54,410
But in baseball,
you're part of a team

96
00:07:54,410 --> 00:07:59,000
and it's necessary
to understand that.

97
00:07:59,000 --> 00:08:05,240
And the crowds at
the baseball fields

98
00:08:05,240 --> 00:08:10,070
were 100,000, not 125,000.

99
00:08:10,070 --> 00:08:14,300
Now, let me ask you a few
questions about the period

100
00:08:14,300 --> 00:08:15,980
before you went over to Berlin.

101
00:08:15,980 --> 00:08:20,480
And how much did you know
at that time about what

102
00:08:20,480 --> 00:08:24,640
was going on in Nazi Germany?

103
00:08:24,640 --> 00:08:30,440
I knew less than
I guess I am told

104
00:08:30,440 --> 00:08:36,110
I should have known by
many people who asked me

105
00:08:36,110 --> 00:08:42,120
how come you went to Germany
when this was going on?

106
00:08:42,120 --> 00:08:53,180
The number of Jewish athletes
were 8 or 9 out of 328.

107
00:08:53,180 --> 00:09:00,440
The number of Jewish athletes
who made the team and then

108
00:09:00,440 --> 00:09:03,380
quit 3 or 4 of those.

109
00:09:03,380 --> 00:09:07,700

110
00:09:07,700 --> 00:09:12,080
Knowledge about what was
going on with Hitler beginning

111
00:09:12,080 --> 00:09:16,205
to become more close to us.

112
00:09:16,205 --> 00:09:20,420

113
00:09:20,420 --> 00:09:24,500
One of the most
telling experiences

114
00:09:24,500 --> 00:09:32,480

that I had personally, we
lived in a small cottage.

115
00:09:32,480 --> 00:09:37,220
Mine happened to be
named Brandenburg cottage

116
00:09:37,220 --> 00:09:42,650
because Hitler had
charged money to all

117
00:09:42,650 --> 00:09:49,310
the residents of Brandenburg
to pay for his cottage,

118
00:09:49,310 --> 00:09:54,680
and then another group paid
for their named cottage,

119
00:09:54,680 --> 00:09:56,840
another group paid for this.

120
00:09:56,840 --> 00:10:05,000
And I can recall very
vividly the concern

121
00:10:05,000 --> 00:10:13,130
I had when I went down
and I saw a big chain

122
00:10:13,130 --> 00:10:16,730
at the basement
door of our village.

123
00:10:16,730 --> 00:10:26,030
There were 28 players who
lived in the Brandenburg, Dorf

124
00:10:26,030 --> 00:10:28,130
in our village.

125
00:10:28,130 --> 00:10:35,960
And what I saw in the

rear of the cottage

126
00:10:35,960 --> 00:10:40,010
was a door and another
door and then a chain.

127
00:10:40,010 --> 00:10:47,060
And I opened the chain and
I started to walk downstairs

128
00:10:47,060 --> 00:10:50,120
in the bottom of the basement.

129
00:10:50,120 --> 00:10:54,410
And there was a
big cavernous area,

130
00:10:54,410 --> 00:10:58,430
I didn't know what it
was for, but I sure soon

131
00:10:58,430 --> 00:11:05,240
found out that it was for
Panzer tanks, German tanks.

132
00:11:05,240 --> 00:11:12,620
Because what they did was
declare the Olympic Dorf

133
00:11:12,620 --> 00:11:15,440
the West Point of Germany.

134
00:11:15,440 --> 00:11:21,530
And the athletes and
the military Chiefs

135
00:11:21,530 --> 00:11:25,910
were housed with the
Olympic athletes were housed

136
00:11:25,910 --> 00:11:28,130
after the Olympics were over.

137

00:11:28,130 --> 00:11:33,980
And I was told by a woman who
took care of that building,

138

00:11:33,980 --> 00:11:37,490
raus, raus, raus, get out
of there, get out of there,

139

00:11:37,490 --> 00:11:38,630
get out of there.

140

00:11:38,630 --> 00:11:41,840
She didn't want me looking
down in the basement.

141

00:11:41,840 --> 00:11:44,810
I didn't know what
was down there,

142

00:11:44,810 --> 00:11:51,620
but it turned out that it
was large enough, the cellar

143

00:11:51,620 --> 00:11:55,775
or the basement, whatever
you want to call it.

144

00:11:55,775 --> 00:12:02,060
In my cottage, you find
these in picture material

145

00:12:02,060 --> 00:12:06,950
that was brought to
the studio today.

146

00:12:06,950 --> 00:12:17,210
You will find structures
that looked like resorts,

147

00:12:17,210 --> 00:12:21,215
but when you walk down there,
cavernous, they're empty.

148

00:12:21,215 --> 00:12:23,790

149

00:12:23,790 --> 00:12:27,900

The thick, the
cement was about 10,

150

00:12:27,900 --> 00:12:32,030

12, 15 inches thick
and that couldn't

151

00:12:32,030 --> 00:12:35,840

be for just a car or
a Jeep or a truck,

152

00:12:35,840 --> 00:12:40,730

something big had to
be in a basement that

153

00:12:40,730 --> 00:12:46,220

had floors this thick, you
never saw such thick floors.

154

00:12:46,220 --> 00:12:52,610

And it turned out
that, that became

155

00:12:52,610 --> 00:12:55,400

the West Point of Germany.

156

00:12:55,400 --> 00:12:58,370

At what point did you realize
this was what this was?

157

00:12:58,370 --> 00:13:04,550

I realized what it was
after I was in Germany

158

00:13:04,550 --> 00:13:11,300

and after I had seen
enough of the activity that

159

00:13:11,300 --> 00:13:21,380
led to the early movement
of labor camp people

160
00:13:21,380 --> 00:13:33,710
into army men, and from boy
scouts into young soldiers.

161
00:13:33,710 --> 00:13:43,760
And from ordinary men
with ordinary credentials

162
00:13:43,760 --> 00:13:50,690
carrying shovels, dressed
in regular clothes,

163
00:13:50,690 --> 00:13:55,040
but carrying shovels
ready to clean out

164
00:13:55,040 --> 00:13:58,730
as soon as the
American athletes left,

165
00:13:58,730 --> 00:14:03,120
ready to clean out what
they could from there to get

166
00:14:03,120 --> 00:14:05,030
it ready for the army.

167
00:14:05,030 --> 00:14:07,760
So you saw this as
you were departing?

168
00:14:07,760 --> 00:14:12,050
I saw this about halfway there.

169
00:14:12,050 --> 00:14:19,920
I would say about four weeks.

170
00:14:19,920 --> 00:14:23,960
Four weeks before

we left, I saw it.

171

00:14:23,960 --> 00:14:28,010

And they were very strict,
very angry because I

172

00:14:28,010 --> 00:14:32,850

was the only one who went
down to the basement.

173

00:14:32,850 --> 00:14:36,530

And it was just the
happenstance walking down

174

00:14:36,530 --> 00:14:40,070

a flight of stairs,
removing a chain,

175

00:14:40,070 --> 00:14:46,700

and being yelled at by the
German hausfrau and houseman

176

00:14:46,700 --> 00:14:48,710

who didn't like what they saw.

177

00:14:48,710 --> 00:14:51,770

I'm an American down
on that property that

178

00:14:51,770 --> 00:14:56,540

was going to become
a Panzer tank unit as

179

00:14:56,540 --> 00:14:58,130

soon as the games were over.

180

00:14:58,130 --> 00:15:00,890

181

00:15:00,890 --> 00:15:03,140

You stayed in Germany for
how long after the Olympics?

182
00:15:03,140 --> 00:15:07,610

183
00:15:07,610 --> 00:15:10,440
About two weeks.

184
00:15:10,440 --> 00:15:12,650
So I'm sorry, but I'm
a little confused.

185
00:15:12,650 --> 00:15:14,450
When you said you
saw people coming in

186
00:15:14,450 --> 00:15:17,420
with shovels getting ready
to transform the Olympics--

187
00:15:17,420 --> 00:15:18,620
Yes.

188
00:15:18,620 --> 00:15:21,890
This was while you were
over there for the Olympics?

189
00:15:21,890 --> 00:15:25,670

190
00:15:25,670 --> 00:15:26,540
Yes.

191
00:15:26,540 --> 00:15:32,360
And again, the materials
we found in our beds,

192
00:15:32,360 --> 00:15:37,520
they were very large
books marked Berlin, just

193
00:15:37,520 --> 00:15:40,460
the name Berlin on the outside.

194

00:15:40,460 --> 00:15:47,540

And in that book were pictures
of men marching in parade,

195

00:15:47,540 --> 00:15:53,210

but they weren't equipped
with army uniforms.

196

00:15:53,210 --> 00:15:58,670

They were equipped with regular
clothes, with work clothes,

197

00:15:58,670 --> 00:16:09,620

with seemingly baskets, and
then shovels on the shoulder

198

00:16:09,620 --> 00:16:11,960

and they were walking that way.

199

00:16:11,960 --> 00:16:15,590

And they were walking this
way, this way, this way

200

00:16:15,590 --> 00:16:18,230

through that whole area there.

201

00:16:18,230 --> 00:16:25,730

And what we found out was
that they were not only being

202

00:16:25,730 --> 00:16:29,480

prepared for their
part in the Olympics,

203

00:16:29,480 --> 00:16:33,920

but some were already
on the grounds

204

00:16:33,920 --> 00:16:39,350

ready to be instructed in
how to go ahead and fill

205

00:16:39,350 --> 00:16:45,080
in the tanks that were going on.

206
00:16:45,080 --> 00:16:48,890
You said there were books that
would say Berlin or boxes?

207
00:16:48,890 --> 00:16:53,253
There were boxes of books
very, very large books.

208
00:16:53,253 --> 00:16:54,545
With photographs of the Polish?

209
00:16:54,545 --> 00:16:55,730
Yes.

210
00:16:55,730 --> 00:17:02,330
On the outside, it just said
Berlin, one word, that's all.

211
00:17:02,330 --> 00:17:06,680
And we turned pages and you
saw pictures of the army

212
00:17:06,680 --> 00:17:07,710
and you turn more.

213
00:17:07,710 --> 00:17:12,710
There was one on everybody's
bed, your propaganda material.

214
00:17:12,710 --> 00:17:18,200
And it was on everybody's
bed and nobody

215
00:17:18,200 --> 00:17:21,200
gave them up because
you were intrigued.

216
00:17:21,200 --> 00:17:25,020
We were reading them,
what is all this about?

217
00:17:25,020 --> 00:17:31,130
So I began to learn more
about Hitler and Goebbels

218
00:17:31,130 --> 00:17:36,890
and some of the others
after I had turned pages

219
00:17:36,890 --> 00:17:47,600
and noted that the Olympics
were for other purposes

220
00:17:47,600 --> 00:17:50,960
than storage.

221
00:17:50,960 --> 00:17:54,140
But how odd this is that
they would leave this for you

222
00:17:54,140 --> 00:17:55,550
to see?

223
00:17:55,550 --> 00:17:56,180
How what?

224
00:17:56,180 --> 00:17:58,040
Odd this is that they
would leave this for you--

225
00:17:58,040 --> 00:17:58,540
How?

226
00:17:58,540 --> 00:17:59,540
--to see-- odd.

227
00:17:59,540 --> 00:18:00,950
How odd?

228
00:18:00,950 --> 00:18:03,740
And well, I would say it
would be stupid, first.

229
00:18:03,740 --> 00:18:06,560

230
00:18:06,560 --> 00:18:08,075
Odd, yes.

231
00:18:08,075 --> 00:18:13,410

232
00:18:13,410 --> 00:18:19,740
An open door down to a basement
that had no use other than

233
00:18:19,740 --> 00:18:30,240
for storage of large
tanks and materials,

234
00:18:30,240 --> 00:18:33,090
that's how big they were.

235
00:18:33,090 --> 00:18:35,280
So before you went
to Berlin, you

236
00:18:35,280 --> 00:18:37,380
didn't know too much
about Nazi Germany.

237
00:18:37,380 --> 00:18:38,940
That's correct.

238
00:18:38,940 --> 00:18:46,320
Now, there was some movement
in the United States in regard

239
00:18:46,320 --> 00:18:49,380
to the boycott, were
you aware of that?

240
00:18:49,380 --> 00:18:54,420
I was aware of some

of the activities that

241
00:18:54,420 --> 00:18:57,600
were going on
throughout the United

242
00:18:57,600 --> 00:18:59,820
States and different parts.

243
00:18:59,820 --> 00:19:09,240
There were programs
which displayed

244
00:19:09,240 --> 00:19:14,220
the feeling about Germany,
what was happening,

245
00:19:14,220 --> 00:19:19,110
what was going on,
Hitler's preparation.

246
00:19:19,110 --> 00:19:28,530
The activity going
on in the fields,

247
00:19:28,530 --> 00:19:38,170
in the manufacturing areas,
the building, the construction,

248
00:19:38,170 --> 00:19:42,210
all of those things were
apparently going on.

249
00:19:42,210 --> 00:19:50,790
Also, the American athletes
and all other country

250
00:19:50,790 --> 00:19:58,620
had its athletes
separated by action.

251
00:19:58,620 --> 00:20:08,650
And by that I mean by summer

sports, winter sports,

252

00:20:08,650 --> 00:20:12,990
different kinds of activities
trying to separate them.

253

00:20:12,990 --> 00:20:21,000
And you could see that if
you opened the doors to look

254

00:20:21,000 --> 00:20:25,910
into places and the houseman
and the hausfrau caught you,

255

00:20:25,910 --> 00:20:28,380
you'd get yelled at.

256

00:20:28,380 --> 00:20:29,850
But they didn't
do anything, they

257

00:20:29,850 --> 00:20:33,510
didn't want to hurt
anybody, and they

258

00:20:33,510 --> 00:20:38,940
didn't want to give away some
of their secrets about their non

259

00:20:38,940 --> 00:20:40,605
relations with
the United States.

260

00:20:40,605 --> 00:20:44,130

261

00:20:44,130 --> 00:20:49,950
That's one of them.

262

00:20:49,950 --> 00:21:00,190
I think first time,
he ought to be

263

00:21:00,190 --> 00:21:10,150
aware of what is the
surface on a courage game.

264

00:21:10,150 --> 00:21:17,530
And if he has another chap,
we should have the chat,

265

00:21:17,530 --> 00:21:21,490
we should have the
chap we should not

266

00:21:21,490 --> 00:21:24,850
be afraid to have
someone here telling us

267

00:21:24,850 --> 00:21:28,180
how he or she feels
about what's going on.

268

00:21:28,180 --> 00:21:31,290

269

00:21:31,290 --> 00:21:33,160
You may not get it
all so smoothly.

270

00:21:33,160 --> 00:21:35,710

271

00:21:35,710 --> 00:21:40,780
You may or you may and
you have to work it out

272

00:21:40,780 --> 00:21:47,680
to find out what is going
on that is happening

273

00:21:47,680 --> 00:21:52,630
with the Olympics
that you are part of,

274

00:21:52,630 --> 00:21:57,760
yet you're really not part
of because somebody else is

275
00:21:57,760 --> 00:21:59,470
running it now?

276
00:21:59,470 --> 00:22:05,140
And you're someone
else in a khaki uniform

277
00:22:05,140 --> 00:22:11,305
ready to run for the next
period of three or four weeks.

278
00:22:11,305 --> 00:22:16,520

279
00:22:16,520 --> 00:22:21,650
I am not sure what else I can
say on that particular topic.

280
00:22:21,650 --> 00:22:23,060
I may have messed it up.

281
00:22:23,060 --> 00:22:24,600
No, no, you didn't
mess anything up.

282
00:22:24,600 --> 00:22:26,480
But I was really just
trying to get a sense

283
00:22:26,480 --> 00:22:30,440
of before you went to Berlin.

284
00:22:30,440 --> 00:22:33,370
Yeah, all right.

285
00:22:33,370 --> 00:22:34,370
Excuse me one minute.

286

00:22:34,370 --> 00:22:34,870
Sure.

287
00:22:34,870 --> 00:22:37,540
They have some questions they
want to air in your experiences

288
00:22:37,540 --> 00:22:38,240
in Berlin.

289
00:22:38,240 --> 00:22:38,765
So--

290
00:22:38,765 --> 00:22:39,265
Yes.

291
00:22:39,265 --> 00:22:45,010
--I do want to just repeat the
question, we're rolling over,

292
00:22:45,010 --> 00:22:47,800
about this effort for a
boycott in the United States,

293
00:22:47,800 --> 00:22:51,130
were you aware of it?

294
00:22:51,130 --> 00:22:53,890
Yes, I was somewhat aware of.

295
00:22:53,890 --> 00:23:03,400
The press gave some space
to the problems in Germany.

296
00:23:03,400 --> 00:23:11,290
Not full space, not
full description

297
00:23:11,290 --> 00:23:15,640
of what might be going
on underneath the table.

298

00:23:15,640 --> 00:23:21,020
It wasn't that kind of a
fullness of expression,

299
00:23:21,020 --> 00:23:25,840
but there was enough
information coming

300
00:23:25,840 --> 00:23:35,380
because Hitler was beginning
to make demands which

301
00:23:35,380 --> 00:23:40,060
were so great and
impossible that you had

302
00:23:40,060 --> 00:23:47,260
to have a feeling that you were
into something that was going

303
00:23:47,260 --> 00:23:49,120
to be very, very rough.

304
00:23:49,120 --> 00:23:51,160
Was there a talk
about a boycott,

305
00:23:51,160 --> 00:23:52,660
about not going to the games?

306
00:23:52,660 --> 00:23:54,920
There was some talk
going about it.

307
00:23:54,920 --> 00:23:57,190
Yes, there was.

308
00:23:57,190 --> 00:24:00,250
And a lot of the
talk was directed

309
00:24:00,250 --> 00:24:05,440
at the president of

the American Olympic

310
00:24:05,440 --> 00:24:17,770
Committee, who I think gave
very little preliminary credence

311
00:24:17,770 --> 00:24:19,000
to it.

312
00:24:19,000 --> 00:24:21,130
But he wanted to see
what was happening

313
00:24:21,130 --> 00:24:26,860
and he was an all time pole
vaulter from Yale University

314
00:24:26,860 --> 00:24:33,070
and he headed the American
Olympic Committee,

315
00:24:33,070 --> 00:24:43,840
behaved in such a way that eight
or nine of us who were Jewish

316
00:24:43,840 --> 00:24:47,770
or were not in the games.

317
00:24:47,770 --> 00:24:51,490
I was there because
I was working

318
00:24:51,490 --> 00:24:56,560
with the demonstration group,
not a competitive group

319
00:24:56,560 --> 00:24:58,000
at that time.

320
00:24:58,000 --> 00:25:04,360
We were striving to teach
enough skills so that they would

321

00:25:04,360 --> 00:25:08,290

say next time around we
want a baseball team,

322

00:25:08,290 --> 00:25:10,570

we want a baseball team.

323

00:25:10,570 --> 00:25:14,090

And it didn't happen that way.

324

00:25:14,090 --> 00:25:17,410

So you were allowed to play
in Berlin because you were

325

00:25:17,410 --> 00:25:19,780

in a non-competitive sport?

326

00:25:19,780 --> 00:25:27,370

I think that would be one
reason that the American Olympic

327

00:25:27,370 --> 00:25:33,940

Committee chairman,
Norman Armitage,

328

00:25:33,940 --> 00:25:40,270

did not have any feeling
against me or against Jews

329

00:25:40,270 --> 00:25:43,750

that he was visibly
going to show.

330

00:25:43,750 --> 00:25:49,160

331

00:25:49,160 --> 00:25:52,280

Did you think before
going to Berlin as a Jew

332

00:25:52,280 --> 00:25:54,680

that maybe you shouldn't go?

333
00:25:54,680 --> 00:25:56,860
Not for one minute.

334
00:25:56,860 --> 00:25:59,610
Absolutely not one minute.

335
00:25:59,610 --> 00:26:03,170
I talked with a number
of the sports leaders

336
00:26:03,170 --> 00:26:07,850
in our local area in
Brooklyn, New York.

337
00:26:07,850 --> 00:26:11,630
I talked with the coaches
at boys high school

338
00:26:11,630 --> 00:26:15,470
and I told them
what the goals were.

339
00:26:15,470 --> 00:26:22,590
And I was not discouraged, I was
not encouraged, I was just say,

340
00:26:22,590 --> 00:26:26,690
well, here's your chance
to learn something.

341
00:26:26,690 --> 00:26:34,400
And I did not
speak German, but I

342
00:26:34,400 --> 00:26:44,120
began to use some of
the German that I knew

343
00:26:44,120 --> 00:26:46,490
in some of the discussions.

344

00:26:46,490 --> 00:26:52,880
Now, the Olympic Village
was about 12 miles

345
00:26:52,880 --> 00:26:55,580
from the city of Berlin.

346
00:26:55,580 --> 00:27:02,960
Marty Glickman and I were
headed for downtown Berlin

347
00:27:02,960 --> 00:27:07,050
from the village town,
down to downtown.

348
00:27:07,050 --> 00:27:10,820

349
00:27:10,820 --> 00:27:12,900
We were interested
in two things.

350
00:27:12,900 --> 00:27:19,430
One, a boxing match that was
going to take place that day

351
00:27:19,430 --> 00:27:32,970
and some other events about
kids who were in difficulty,

352
00:27:32,970 --> 00:27:38,310
but were good athletes.

353
00:27:38,310 --> 00:27:46,640
Now, in the first
instance that I mentioned,

354
00:27:46,640 --> 00:27:52,730
the bus we had
missed, and there was

355
00:27:52,730 --> 00:27:56,900
a bus that ran every 30 minutes

from the Olympic Village

356
00:27:56,900 --> 00:27:59,150
to downtown Berlin.

357
00:27:59,150 --> 00:28:01,610
If you missed the bus,
you were out of luck

358
00:28:01,610 --> 00:28:04,490
for the next 30 minutes.

359
00:28:04,490 --> 00:28:10,340
And so Marty and I were
headed for downtown Berlin

360
00:28:10,340 --> 00:28:17,780
and we did not make
it, we were late.

361
00:28:17,780 --> 00:28:20,060
And so we went
out on the highway

362
00:28:20,060 --> 00:28:23,360
and we put up our
thumb to get a ride.

363
00:28:23,360 --> 00:28:26,660
Dressed in the American
Olympic uniform,

364
00:28:26,660 --> 00:28:28,730
we had no trouble
being picked up.

365
00:28:28,730 --> 00:28:37,410
We were picked up by
German athletes in uniform,

366
00:28:37,410 --> 00:28:43,370
a German army man
actually in uniform

367

00:28:43,370 --> 00:28:47,090

with a sidecar, a
motorcycle with a sidecar.

368

00:28:47,090 --> 00:28:52,670

And Marty and I got in the
sidecar and he drove us.

369

00:28:52,670 --> 00:28:56,660

We were almost through
with the 12 miles

370

00:28:56,660 --> 00:29:00,140

and I asked the
question, I asked

371

00:29:00,140 --> 00:29:07,940

the driver [GERMAN]
Jackie Gleason,

372

00:29:07,940 --> 00:29:11,600

is Jackie Wilson from
the United States

373

00:29:11,600 --> 00:29:16,550

of America going to
be boxing tonight?

374

00:29:16,550 --> 00:29:23,780

Jackie Wilson from
the United States

375

00:29:23,780 --> 00:29:26,900

going to be boxing tonight?

376

00:29:26,900 --> 00:29:40,160

[GERMAN] I use the word hind
the Jewish word for tonight,

377

00:29:40,160 --> 00:29:45,660

instead of heute, which is
the German word for tonight.

378
00:29:45,660 --> 00:29:49,370
If I wanted to know are all
of you going to the movies

379
00:29:49,370 --> 00:29:54,740
tonight, heute, are
you all going tonight?

380
00:29:54,740 --> 00:29:58,580
So I didn't say
it the right way.

381
00:29:58,580 --> 00:30:05,180
And he stopped the car, stopped
the motorcycle very sharply,

382
00:30:05,180 --> 00:30:08,240
pulled over off the highway.

383
00:30:08,240 --> 00:30:14,420
And Marty and I
waited right there

384
00:30:14,420 --> 00:30:24,730
and he said, autography,
autography, autography,

385
00:30:24,730 --> 00:30:27,380
autography.

386
00:30:27,380 --> 00:30:29,980
So we gave him our passport.

387
00:30:29,980 --> 00:30:33,250
He wanted to see our
passport, the driver.

388
00:30:33,250 --> 00:30:36,910
He had no right to, he
was not a police officer,

389

00:30:36,910 --> 00:30:40,780
yet I didn't want to
start any fight with him.

390
00:30:40,780 --> 00:30:49,750
So we handed the two German
Jeep drivers our passports.

391
00:30:49,750 --> 00:30:54,880
And we gave them to them and
they gave them back to us

392
00:30:54,880 --> 00:30:57,450
and said autography,