

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:55,389

2
00:00:55,389 --> 00:00:56,310
Five seconds.

3
00:00:56,310 --> 00:01:05,200

4
00:01:05,200 --> 00:01:10,810
You were saying that you
had time before your event

5
00:01:10,810 --> 00:01:13,330
or your supposed
event in the Olympics.

6
00:01:13,330 --> 00:01:17,440
And you were able to go
into Berlin and all of that.

7
00:01:17,440 --> 00:01:22,840
In this, did you feel
anything about the atmosphere?

8
00:01:22,840 --> 00:01:23,530
Was it charged?

9
00:01:23,530 --> 00:01:26,510
Did you see signs
saying no Jews here?

10
00:01:26,510 --> 00:01:32,350
Did you experience any
of what was to come?

11
00:01:32,350 --> 00:01:39,550
In my time in Germany, I
felt and saw nothing overt.

12
00:01:39,550 --> 00:01:41,320

I saw no signs.

13

00:01:41,320 --> 00:01:44,320

I heard no verbiage of any sort.

14

00:01:44,320 --> 00:01:47,210

I speak a little German because
of the Yiddish that I know.

15

00:01:47,210 --> 00:01:49,990

And I took some
German at school.

16

00:01:49,990 --> 00:01:54,310

And I heard nothing and I saw
nothing which was anti-Semitic

17

00:01:54,310 --> 00:01:57,460

in any way, except
for the day that I

18

00:01:57,460 --> 00:02:02,170

was supposed to run the trial
heats of the 400-meter relay.

19

00:02:02,170 --> 00:02:06,370

And that was the first
and only anti-Semitism

20

00:02:06,370 --> 00:02:07,600

that I experienced.

21

00:02:07,600 --> 00:02:10,810

And I experienced it
from American coaches

22

00:02:10,810 --> 00:02:12,310

and not from Germans.

23

00:02:12,310 --> 00:02:16,900

There was no overt sign of
any anti-Semitic feeling

24

00:02:16,900 --> 00:02:21,610

or activity at all
that I saw in Berlin

25

00:02:21,610 --> 00:02:24,160

or wherever I went in Germany.

26

00:02:24,160 --> 00:02:27,880

Now, Herman Goldberg,
your pal at the Olympics,

27

00:02:27,880 --> 00:02:32,750

mentioned a trip
into Berlin where

28

00:02:32,750 --> 00:02:35,430

I guess you hitched a ride
with some German soldiers.

29

00:02:35,430 --> 00:02:38,830

What happened there?

30

00:02:38,830 --> 00:02:40,960

One of the ways of getting
from the Olympic Village

31

00:02:40,960 --> 00:02:44,530

to the Olympic stadium, which
was about eight miles distant

32

00:02:44,530 --> 00:02:47,500

from the Olympic Village,
was to hitch a ride.

33

00:02:47,500 --> 00:02:50,470

And Herman Goldberg,
my buddy, and I

34

00:02:50,470 --> 00:02:55,300

hitched a ride in what
amounts to a German Army Jeep.

35

00:02:55,300 --> 00:02:58,540
And it was driven by
a German Sergeant who

36
00:02:58,540 --> 00:03:00,670
looked like a Nazi Sergeant.

37
00:03:00,670 --> 00:03:04,540
And he sat alongside
of his passenger,

38
00:03:04,540 --> 00:03:09,580
who was a very handsome blond
Lieutenant in the German army--

39
00:03:09,580 --> 00:03:13,090
blond, blue-eyed, a most
attractive looking man.

40
00:03:13,090 --> 00:03:17,230
And as we got into the
Jeep, hitching the ride,

41
00:03:17,230 --> 00:03:18,910
they asked for our autographs.

42
00:03:18,910 --> 00:03:22,360
And we said, we'll give it to
you when we get off the Jeep,

43
00:03:22,360 --> 00:03:23,830
which we did.

44
00:03:23,830 --> 00:03:27,100
We took these eight
miles at what we thought

45
00:03:27,100 --> 00:03:29,020
was a reckless
speed to begin with.

46
00:03:29,020 --> 00:03:34,471
We could see the speedometer

going up to 70, 80, 90, 100--

47

00:03:34,471 --> 00:03:38,080
100 kilometers, we finally
realized, and not 100 miles

48

00:03:38,080 --> 00:03:40,630
an hour, only half the speed.

49

00:03:40,630 --> 00:03:43,720
At any rate, we get
to the Olympic stadium

50

00:03:43,720 --> 00:03:48,010
and they give us some
paper to sign our names.

51

00:03:48,010 --> 00:03:50,710
And we scrawled our names--

52

00:03:50,710 --> 00:03:53,320
Herman Goldberg, Marty
Glickman-- and left

53

00:03:53,320 --> 00:03:54,580
almost immediately.

54

00:03:54,580 --> 00:03:57,880
We didn't want to have them
ask questions about our names--

55

00:03:57,880 --> 00:03:58,990
Goldberg, Glickman.

56

00:03:58,990 --> 00:03:59,665
Were we Jewish?

57

00:03:59,665 --> 00:04:02,590
Or do we have German-Jewish
background or whatever?

58

00:04:02,590 --> 00:04:04,960

We were aware of
the fact that we

59

00:04:04,960 --> 00:04:11,710
were with this German Lieutenant
and this German Sergeant who

60

00:04:11,710 --> 00:04:15,670
looked every inch
the typical Nazi army

61

00:04:15,670 --> 00:04:19,170
officer and under-officer.

62

00:04:19,170 --> 00:04:24,990
So you knew that there was
potential for problems?

63

00:04:24,990 --> 00:04:27,180
We were aware of
the fact that there

64

00:04:27,180 --> 00:04:29,650
was anti-Semitism in Germany.

65

00:04:29,650 --> 00:04:32,460
We were aware of the fact
that these were obviously

66

00:04:32,460 --> 00:04:34,470
German soldiers, perhaps Nazis.

67

00:04:34,470 --> 00:04:39,000
But we thought all
soldiers, certainly,

68

00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:40,800
were sympathetic to the Nazis.

69

00:04:40,800 --> 00:04:44,640
And we just didn't
know what Nazism was.

70

00:04:44,640 --> 00:04:49,320

Remember, this is from the
perspective of two years

71

00:04:49,320 --> 00:04:51,600

before Kristallnacht.

72

00:04:51,600 --> 00:04:55,440

The Holocaust was not
only not a thought,

73

00:04:55,440 --> 00:05:01,320

it didn't exist in our
imagination, in our dreams.

74

00:05:01,320 --> 00:05:03,990

We didn't have nightmares
about the Holocaust.

75

00:05:03,990 --> 00:05:09,360

It was a word that I
didn't even know in 1936.

76

00:05:09,360 --> 00:05:13,620

Certainly, had we any inkling
of what was going to happen,

77

00:05:13,620 --> 00:05:16,470

we wouldn't have been in
Germany in the first place.

78

00:05:16,470 --> 00:05:21,390

But the feeling about
anti-Semitism for me--

79

00:05:21,390 --> 00:05:25,410

and probably for Herman
and the two other Jews

80

00:05:25,410 --> 00:05:27,690

whom I knew on the team.

81

00:05:27,690 --> 00:05:30,570

There was a fine
basketball player named

82

00:05:30,570 --> 00:05:32,910

Sam Balter who was on the team.

83

00:05:32,910 --> 00:05:37,920

And Herman and I. And there
was another Jewish athlete.

84

00:05:37,920 --> 00:05:45,000

85

00:05:45,000 --> 00:05:48,360

The German athletes
who I knew on the team

86

00:05:48,360 --> 00:05:51,850

were Herman Goldberg, who was
my buddy much of the time,

87

00:05:51,850 --> 00:05:53,580

and Sam Stoller,
who was my teammate

88

00:05:53,580 --> 00:05:55,410

on the 400-meter relay.

89

00:05:55,410 --> 00:05:59,160

And Sam Balter was a
wonderful basketball player,

90

00:05:59,160 --> 00:06:01,080

a guard on the basketball team.

91

00:06:01,080 --> 00:06:04,530

And the four of us were the
only Jews I was aware of.

92

00:06:04,530 --> 00:06:06,810

I understand now there
were three other Jews who

93
00:06:06,810 --> 00:06:09,330
were on the American
Olympic team,

94
00:06:09,330 --> 00:06:10,980
but I didn't know them then.

95
00:06:10,980 --> 00:06:12,480
I didn't know they were Jewish.

96
00:06:12,480 --> 00:06:15,390
But the four of them I
knew-- the four of us

97
00:06:15,390 --> 00:06:16,770
were the Jews whom I knew.

98
00:06:16,770 --> 00:06:21,800
And we certainly were not
aware of what was to come.

99
00:06:21,800 --> 00:06:25,680
I guess the whole world was
not aware of what was to come.

100
00:06:25,680 --> 00:06:29,810
So Berlin was like any other
big city, but very beautiful?

101
00:06:29,810 --> 00:06:32,150
Berlin was like
any other big city.

102
00:06:32,150 --> 00:06:36,500
If I would use a single
word to describe Berlin

103
00:06:36,500 --> 00:06:40,550
during that period of time,
the word would be carnival.

104

00:06:40,550 --> 00:06:42,740

There was an
atmosphere of carnival

105

00:06:42,740 --> 00:06:45,590

about Berlin, with
the flags flying

106

00:06:45,590 --> 00:06:49,520

and the beautiful
weather almost every day.

107

00:06:49,520 --> 00:06:50,870

It was golden.

108

00:06:50,870 --> 00:06:53,570

Fleecy white clouds
occasionally overhead.

109

00:06:53,570 --> 00:06:55,700

Late in the day, on
a couple of days,

110

00:06:55,700 --> 00:06:57,440

there was some rain
at the stadium.

111

00:06:57,440 --> 00:06:59,690

But most of the time,
it was just lovely.

112

00:06:59,690 --> 00:07:01,340

The city was immaculate.

113

00:07:01,340 --> 00:07:03,470

As I understand, it still is.

114

00:07:03,470 --> 00:07:04,970

And as I saw a
couple of years ago,

115

00:07:04,970 --> 00:07:06,530

when I was back there again.

116
00:07:06,530 --> 00:07:14,030
And the people were well-dressed
and seemingly well-fed.

117
00:07:14,030 --> 00:07:15,230
The beer flowed.

118
00:07:15,230 --> 00:07:18,070
And it was a
carnival atmosphere.

119
00:07:18,070 --> 00:07:21,550

120
00:07:21,550 --> 00:07:25,240
I want you to tell me about
how you were basically

121
00:07:25,240 --> 00:07:26,530
dumped from the race.

122
00:07:26,530 --> 00:07:29,050
But I just wanted to
ask you on the boat

123
00:07:29,050 --> 00:07:33,240
or in the Olympic
Village, did you get

124
00:07:33,240 --> 00:07:36,820
to know John Woodruff at all.

125
00:07:36,820 --> 00:07:40,890
I knew John Woodruff slightly,
from the various track meets

126
00:07:40,890 --> 00:07:43,320
in which we competed
at the same time.

127
00:07:43,320 --> 00:07:44,520

He ran the half-mile.

128
00:07:44,520 --> 00:07:46,140
I was a sprinter
running 100 meters

129
00:07:46,140 --> 00:07:48,310
and sometimes 200 meters.

130
00:07:48,310 --> 00:07:52,260
And John and I were among the
younger members of the team.

131
00:07:52,260 --> 00:07:56,140
John was a wonder athlete.

132
00:07:56,140 --> 00:07:59,280
He was taller than virtually
anyone else on the squad,

133
00:07:59,280 --> 00:08:01,440
except for some
basketball players--

134
00:08:01,440 --> 00:08:03,060
6 feet 4.

135
00:08:03,060 --> 00:08:07,290
Quiet, reserved, and
a magnificent runner.

136
00:08:07,290 --> 00:08:12,390
He had the longest running
stride in the world

137
00:08:12,390 --> 00:08:13,690
at that time.

138
00:08:13,690 --> 00:08:16,350
And he ran a marvelous
race to win the gold medal

139

00:08:16,350 --> 00:08:18,240
at 800 meters.

140
00:08:18,240 --> 00:08:20,790
He was far better than
the rest of the field,

141
00:08:20,790 --> 00:08:23,940
as you probably
know and have seen.

142
00:08:23,940 --> 00:08:27,703
He virtually came to a halt at
the halfway mark of the race

143
00:08:27,703 --> 00:08:30,120
at the end of the first quarter,
let the rest of the field

144
00:08:30,120 --> 00:08:32,549
go by because he
was pocketed in.

145
00:08:32,549 --> 00:08:33,846
He couldn't get to the outside.

146
00:08:33,846 --> 00:08:35,429
He couldn't make a
move, because there

147
00:08:35,429 --> 00:08:38,039
were runners in front of
him and alongside of him,

148
00:08:38,039 --> 00:08:41,940
so he let the field go by him,
ran around the entire field,

149
00:08:41,940 --> 00:08:44,700
and then came on to win
handily down the stretch

150
00:08:44,700 --> 00:08:47,340

and down the backstretch
first, around the far turn,

151
00:08:47,340 --> 00:08:48,240
and down the stretch.

152
00:08:48,240 --> 00:08:55,650
And quiet, self-effacing,
and just a wonderful athlete.

153
00:08:55,650 --> 00:09:02,620
Now, tell me about your
anticipation for your event.

154
00:09:02,620 --> 00:09:04,180
I know you were training for it.

155
00:09:04,180 --> 00:09:05,530
And what happened?

156
00:09:05,530 --> 00:09:09,990

157
00:09:09,990 --> 00:09:13,770
The 400-meter relay was
selected beforehand.

158
00:09:13,770 --> 00:09:15,360
And the four of us, in order--

159
00:09:15,360 --> 00:09:16,710
Sam Stoller would start.

160
00:09:16,710 --> 00:09:19,170
He had the best start
of the group of us.

161
00:09:19,170 --> 00:09:21,750
I was to run the second
leg down the back stretch,

162
00:09:21,750 --> 00:09:22,780

straight away.

163

00:09:22,780 --> 00:09:26,100
Foy Draper on the third leg and
Frank Wykoff on the anchor leg.

164

00:09:26,100 --> 00:09:27,480
He was the great veteran.

165

00:09:27,480 --> 00:09:30,330
This was his third Olympic
team that he was on.

166

00:09:30,330 --> 00:09:32,700
And we practiced
passing the baton.

167

00:09:32,700 --> 00:09:34,380
And passing the
baton is terribly

168

00:09:34,380 --> 00:09:37,440
important in a 400-meter relay,
because the race is short

169

00:09:37,440 --> 00:09:41,640
and you want to make
the best possible pass.

170

00:09:41,640 --> 00:09:44,615
We would practice this
every day in that order,

171

00:09:44,615 --> 00:09:45,990
so that we knew
each other and we

172

00:09:45,990 --> 00:09:47,550
knew the distance
we had to start

173

00:09:47,550 --> 00:09:49,320
running and things like that.

174

00:09:49,320 --> 00:09:51,840
The morning of the day we were
supposed to run in the trial

175

00:09:51,840 --> 00:09:54,900
heats, we were called
into a meeting-- the seven

176

00:09:54,900 --> 00:09:57,580
sprinters were, along with Dean
Cromwell, the assistant head

177

00:09:57,580 --> 00:09:59,880
track coach, and
Lawson Robertson,

178

00:09:59,880 --> 00:10:01,350
the head track coach.

179

00:10:01,350 --> 00:10:04,200
And Robertson announced
to the seven of us

180

00:10:04,200 --> 00:10:08,670
that he heard very strong rumors
that the Germans were saving

181

00:10:08,670 --> 00:10:12,660
their best sprinters, hiding
them to upset the American team

182

00:10:12,660 --> 00:10:14,400
in the 400-meter relay.

183

00:10:14,400 --> 00:10:17,670
And consequently,
Sam and I were to be

184

00:10:17,670 --> 00:10:21,390
replaced by Jesse Owens
and Ralph Metcalfe.

185

00:10:21,390 --> 00:10:24,420

Now, there's no question that
Jesse and Ralph were faster

186

00:10:24,420 --> 00:10:27,270

at 100 meters than
Sam and I. They'd

187

00:10:27,270 --> 00:10:30,030

beaten us fairly regularly.

188

00:10:30,030 --> 00:10:32,640

And we were shocked.

189

00:10:32,640 --> 00:10:34,630

Sam was completely stunned.

190

00:10:34,630 --> 00:10:36,540

He didn't say a
word in the meeting.

191

00:10:36,540 --> 00:10:38,400

I'm a brash 18-year-old kid.

192

00:10:38,400 --> 00:10:42,630

And I said, coach, you can't
hide world-class sprinters.

193

00:10:42,630 --> 00:10:44,670

In order to be a
world-class sprinter,

194

00:10:44,670 --> 00:10:47,400

you must run in
world-class competition.

195

00:10:47,400 --> 00:10:49,200

And we don't know
of any Germans,

196

00:10:49,200 --> 00:10:52,440

outside of Erich Borchmeyer,

who finished fifth

197
00:10:52,440 --> 00:10:57,390
in the 100-meter final, beaten
by Frank Wycoff, as well as

198
00:10:57,390 --> 00:10:58,950
Jesse Owens and Ralph Metcalfe.

199
00:10:58,950 --> 00:11:00,840
He was the best German sprinter.

200
00:11:00,840 --> 00:11:03,600
Later, I beat Borchmeyer in
another post-Olympic track

201
00:11:03,600 --> 00:11:04,110
meet.

202
00:11:04,110 --> 00:11:06,570
But we all knew we
could beat Borchmeyer.

203
00:11:06,570 --> 00:11:09,660
And you don't hide
world-class sprinters.

204
00:11:09,660 --> 00:11:13,140
I said, coach, there can't
be any German world-class

205
00:11:13,140 --> 00:11:13,950
sprinters.

206
00:11:13,950 --> 00:11:15,870
He said, well, we're
going to take no chances,

207
00:11:15,870 --> 00:11:17,880
said Dean Cromwell.

208
00:11:17,880 --> 00:11:20,790

And Jesse and Ralph
are going to take

209
00:11:20,790 --> 00:11:23,040
Sam's place and your place.

210
00:11:23,040 --> 00:11:26,370
At which point, Jesse
spoke up and said, coach,

211
00:11:26,370 --> 00:11:28,650
I've won my three gold medals--

212
00:11:28,650 --> 00:11:31,050
the 100, the 200,
and the long jump.

213
00:11:31,050 --> 00:11:33,060
I'm tired, I've had it.

214
00:11:33,060 --> 00:11:37,110
Let Marty and Sam run, they
deserve it, said Jesse.

215
00:11:37,110 --> 00:11:39,810
And Cromwell pointed his
finger at him and said,

216
00:11:39,810 --> 00:11:41,790
you'll do as you're told.

217
00:11:41,790 --> 00:11:45,330
And in those days, Black
athletes did as they were told.

218
00:11:45,330 --> 00:11:47,910
And Jesse was quiet after that.

219
00:11:47,910 --> 00:11:50,280
But he volunteered not to run--

220
00:11:50,280 --> 00:11:53,850

not to win his fourth gold medal, so that Sam and I--

221
00:11:53,850 --> 00:11:56,130
the only two Jews
on the track team--

222
00:11:56,130 --> 00:11:59,310
could run and win or try to win.

223
00:11:59,310 --> 00:12:02,790
The only way we could have
lost that race is had we

224
00:12:02,790 --> 00:12:04,740
dropped the baton.

225
00:12:04,740 --> 00:12:09,000
Frank Wykoff later
said that we probably

226
00:12:09,000 --> 00:12:12,390
would have run just as fast
because our baton-passing would

227
00:12:12,390 --> 00:12:15,510
have been superior
because we had practiced.

228
00:12:15,510 --> 00:12:16,232
I spoke up.

229
00:12:16,232 --> 00:12:17,190
I said something else--

230
00:12:17,190 --> 00:12:19,950
I said, coach, no
matter who runs,

231
00:12:19,950 --> 00:12:23,100
we're going to win
this race by 15 yards.

232

00:12:23,100 --> 00:12:25,350

We won by 15 yards.

233

00:12:25,350 --> 00:12:27,960

When you see the finish
of the race, all you see

234

00:12:27,960 --> 00:12:30,960

is Frank Wykoff crossing
the finish line.

235

00:12:30,960 --> 00:12:34,320

You don't even see the
next second-place finisher.

236

00:12:34,320 --> 00:12:36,630

He's out of the picture,
he's that far back--

237

00:12:36,630 --> 00:12:39,030

15 yards behind.

238

00:12:39,030 --> 00:12:41,460

The Germans didn't
finish second or third--

239

00:12:41,460 --> 00:12:43,200

they finished fourth.

240

00:12:43,200 --> 00:12:46,560

They were placed third,
because the Dutch team ran out

241

00:12:46,560 --> 00:12:49,320

of their lane and so
they were disqualified.

242

00:12:49,320 --> 00:12:53,490

But they finished third in the
race, some 15 or 16 yards back.

243

00:12:53,490 --> 00:12:59,670

So the story given us was an
out-and-out lie by Robertson

244
00:12:59,670 --> 00:13:02,420
and by Dean Cromwell.

245
00:13:02,420 --> 00:13:07,830
I believe now that with
Hitler's humiliation

246
00:13:07,830 --> 00:13:11,280
by having the Black athletes
stand on the winning podium

247
00:13:11,280 --> 00:13:15,490
the many times that they did,
in the 100, the 200, the 400,

248
00:13:15,490 --> 00:13:17,640
the 800, the long
jump, the high jump--

249
00:13:17,640 --> 00:13:19,545
they were dominating the Games--

250
00:13:19,545 --> 00:13:22,110
that it would have been
further humiliation

251
00:13:22,110 --> 00:13:25,590
for Hitler to have Jews
stand on the winning podium.

252
00:13:25,590 --> 00:13:27,420
And as I said, the
only way we would not

253
00:13:27,420 --> 00:13:30,840
stand on the winning podium,
had we dropped the baton.

254
00:13:30,840 --> 00:13:35,280
We would have won the

race by 15 yards or more.

255

00:13:35,280 --> 00:13:37,660

So we didn't get to run.

256

00:13:37,660 --> 00:13:40,830

Now, you say now this is
the way you look at it.

257

00:13:40,830 --> 00:13:45,690

Try to put yourself back to
this time in the summer of 1936.

258

00:13:45,690 --> 00:13:48,810

As you were told that you
weren't going to be running,

259

00:13:48,810 --> 00:13:50,950

what was going
through your mind?

260

00:13:50,950 --> 00:13:53,140

What were you thinking?

261

00:13:53,140 --> 00:13:57,170

As I was told that Sam
and I would not run,

262

00:13:57,170 --> 00:14:01,960

I thought that track
politics was taking place.

263

00:14:01,960 --> 00:14:05,860

That Dean Cromwell, the
assistant head track coach,

264

00:14:05,860 --> 00:14:08,380

wanted to make sure
that both his boys--

265

00:14:08,380 --> 00:14:10,600

Foy Draper and Frank Wykoff--

266

00:14:10,600 --> 00:14:12,010
were on the team.

267

00:14:12,010 --> 00:14:15,040
And so he was making sure they
were going to be on, because

268

00:14:15,040 --> 00:14:17,710
in a trial race in
the Olympic Village

269

00:14:17,710 --> 00:14:23,110
three days before the
400-meter race took place,

270

00:14:23,110 --> 00:14:27,550
we ran a trial heat and Stoller
won the race, beating me by

271

00:14:27,550 --> 00:14:29,800
about, oh, a shoulder, a foot.

272

00:14:29,800 --> 00:14:34,600
And we both beat Foy
Draper by a yard.

273

00:14:34,600 --> 00:14:37,570
So here is Draper running
the relay, whom we had both

274

00:14:37,570 --> 00:14:39,880
beaten just a couple
of days before,

275

00:14:39,880 --> 00:14:42,490
and Sam and I were not running.

276

00:14:42,490 --> 00:14:46,060
In the entire history of
the modern Olympic Games,

277

00:14:46,060 --> 00:14:51,130

now going into its 100th year,
no fit American track and field

278
00:14:51,130 --> 00:14:55,420
performer has ever not
competed in the Olympic Games,

279
00:14:55,420 --> 00:14:59,110
except for Sam Stoller
and me, the only two Jews

280
00:14:59,110 --> 00:15:01,210
on the 1936 team.

281
00:15:01,210 --> 00:15:04,240
Every other American
track and field athlete

282
00:15:04,240 --> 00:15:07,300
has competed, so long as
he was physically fit--

283
00:15:07,300 --> 00:15:10,600
didn't have a pulled muscle or
didn't have an appendectomy,

284
00:15:10,600 --> 00:15:12,490
as one of our track
athletes did have

285
00:15:12,490 --> 00:15:14,920
and couldn't run-- a fellow
named Harold Smallwood.

286
00:15:14,920 --> 00:15:18,880
But with that exception,
every athlete has run.

287
00:15:18,880 --> 00:15:26,320
OK, but you weren't thinking in
those terms in August of '36.

288
00:15:26,320 --> 00:15:29,030

You were thinking it was
basically favoritism again?

289
00:15:29,030 --> 00:15:32,560
In August of '36, I
thought originally--

290
00:15:32,560 --> 00:15:38,440
I did mention in that meeting,
I did say, coach, we're

291
00:15:38,440 --> 00:15:41,530
the only two Jews on the
track team, Sam and I.

292
00:15:41,530 --> 00:15:44,950
There's bound to be a
furor about this back home.

293
00:15:44,950 --> 00:15:47,980
We'll worry about that
later, said Dean Cromwell.

294
00:15:47,980 --> 00:15:49,880
Later, of course,
Dean Cromwell also

295
00:15:49,880 --> 00:15:51,940
was a member of the
America First committee,

296
00:15:51,940 --> 00:15:55,510
that group in America, which was
sympathetic to the Nazi cause.

297
00:15:55,510 --> 00:15:58,600
So my thoughts
were that Cromwell

298
00:15:58,600 --> 00:16:02,950
was seeing to it that his boys
were on that 400-meter relay.

299

00:16:02,950 --> 00:16:06,850
And about that threat of
other German sprinters,

300
00:16:06,850 --> 00:16:11,090
that was just out
of whole cloth--

301
00:16:11,090 --> 00:16:15,370
it was a complete lie.

302
00:16:15,370 --> 00:16:16,750
What were you feeling?

303
00:16:16,750 --> 00:16:19,330
Here, you've been preparing
for this in a way for years.

304
00:16:19,330 --> 00:16:21,160
And you've been training
especially hard.

305
00:16:21,160 --> 00:16:26,680
You were, I'm sure, very excited
to participate in the Olympics.

306
00:16:26,680 --> 00:16:27,880
I was fortunate.

307
00:16:27,880 --> 00:16:30,460
I was young-- I was 18.

308
00:16:30,460 --> 00:16:34,780
Sam was three years older than
I. He was a senior at Michigan.

309
00:16:34,780 --> 00:16:39,130
And in those days, when you
finished your college career,

310
00:16:39,130 --> 00:16:40,870
that was usually it.

311

00:16:40,870 --> 00:16:43,540

And Sam was at the end
of his college career.

312

00:16:43,540 --> 00:16:45,340

He vowed never to
run again, because

313

00:16:45,340 --> 00:16:46,810

of this terrible disappointment.

314

00:16:46,810 --> 00:16:49,390

He did run and won a
collegiate championship

315

00:16:49,390 --> 00:16:50,480

the following year.

316

00:16:50,480 --> 00:16:53,020

He did change his
mind a bit later on.

317

00:16:53,020 --> 00:16:55,900

I, as an 18-year-old, just
out of my freshman year,

318

00:16:55,900 --> 00:17:00,040

I vowed that come
1940, I'd win it all.

319

00:17:00,040 --> 00:17:02,020

I'd win the 100, the 200--

320

00:17:02,020 --> 00:17:03,940

I'd run on the relay.

321

00:17:03,940 --> 00:17:07,000

I was going to be 22 in 1940.

322

00:17:07,000 --> 00:17:11,500

And I'd be at the height of
my supposed athletic abilities

323
00:17:11,500 --> 00:17:12,760
in those years.

324
00:17:12,760 --> 00:17:14,470
Of course, 1940 never came.

325
00:17:14,470 --> 00:17:15,550
There was a war on.

326
00:17:15,550 --> 00:17:17,980
1944 never came.

327
00:17:17,980 --> 00:17:21,849
But I was frustrated
and angered enough so

328
00:17:21,849 --> 00:17:26,760
that I could look ahead and
get even, four years hence.

329
00:17:26,760 --> 00:17:28,380
Young enough to get even.

330
00:17:28,380 --> 00:17:31,980
In addition, I was a
football player at Syracuse.

331
00:17:31,980 --> 00:17:33,743
And a month from
the Olympic Games,

332
00:17:33,743 --> 00:17:35,160
I was going to be
playing football

333
00:17:35,160 --> 00:17:38,430
at Syracuse University-- my
first varsity season, then.

334
00:17:38,430 --> 00:17:41,355
And I had something

to look forward to.

335
00:17:41,355 --> 00:17:48,130
I had something to
dissipate my disappointment,

336
00:17:48,130 --> 00:17:51,880
by having a football
season looming for me.

337
00:17:51,880 --> 00:17:55,090
So you weren't even
temporarily devastated by this?

338
00:17:55,090 --> 00:17:59,320

339
00:17:59,320 --> 00:18:00,890
If you use the word devastated--

340
00:18:00,890 --> 00:18:03,110
I was not devastated.

341
00:18:03,110 --> 00:18:04,430
I was angered.

342
00:18:04,430 --> 00:18:05,740
I was frustrated.

343
00:18:05,740 --> 00:18:09,130
And as I say, I was young
enough to think ahead.

344
00:18:09,130 --> 00:18:11,290
Say that again without
the "as I say," please.

345
00:18:11,290 --> 00:18:16,570

346
00:18:16,570 --> 00:18:22,090
I was not devastated by not

being on the 400-meter team.

347
00:18:22,090 --> 00:18:25,330
Terribly angry,
terribly frustrated,

348
00:18:25,330 --> 00:18:30,790
but I was young enough to be
able to look ahead to 1940

349
00:18:30,790 --> 00:18:32,980
and perhaps win it all--

350
00:18:32,980 --> 00:18:34,690
to win the 100 and the 200.

351
00:18:34,690 --> 00:18:39,100
I might be at my athletic peak
when I was 22 years of age.

352
00:18:39,100 --> 00:18:40,930
Here I was, only 18.

353
00:18:40,930 --> 00:18:44,620
So I had something to shoot
for, something to look forward

354
00:18:44,620 --> 00:18:48,250
to come 1940 and the
next Olympic Games.

355
00:18:48,250 --> 00:18:50,800
I also had a football season
I was looking forward to,

356
00:18:50,800 --> 00:18:53,870
because I was going into my
sophomore year, first year

357
00:18:53,870 --> 00:18:57,340
of varsity football, and that
occupied my thoughts and time

358

00:18:57,340 --> 00:19:01,640

and energies immediately
after the Games.

359

00:19:01,640 --> 00:19:04,580

You mentioned that Owens
stepped forward and said,

360

00:19:04,580 --> 00:19:06,140

let these guys run.

361

00:19:06,140 --> 00:19:10,820

Did you get that kind of
support from the other athletes?

362

00:19:10,820 --> 00:19:13,640

No one else said
anything in that room

363

00:19:13,640 --> 00:19:15,560

during the course
of this meeting.

364

00:19:15,560 --> 00:19:19,290

Ralph Metcalfe
didn't say a word.

365

00:19:19,290 --> 00:19:22,740

I think he wanted to run on the
relay and this justification--

366

00:19:22,740 --> 00:19:25,160

why not, if he could
run on the relay?

367

00:19:25,160 --> 00:19:27,590

And the only other athlete
involved who didn't run

368

00:19:27,590 --> 00:19:29,270

was Mack Robinson.

369

00:19:29,270 --> 00:19:32,450
Mack, Jackie Robinson's,
older brother already

370
00:19:32,450 --> 00:19:35,720
had won the silver
medal at 200 meters.

371
00:19:35,720 --> 00:19:40,040
And he was not as good at 100
meters as he was at 200 meters.

372
00:19:40,040 --> 00:19:42,440
In addition, he was not
involved in the practice

373
00:19:42,440 --> 00:19:43,940
of passing the baton.

374
00:19:43,940 --> 00:19:49,220
That 400-meter relay
was set, as I say,

375
00:19:49,220 --> 00:19:51,980
leading off with Sam Stoller
with that great start.

376
00:19:51,980 --> 00:19:55,430
I was running the second leg,
Foy Draper with the third leg,

377
00:19:55,430 --> 00:19:57,170
Frank Wykoff the anchor leg.

378
00:19:57,170 --> 00:19:58,940
And we practiced
passing the baton

379
00:19:58,940 --> 00:20:03,660
in that order for two weeks
in the Olympic Village.

380
00:20:03,660 --> 00:20:08,240

Did the other athletes-- after
this decision had been made,

381
00:20:08,240 --> 00:20:09,800
were they supportive?

382
00:20:09,800 --> 00:20:13,660
Or did you guys just
not talk about it?

383
00:20:13,660 --> 00:20:15,670
They were supportive.

384
00:20:15,670 --> 00:20:19,600
The other athletes were
supportive afterwards,

385
00:20:19,600 --> 00:20:23,200
patting me on the back--
saying, oh, you should have run.

386
00:20:23,200 --> 00:20:25,750
Not en masse--
everybody was involved

387
00:20:25,750 --> 00:20:29,515
with his own
achievements or striving.

388
00:20:29,515 --> 00:20:32,050

389
00:20:32,050 --> 00:20:37,920
The feeling was tough luck.

390
00:20:37,920 --> 00:20:43,200
But for me, as I say, it was
the feeling of I'll show them,

391
00:20:43,200 --> 00:20:43,980
I'll get even.

392

00:20:43,980 --> 00:20:45,450
I was there.

393
00:20:45,450 --> 00:20:50,130
I sat in the stands
and watched the race.

394
00:20:50,130 --> 00:20:53,610
The qualifying
heats proved that we

395
00:20:53,610 --> 00:20:57,450
were by far the best team
among the other countries

396
00:20:57,450 --> 00:20:59,970
of the world-- the best
400-meter relay team.

397
00:20:59,970 --> 00:21:03,480
The following day, I was
walking across the campus

398
00:21:03,480 --> 00:21:06,240
of the Olympic Village and I
heard my name called to me.

399
00:21:06,240 --> 00:21:09,510
And 50 yards away was Lawson
Robertson, the head track

400
00:21:09,510 --> 00:21:11,640
coach, with his cane.

401
00:21:11,640 --> 00:21:13,020
He was an older man.

402
00:21:13,020 --> 00:21:16,410
Marty-- and I
jogged over to him.

403
00:21:16,410 --> 00:21:19,830
I just want to tell

you how sorry I am.

404

00:21:19,830 --> 00:21:22,140

I made a terrible mistake.

405

00:21:22,140 --> 00:21:25,110

And he said he was sorry.

406

00:21:25,110 --> 00:21:27,210

Dean Cromwell didn't say a word.

407

00:21:27,210 --> 00:21:29,890

Never spoke to me again.

408

00:21:29,890 --> 00:21:32,250

I don't know what he said
or thought to anyone else,

409

00:21:32,250 --> 00:21:34,860

but he never said a word to me.

410

00:21:34,860 --> 00:21:38,200

Wykoff later said we would
have run just as fast had

411

00:21:38,200 --> 00:21:42,060

you and Sam run, because our
superior baton-passing because

412

00:21:42,060 --> 00:21:46,190

of practice would have
enabled us to run and win.

413

00:21:46,190 --> 00:21:51,720

Now, you started to say you
were there watching your meet.

414

00:21:51,720 --> 00:21:54,410

What was that like?

415

00:21:54,410 --> 00:21:57,590

Watching the trial

heat and watching

416
00:21:57,590 --> 00:22:05,590
the final the following
day were strange, weird--

417
00:22:05,590 --> 00:22:10,570
all sorts of emotions
flashed through my being.

418
00:22:10,570 --> 00:22:12,190
Frustration, certainly.

419
00:22:12,190 --> 00:22:14,170
Anger, certainly.

420
00:22:14,170 --> 00:22:17,560
I look out on the track and I
see Metcalfe passing runners

421
00:22:17,560 --> 00:22:20,170
down the backstretch--
he ran the second leg.

422
00:22:20,170 --> 00:22:22,690
And that should be me out there.

423
00:22:22,690 --> 00:22:27,260
As they warmed up, jogging
up and down the track.

424
00:22:27,260 --> 00:22:28,870
That should be me out there.

425
00:22:28,870 --> 00:22:32,520
And frustrated at it.

426
00:22:32,520 --> 00:22:36,310
And also feeling relief I
wasn't running in this race.

427
00:22:36,310 --> 00:22:39,460

I didn't have the pressure
of receiving the baton,

428
00:22:39,460 --> 00:22:41,620
running with it, and
passing the baton.

429
00:22:41,620 --> 00:22:44,470
I wasn't fearful of
dropping the baton.

430
00:22:44,470 --> 00:22:48,760
And all relay runners
have that uncertainty,

431
00:22:48,760 --> 00:22:50,320
that fear of the possibility.

432
00:22:50,320 --> 00:22:53,650
I've never dropped a baton in
the many relay races I've run,

433
00:22:53,650 --> 00:22:56,150
but I've seen it dropped.

434
00:22:56,150 --> 00:22:59,260
So there was some
feeling of relief.

435
00:22:59,260 --> 00:23:03,880
But mostly it was anger and
frustration and the feeling

436
00:23:03,880 --> 00:23:07,390
that should be me out there.

437
00:23:07,390 --> 00:23:10,970
Who were you sitting
with during the event?

438
00:23:10,970 --> 00:23:14,330
My recollection is I
sat with Herman Goldberg

439
00:23:14,330 --> 00:23:20,450
during the event, for either
the trial race, the trial heats,

440
00:23:20,450 --> 00:23:22,600
or for the finals.

441
00:23:22,600 --> 00:23:25,490
I don't believe I sat with
Herman both those days.

442
00:23:25,490 --> 00:23:27,020
Very often, we
would sit together

443
00:23:27,020 --> 00:23:28,550
and sometimes we would not.

444
00:23:28,550 --> 00:23:31,370
After all, he had his own
assignments to take care of.

445
00:23:31,370 --> 00:23:34,010
He was practicing and playing
with the American baseball

446
00:23:34,010 --> 00:23:34,640
team.

447
00:23:34,640 --> 00:23:38,060
But I do believe that for one
of those races, either the trial

448
00:23:38,060 --> 00:23:41,420
heat or in the final, that
Herman was alongside of me.

449
00:23:41,420 --> 00:23:43,520
Did you talk about
what was going on?

450

00:23:43,520 --> 00:23:46,220
No, I didn't say a word.

451
00:23:46,220 --> 00:23:50,330
Words can't convey how you
feel-- and not at that moment,

452
00:23:50,330 --> 00:23:51,890
anyhow.

453
00:23:51,890 --> 00:23:56,580
Words wouldn't have made me
feel any better or less angry.

454
00:23:56,580 --> 00:24:02,750
I just sat there and suffered.

455
00:24:02,750 --> 00:24:04,710
I felt all these emotions.

456
00:24:04,710 --> 00:24:10,740
And again, at the
age of 18, the world

457
00:24:10,740 --> 00:24:13,240
is bright and glorious
in front of you.

458
00:24:13,240 --> 00:24:14,580
I was a good athlete.

459
00:24:14,580 --> 00:24:15,900
I knew that.

460
00:24:15,900 --> 00:24:20,480
And four years hence, I was
going to be out there again.

461
00:24:20,480 --> 00:24:24,050
Now, when the American team did
win and went up to the podium

462

00:24:24,050 --> 00:24:29,010
to receive their honors,
were you proud for them?

463
00:24:29,010 --> 00:24:32,600
Were you happy for them?

464
00:24:32,600 --> 00:24:34,760
When the American team
was on the podium,

465
00:24:34,760 --> 00:24:38,000
I was not necessarily
proud for them.

466
00:24:38,000 --> 00:24:39,843
I was pleased, of
course, that they won.

467
00:24:39,843 --> 00:24:41,510
And I was particularly
pleased that they

468
00:24:41,510 --> 00:24:45,800
won by 15 yards, to prove
the point that anyone

469
00:24:45,800 --> 00:24:49,520
of the American sprinters
could have won on the relay

470
00:24:49,520 --> 00:24:51,920
and won the event handily.

471
00:24:51,920 --> 00:24:57,710
But I don't feel as though
I was an American athlete

472
00:24:57,710 --> 00:24:59,690
or that I was a Jewish athlete.

473
00:24:59,690 --> 00:25:01,470
I was an athlete.

474
00:25:01,470 --> 00:25:04,760
I was a member of
the Olympic team.

475
00:25:04,760 --> 00:25:07,340
I was in the Olympic stadium.

476
00:25:07,340 --> 00:25:10,010
I was part of this
overall thing which

477
00:25:10,010 --> 00:25:13,663
I believe has done me so
much good in all the years

478
00:25:13,663 --> 00:25:14,330
which followed--

479
00:25:14,330 --> 00:25:17,660
60 years now, which have
followed those '36 games--

480
00:25:17,660 --> 00:25:20,690
where I began to
realize that I'm just

481
00:25:20,690 --> 00:25:22,670
like the other
athletes of the world,

482
00:25:22,670 --> 00:25:25,250
the other people of the world,
and they're just like me.

483
00:25:25,250 --> 00:25:26,390
We're all alike.

484
00:25:26,390 --> 00:25:27,830
We're all brothers.

485
00:25:27,830 --> 00:25:30,410

And the whole point
of the Games--

486
00:25:30,410 --> 00:25:33,020
the whole point of all
athletic competition--

487
00:25:33,020 --> 00:25:37,880
is to learn to respect each
other, to like each other,

488
00:25:37,880 --> 00:25:39,260
to love each other.

489
00:25:39,260 --> 00:25:41,360
To get to really
know each other.

490
00:25:41,360 --> 00:25:43,280
And I was part of that.

491
00:25:43,280 --> 00:25:45,360
And I was also angry.

492
00:25:45,360 --> 00:25:47,600
Were you envious?

493
00:25:47,600 --> 00:25:50,740
I don't think I was envious.

494
00:25:50,740 --> 00:25:53,080
The only feeling I have today--

495
00:25:53,080 --> 00:25:55,660
I'm the grandfather
of 10 and I'm

496
00:25:55,660 --> 00:25:58,030
the great-grandfather of four.

497
00:25:58,030 --> 00:26:01,150
So I don't have

the grandchildren

498

00:26:01,150 --> 00:26:04,870

of the great-grandchildren I
can show this gold medal to.

499

00:26:04,870 --> 00:26:08,140

That's the only feeling of
disappointment I now have--

500

00:26:08,140 --> 00:26:10,240

that I can't show
my grandchildren

501

00:26:10,240 --> 00:26:12,020

this gold Olympic medal.

502

00:26:12,020 --> 00:26:14,530

That's the only
feeling I have now.

503

00:26:14,530 --> 00:26:17,590

I think it's wonderful
that I was on the team.

504

00:26:17,590 --> 00:26:20,650

I think it's great
that I made this trip.

505

00:26:20,650 --> 00:26:23,650

It exposed me to
marvelous things.

506

00:26:23,650 --> 00:26:26,620

And also exposed me to
the hurt of anti-Semitism.

507

00:26:26,620 --> 00:26:33,160

508

00:26:33,160 --> 00:26:34,960

Is there anything
else you can tell me

509
00:26:34,960 --> 00:26:37,300
about what it was
like, not necessarily

510
00:26:37,300 --> 00:26:41,020
for your competition
in particular,

511
00:26:41,020 --> 00:26:43,520
but just what it was like
being in the Olympic stadium?

512
00:26:43,520 --> 00:26:44,490
Can you describe it?

513
00:26:44,490 --> 00:26:51,380

514
00:26:51,380 --> 00:26:56,090
The Olympic stadium itself
is a very impressive place.

515
00:26:56,090 --> 00:26:58,610
It was particularly
impressive then,

516
00:26:58,610 --> 00:27:01,340
filled with 120,000 people.

517
00:27:01,340 --> 00:27:03,980
And it was virtually brand-new.

518
00:27:03,980 --> 00:27:06,650
And I'll never forget
walking into the stadium,

519
00:27:06,650 --> 00:27:09,020
marching in along with
my American teammates

520
00:27:09,020 --> 00:27:10,760

in the Opening Day Parade.

521

00:27:10,760 --> 00:27:12,890

And I use the word
march loosely here,

522

00:27:12,890 --> 00:27:15,450

because American athletes
don't march very well.

523

00:27:15,450 --> 00:27:21,200

We slumped in, in
line, but walking

524

00:27:21,200 --> 00:27:26,660

in the manner of a loose-limbed,
easygoing American athletes.

525

00:27:26,660 --> 00:27:32,480

And I remember looking up at
Adolf Hitler as we marched by.

526

00:27:32,480 --> 00:27:36,140

And he was glaring
down at us, we thought.

527

00:27:36,140 --> 00:27:38,060

And the comment
heard in the ranks--

528

00:27:38,060 --> 00:27:39,980

and I said it also--

529

00:27:39,980 --> 00:27:42,170

he looks just like
Charlie Chaplin.

530

00:27:42,170 --> 00:27:44,330

And that's just the
way we felt about him.

531

00:27:44,330 --> 00:27:49,400

He was almost a comic figure,

with his drab khaki uniform

532
00:27:49,400 --> 00:27:50,570
he wore.

533
00:27:50,570 --> 00:27:53,900
Khaki shirt and khaki
pants, no decorations on it.

534
00:27:53,900 --> 00:27:57,350
That funny little mustache and
a cowlick over his forehead.

535
00:27:57,350 --> 00:28:01,430
And he was a comic figure.

536
00:28:01,430 --> 00:28:03,800
I thought of him and
I think many of us

537
00:28:03,800 --> 00:28:07,070
thought of him as like
a typical South American

538
00:28:07,070 --> 00:28:11,270
dictator of those years, who is
here today and gone tomorrow.

539
00:28:11,270 --> 00:28:13,490
After all, he'd just
been in power some

540
00:28:13,490 --> 00:28:14,480
two and a half years.

541
00:28:14,480 --> 00:28:16,850
And who knew how long
he was going to last

542
00:28:16,850 --> 00:28:19,040
or how much power he
ultimately would have.

543

00:28:19,040 --> 00:28:24,500

But he was comic to us, along
with the rest of his entourage.

544

00:28:24,500 --> 00:28:26,870

And certainly they
were funny-looking,

545

00:28:26,870 --> 00:28:30,410

in terms of Goring and
his uniform and Goebbels

546

00:28:30,410 --> 00:28:33,980

with his rat-like face and
some of the diplomats in there

547

00:28:33,980 --> 00:28:36,920

with their long frock
coats and ascots

548

00:28:36,920 --> 00:28:40,760

and some of the army uniforms
and naval uniforms around them.

549

00:28:40,760 --> 00:28:44,090

550

00:28:44,090 --> 00:28:49,190

It was an experience I'm
pleased to have been part of.

551

00:28:49,190 --> 00:28:52,040

And I'm still
angry at not having

552

00:28:52,040 --> 00:28:53,660

that medal to show the kids.

553

00:28:53,660 --> 00:28:56,660

Was there something awesome
about marching in with 100,000

554

00:28:56,660 --> 00:28:59,050
people sitting there?

555
00:28:59,050 --> 00:29:01,120
We felt no feeling of awe.

556
00:29:01,120 --> 00:29:08,680
We were cocky, young,
well-trained, good athletes.

557
00:29:08,680 --> 00:29:12,430
And nothing awesome about
going into a huge stadium.

558
00:29:12,430 --> 00:29:14,440
We'd been in huge
stadiums before.

559
00:29:14,440 --> 00:29:16,225
We'd competed in
these huge stadiums.

560
00:29:16,225 --> 00:29:20,500

561
00:29:20,500 --> 00:29:22,330
One of the things
I remember most

562
00:29:22,330 --> 00:29:24,940
was, as part of the
opening ceremonies,

563
00:29:24,940 --> 00:29:27,932
these thousands of pigeons,
which had been kept in cages--

564
00:29:27,932 --> 00:29:29,390
I'm going to need
to stop you here,

565
00:29:29,390 --> 00:29:30,470
because the tape's

going to-- but I

566

00:29:30,470 --> 00:29:31,510

do want to hear that story.

567

00:29:31,510 --> 00:29:32,302

What is that noise?

568

00:29:32,302 --> 00:29:34,350

That's just the wind.

569

00:29:34,350 --> 00:31:11,000