

**Oral History Interview of
Rodney Allison**

**Interviewed by: Daniel Sanchez
January 7, 2015
Lubbock, Texas**

**Part of the:
*Sports History Initiative***

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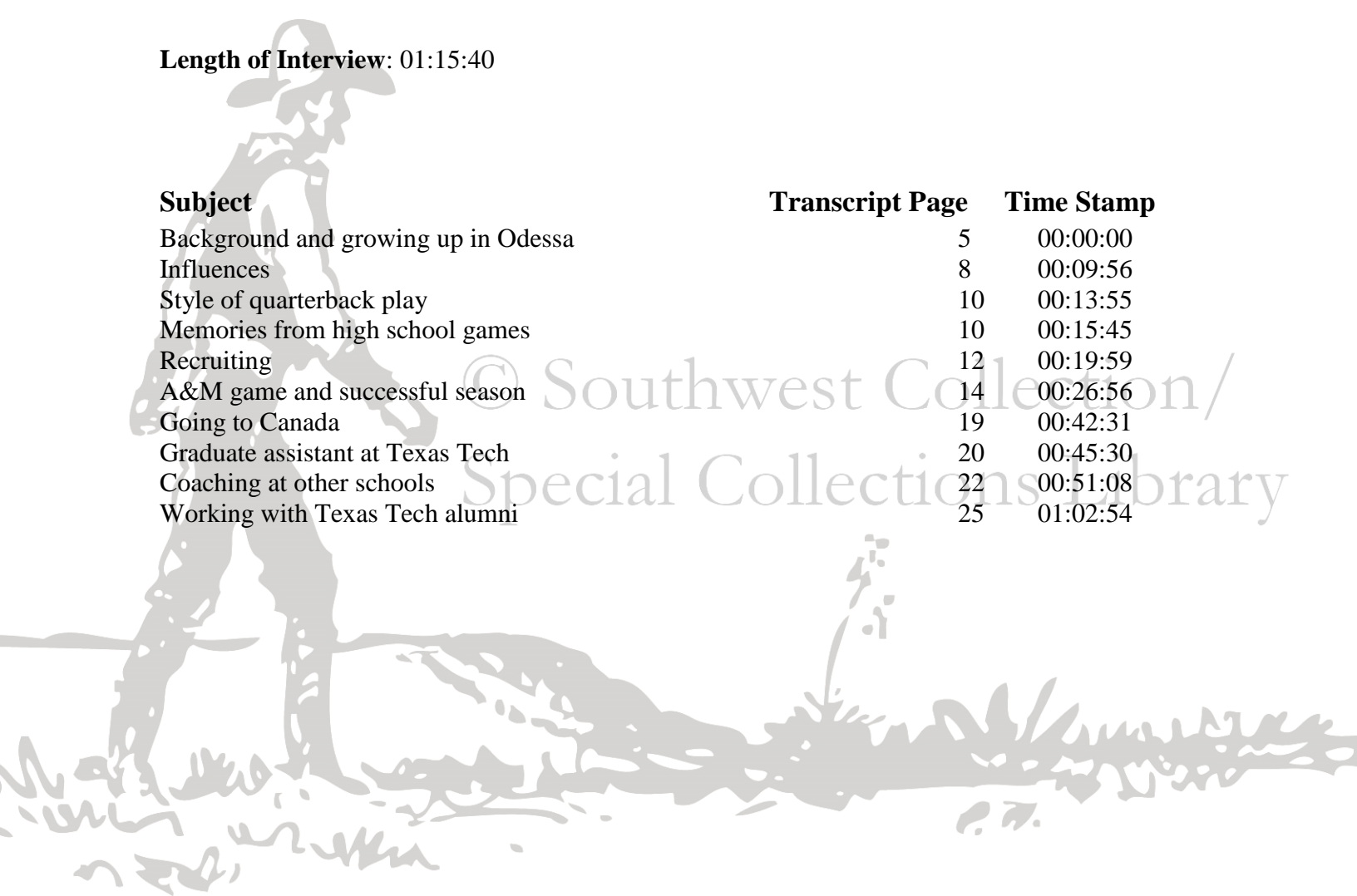
Interview Series Background

The Sports History interviews encompass interviews conducted by members of the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library staff. They hope to document the evolution of sports and the role of sports in the social fabric of this region.

Transcript Overview:

This interview features Double T Varsity Club director and former Texas Tech quarterback Rodney Allison. Allison discusses growing up in Odessa, playing quarterback at Texas Tech, and his coaching career at various schools. Allison also talks about coming back to Texas Tech and working with former Tech athletes.

Length of Interview: 01:15:40



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Rodney Allison (RA):

—s-o-n.

Daniel Sanchez (DS):

I apologize, Rodney. We need to start this again. My name is Daniel Sanchez; today's date is January 8, 2016. We're in Lubbock, Texas. I'm interviewing Rodney Allison. Rodney, would you please state your complete legal name?

RA:

Rodney Gene Allison, G-e-n-e A-l-l-i-s-o-n.

DS:

And when and where were you born?

RA:

I was born in Midland, Texas on January 29, 1956.

DS:

And how about your parents? Tell us their names and dates and places of birth.

RA:

My dad's name—he's deceased—his name Ronald Gene Allison, and my mother's name was Theresa Faye Danly. That was her maiden name.

DS:

What were their professions?

RA:

My mother worked at an office supply for years and years and years, and my dad was a—pretty much an oilfield worker, Halliburton, that type of deal pretty much all his life.

DS:

And did you have any siblings?

RA:

Had a brother, older brother, one year older, Bobby, and had a younger sister, Donna.

DS:

Were any of them involved in athletics?

RA:

No, my brother played a little bit growing up, little leagues and stuff, but I happened to kind of be the only one that was kind of athletically inclined throughout high school and college and so forth, but my mother was not very athletic, and my dad was somewhat athletic in his day, but I was pretty much it in the family.

DS:

Well, what got you started on that path?

RA:

Well, I don't know, I just started—I don't remember—I think originally my dad was our baseball coach growing up through, you know, seven year old, eight year old, nine year old, I mean we just started and started, and Pop Warner back in I think it was back the fifth grade, and just kind of went down that road, and my parents were always there, I mean they never missed a game, little league, middle school, high school, college, I mean they were at every single game. I mean I was kind of your typical your dad was your coach, but back then, it was you didn't play because your dad—the whole era was different—but I guess probably I loved sports from the time it was—I mean we played the old game, the football electronic game where you plugged in the thing, and the thing vibrated, and you know, I mean, so you remember playing and being associated with sports, I mean it was always around back then, you left in the morning on days you didn't have school and you went to the park, I mean you went to the park and played, and you went—if you got thirsty, you found a water hose, and drank the water out of the water hose at somebody else's house, and everybody took care of each other, I mean you were—just a different day back then, but we'd come home at night, but we played all day, you just played.

DS:

Did you hang out with guys your age or older?

RA:

I always thought I was pretty good, I don't know if I was, but back in the day, I remember one story that I was in little league, and I think I was seven years old, and you had to be eight or nine to be on this team in this particular league, and me and my brother and a good friend named Daryl Eubanks went to this tryout, and we lied about our age, and told them we were nine or eight or whatever the age was, and we made the team, or made the cut, and had to—my dad came—we did it without telling anybody, and so then we came home, we told Dad about making the team, and they wouldn't let us be in this league because we weren't—and rightfully so, we weren't old enough—but my dad, that was kind of the start of the whole deal of playing organized sports was my dad took us three and several other kids in the area that were about my age and created a team that played in the league under whatever this league was, and so that was kind of the start of the whole sports deal.

DS:

Wow, so what was that experience like knowing that you had his backing?

RA:

Yeah, I had his backing, but then, the backing of a father wasn't the same as it is now. I mean it wasn't the same, I mean, those were the days when you did something wrong at school, you got your tail whipped at school, then you got another whipping when you got home, you did not challenge authority, you didn't challenge the authority figure whether it was the teacher, the coach, the—whoever was that authority figure was a respectful person, and you were taught to respect that, and you know, the old rule, rule number one, the coach is right. Rule number two, if the coach is wrong, refer back to rule number one. I mean, and that's just way—

DS:

That was the mindset.

RA:

That's the way we were brought up, and so the dad coached us, but it wasn't from a favorable standpoint, I mean he took me out of games, I mean I had a fairly good temper back there when things didn't happen successfully for me, and I'll always remember that—and I've learned some pretty good lessons throughout life with different people that have impacted me, and you know, he took me out of a critical game one time because I was pouting around, or wasn't acting the way I should be acting, and I think it ended up costing us a game, but back then, you—there was a principle, and there were some principles that you were taught, and my dad was one of those.

DS:

And what was it like growing up in a town like Odessa where athletics was king.

RA:

Well, I don't know if I realized it much then, you know, I mean it just kind of part of your culture, or part of your life, but as a I grew up, and the Odessa deal and Midland—I mean Permian-Odessa High, and I went to Odessa High, and that part of town, and not in a bad way, but we were kind of the poor folks, and Permian was a little different deal, and it was kind of like our dads worked for their dads kind of mentality, you know, and I didn't have anything when I was growing up, I mean we didn't have any money, and we got to eat out once a month, and that was on payday, and I remember the days, and we still eat it to this day, we call it goulash, a lot of people call it different things, but at the end of the month, three or four of the neighbors, we got together, if you had corn, if you had—and you put a little cheese on it—but we thought, we didn't know any better, it was just—I mean at Christmas we got a bike or something, but it was one present, but we didn't know any better.

DS:

Yeah, I think a lot of us grew up that way during that era, you know, you mentioned the rivalries there, and when did you become involved in athletics through the school system?

RA:

Well, it was—I remember I went to Crocket Junior High, and so that's where my first organized school competitive sports started, and I mean, it was the same, I mean we grew up with that Permian rivalry back then it was Crocket and Bowie I think or whoever the junior highs were across—we called them junior highs back then—and I mean, but that rivalry started from an early age, I mean it was—we played Midland, and we played San Angelo, and we played Abilene and some of these other towns, but it wasn't the same, I mean there was always—even growing up at an early age, that rivalry between Odessa High and Permian was real—I mean it was—and later on, I became involved, I coached at Auburn for six years, and the rivalry between Auburn-Alabama is so unique, but in a lot of ways, it's like the Odessa High/Permian deal was back when I was growing up, I mean it was something you lived with pretty much 365 days a year, I mean it was a living, breathing deal of its own, you know, I mean it was—you lived with it, it was part of your life.

DS:

Yeah. I was fortunate enough to interview someone that played afterwards at Permian, and he actually played on the team that was the *Friday Night Lights* team, and so—and he was talking about that—growing up in the town and that you grew up wanting to pay for your high school. So what was it like for you, were you always the quarterback, or how did you come into that role?

RA:

Yeah, pretty much, I think when I was in Pop Warner I played running back, but I mean I think as I got into Crocket, and—I don't know, I just, I was always kind of the leader type, I always kind of took that role and kind of liked it, and sometimes in mischievous ways too, but I always enjoyed that part of that pressure of that position of that responsibility and all that stuff, and that was just part of I think what I learned from my dad and just kind of taking risks, and but no, I pretty much played quarterback from the seventh grade all the way through college, and even into Canada for a couple of years.

DS:

Who influenced you back then as a player?

RA:

Besides my dad, my dad did obviously at an early age, but probably the one guy that influenced me as I got into ninth grade, tenth grade, eleventh grade, and my senior year was a guy named

Dick Winder. Dick Winder was a high school coach back then obviously, but he ended up coaching at Oklahoma as an offensive coordinator. He was the offensive coordinator here at Texas Tech, worked for Spike Dykes for ten or twelve years, legendary—an assistant coach here at Tech, but Dick Winder's the one that had probably the most impact on me when I was in the fifteen, sixteen, seventeen age from a work ethic, from how to learn to be a quarterback, the fundamentals of quarterback play, all that stuff pretty much came from Dick Winder.

DS:

What were some of the lessons he taught you back then that still hold true to today?

RA:

Probably the poise and how to handle yourself and how quarterback—he taught me so many fundamentals about the position and how to be seen as a leader, how to act, and I got myself into a situation early in high school where I was in the wrong place at the wrong time and nearly could've jeopardized potentially my career, and I'll never forget his talk afterwards and how it impacted me, and that really made a—really a major—there's been two or three major situations that have happened to me over my course of playing, and another one happened to me when I was here in college—but that day and that time, me putting myself in a situation I shouldn't have been in, and it was me and another quarterback, and that other quarterback ended up getting kicked off the team, I was marginal, nearly got kicked off—I mean it was just one of those deals, one of life's lessons, and he had a major impact on me at that point in time as far as how to handle yourself, responsibility to the team, what you have at risk, and one small mistake can turn and impact what happens to you for a long time, so probably Dick Winder was that guy when I was in high school.

DS:

And when did you start becoming the starting quarterback in high school?

RA:

Well, it was my junior year, and it happened because of that situation, and the other guy—and I don't want to—his name was Ricky Young, and Ricky was going to be the starting quarterback, and it was my junior year, and this situation happened in the summer, and I ended up being the starting quarterback my junior and senior year.

DS:

What was that like starting your first high school game?

RA:

I don't really remember it. I remember several games during my high school career, but you know, I—one thing I was always very fortunate, the pressure of those deals never bothered me. I

mean, I kind of cherished them; I embraced them, just like when I got here, we had some deals, there was another quarterback, I finally got a chance to play, and it was a game against A&M, and I go in after another quarterback, and we ended up winning the game, and so forth. But those situations never bothered me; I liked them.

DS:

Were you always—and I know when you were at Tech you were known for being elusive, were you elusive back then also?

RA:

Yeah, that's probably what got me a scholarship. I was a very average to above average thrower, I mean I really was. Dick Winder, my high school coach, kind of fundamentally taught me how to throw the ball from a fundamental perspective, but I was okay; I could always throw it decent, but I was pretty much—I would be more of the RGIII, the runner type deal. But back then, even in high school and going in to college, Texas was running the wishbone, Texas Tech was running the veer or the option of some kind. Everybody was more in the option type stuff, very few of the schools were throwing the ball, so at that point in time, I guess it's like kids today, they grow up throwing the ball, they go to Second and Seven camps, so back then that was kind of the profile of a quarterback back then. It was you threw it, but you had to play with your legs too.

DS:

Yeah, I think that was the era of—and what kind of offense were y'all running in high school at the time?

RA:

Well, it was a little bit of option and a little bit of play action, but it was—back then it was a tight end, two receivers, and two backs or one wide receiver, one tight end, and three backs, I mean you didn't play with these five and six receivers. You had one or two receivers in the game, you had a true tight end in the game who blocked most of the time, so the whole dynamic was different, it wasn't even close to what we do and see today.

DS:

You know, you mentioned that there was a couple of games or moments that you remember from high school, can you mention some of those?

RA:

The one I Really remember is Permian my senior year. Back then now, you didn't beat them dudes, you didn't—that was back when they had the mojo, and they had an entourage of support, it was unbelievable for a high school back in those days. But it was a game—we were pretty good, they were good, and that town back then, it was high school football, I mean Friday nights

people started lining up to buy tickets and standing in line in the cold two or three days before. I mean it was just the atmosphere of that rivalry back then and that game was just, it was incredible, and the buildup to it, and the day of the game, and I don't know how many people were there, whatever the stadium would hold, I mean it was standing room only, and they beat us 41-36, and some people down there in Odessa still say it's the greatest game in the history of the rivalry or whatever. We'd never beaten them, I'm not sure since Hayden Fry—I don't even know if they had Hayden Fry playing—but Odessa High won the state championship in 1946, but anyway, we're playing this big game, it's back and forth, and they're scoring, we're scoring because a 41-36 game back then didn't happen, I mean that wasn't—you didn't score like that back then. I mean and they had players, they had a safety named Joe Bob Bizzell, who went on to play with Texas, and they had a guy named Ray Nunez who was linebacker, I'll never forget him, I mean they were just good, tough, and it was 41-36, and we had the ball on about the six inch line, going in to score with six seconds, four seconds, last play of the game, we got six inches from their goal line, and I took the snap, and started to hand it to the fullback, and somehow the ball hit is elbow and went into the end zone, and they recovered the ball, and we lost the game 41-36, and it was—that one I can still remember, 99 percent of the plays and games in high school, I can't remember one play, but I can vividly remember that moment that that ball went into the end zone, and it was a guy named Doug King, and I ran into him at a funeral about a year ago, and there was some hard feelings because we blamed each other, you know. I said it was his fault, he said it was my fault, I didn't give him the ball, I said, you didn't do what you should have done, and forty years later, whatever it was, and I hadn't seen him since. We're at one of our old classmate's funeral or something, and we ran into each other, and it was—it was quite a—and we hadn't talk about it since. So anyway, that was the game in high school that I remember most vividly.

DS:

So was that early in the season or—?

RA:

No, it was the last game of the year.

DS:

Last game of the year to go onto playoffs?

RA:

We always played them—Odessa High and Permian played on the last game of the year.

DS:

Was that to decide the district title or anything?

RA:

I think. I don't even remember. It didn't matter—

DS:

It was just—

RA:

It didn't matter. And the only other rivalry, like I said earlier, was Alabama/Auburn, that was the closest thing. Now I was at Clemson where South Carolina was your rivalry, I was at different schools, but this one, it's real.

DS:

Yeah, well and in fact, back then I think they referred to that district as the little Southwest Conference, and that tells you about the intensity of all the schools.

RA:

Well, it was Odessa High/Permian, Abilene/Abilene Cooper, Midland/Midland Lee, San Angelo—it was just—everybody was—

DS:

I know our Lubbock schools hated to play any of y'all.

RA:

(laughter) Well, it was kind of like the SEC is, it was just those in the state, you didn't have all these Allens and all these schools that you have now, it's just—

DS:

And like we mentioned, you were being recruited coming out of high school. When did that process start?

RA:

Back then, it wasn't like it is now, they didn't—I mean you didn't start getting all that stuff until maybe the summer before your senior year, it wasn't like that then. Back then, you'd have maybe—you'd have a signing date, then the recruiting in like that February would start for the next year, you didn't really go a year or two back like they do now. Now you know where every kid is as a sophomore for the most part, but back then, it was really the spring and summer of your junior year going into your senior year that it all started. I mean I got—I started getting letters—back then, everybody wrote letters, and there wasn't e-mail, there wasn't all that stuff, so it started probably spring and summer my senior year.

DS:

And tell us some other people that were interested in you back then.

RA:

I mean I was very fortunate. I had—I mean back then, I think you could take five official visits I think, and I got calls from all over the country, I visited Oklahoma, I visited Texas, I visited A&M, I visited Tech, and I think I visited Baylor, but I had an opportunity, Tennessee, Notre Dame, I mean I could've gone anywhere, I had the opportunity to go anywhere, but it—the whole process was—I mean for a kid from Odessa High back then, and we'd had some, but nothing compared to what Permian was doing, I mean—and I was one of the—there was some before me, but it was—I might have been one of the biggest ones to come along or had the spotlight on me to that degree at Odessa High at that time, but I mean it was Barry Switzer, it was Darrell Royal, it was Grant Teaff, I mean it was all your icons back then of coaches that were in Odessa, were in the restaurants, and back then, they could take you to dinner, I mean it was just—and here I am, just a small town—not a small town—but we didn't have anything. Even during the games, when I got to Tech, my dad, if we played an out of town game, I mean they'd back up their bologna sandwiches and their ice chest or whatever they had back then and you ate and you didn't—it was just a different deal.

DS:

Why did you select Tech?

RA:

You know I grew up always wanting to go to the University of Texas. I always—boy, I wanted to be a longhorn, golly they run a wishbone, and they had these great wishbone quarterbacks, and me and Earl Campbell came out of high school the same year, and a lot of people said it—well, he was the best. Ultimately, he ended up being the best, but there was a lot of debate, me or him, you know whatever, and we played in high school all-star games together and all stuff after the season, but I went to Texas Tech because probably more than anything, I made the decision based on the fact that my parents could get to the games to watch me play. That was nearly—being close to home, being close to my family, being close to the people in Odessa, where they could conveniently come up and see me play, that ended up being the bottom line because that was important to me that they were—and they would've got to a game if I was in Austin or wherever I was at, but I just felt like at that time that that's was the best thing for me.

DS:

And at the time, it was also—you know the freshman had their own teams because they couldn't play, so where you the starter for the Picadors your freshman year?

RA:

Yes, and I'll tell you what, there was another kid recruited that year, a guy named Mike Mock that ended up being an all-conference defensive linebacker type guy that was highly, highly touted from Longview, and we came in, I was probably rated a little higher back then, but he was really good, too, and we were kind of the Picador's team quarterback, but I think I ended up winning the job, and maybe that year or the next year, they moved him to defense, but—that was back in the day when Jess Stiles was your freshman coach, I mean you didn't even see those other guys, I mean you were kind of your own little team, and you had your own basically had freshman coach, and you had that father figure in Jess Stiles and you had a bunch of young—I don't know, bunch may be the wrong word—but two or three young coaches that were kind of part of that Picador staff, and you played five or six games or whatever it was, and kind of had your own little deal, but it was different back then.

DS:

You think a setup like that helped you as a freshman to the academics and the athletics?

RA:

Probably, not that it—I don't know that does—because that year though, my freshman year, technically you could play. Freshman were eligible to play in my freshman year, but the year before in '73—but they still maintained the Picador game because I went to a game on the varsity as a freshman, and it was at TCU or Rice, I think—I know it was, it was either TCU, I think it was TCU—and I played a few plays, and fumbled the snap, and Coach Carlen got mad at me, but I played a little bit my freshman year, but that was the second year that freshman were eligible, because if you'll remember history, '73 was the first year that freshman could play because that team in '73 went 11-1, went to the Gator Bowl, probably the best team in school history, in my opinion. I think the '73 team, the '76 team, and the 2008 teams are your three best teams in school history, and because on that—and the reason I bring this up about '73 was there was a freshman named Larry Isaac that year, kid from Estacado who was freshman of the year in the conference and started on that '73 team that went 11-1, and he started I think after four or five games a couple of backs got hurt, and they played him, but not very many freshman played back then, but I think it was '73 the first year freshman were eligible to play.

DS:

And was Joe Barnes the quarterback that year?

RA:

Joe Barnes was the quarterback in '73, and if you'll remember that story, that original deal was Joe Barnes and Jimmy Carmichael, that they came in, and at that point, that's one of the reasons, another reason, I chose Tech is because they had signed that year probably the two best quarterbacks in Texas. Jimmy was from Brownwood, and Joe was from Big Lake. That dynamic

was really cool because Joe ended up I think Joe was one of the, if not the best, in the top three or four best quarterbacks to ever play here, and on the best team I think in school history, but Joe and Jimmy they came in highly, highly touted, and Joe was a senior on that '73 team.

DS:

And I know that Tommy Duniven came in like the year after that, right?

RA:

No, Tommy Duniven was a year ahead of me. Tommy was kind of between Joe and me, and Tommy was basically the starter, but after Joe Barnes. Then I came in, and me and Tommy kind of battled it out, he won the job over me and played. Tommy was a good quarterback. Tommy wasn't a real good runner, I mean he was an adequate runner, but I played some my sophomore year, but going into my junior year, I was redshirting, Tommy was a senior, and I was redshirting my junior year, and we went to A&M the third game of the year, and Tommy gets hurt, and the only way I was going to go into a game and take the red shirt off me was if Tommy got hurt with what looked like a season ending injury, so Tommy goes down against A&M, and it's a knee, so I warmed up on the sidelines, the trainer, I think it was Joe Bizzell, was a trainer, and he told Coach Sloan on the sideline, it looked like a pretty significant knee injury, and so Coach Sloan put me in.

DS:

And you talked about that—what was that moment like getting out there and knowing that you're in A&M, you're coming in off the bench—exactly.

RA:

You know I always thought that was one of the toughest places to play, I really did, even back then, that was a unique situation because when I was there, when we were playing them, and even when I visited A&M, there were no girls there, I mean it was strictly your corps and guys. That's one of the reasons I didn't go to school there. I mean who wanted to go to a school where there weren't no girls. But I went into that game, there's some clips of me on the sideline before I went into game, I mean I was a little fidgety, I don't know if I was nervous, but things just worked, I don't know why it did, but it worked. I mean we threw two or three balls in the—God I don't even know if id' been in there one plays or two plays, but we threw a deep ball and it's complete, and they were good back then, Texas A&M, they had Lester Hayes, Pat Thomas, Ed Simonini—I mean they had draftable guys on defense, they were really good. David Shipman from Permian was their quarterback, they had Big George, they were just loaded with talent, but it just worked that day, and the rest is kind of history, and we went on and that season and really had a great year.

DS:

Yeah, y'all went on a good roll there. What was it like once y'all started rolling? What did the team—?

RA:

Well, here's what I think happened, that '76 team, and if you'll remember, Steve Sloan was the head coach, but I think it's—it may be as good a staff from a coaching standpoint that's ever been at Tech. I think the Jim Carlen staff—Jim's staff was probably the best recruiting staff that's ever been here, but on that staff was Steve Sloan, Bill Parcells was the defensive coordinator, Romeo Crennel coached on defense, guy named Mike Pope who won four Super Bowl rings with the New York Giants as a coach was on that staff, guy named Rex Dockery who was later the head coach at Tech and the head coach at Memphis who died in a plane crash on a recruiting trip was on that staff, I mean just a—a lot of people don't realize the magnitude of that staff and I think—I'm not sure how great a recruiting staff it was, but I think it was really a good coaching staff from x's and o's standpoint, but Bill Parcells was probably thirty-four, thirty-five years old, I mean nobody, I mean—he was a defensive coordinator, but we started out that year, and we opened with Colorado, and Colorado was I think third or fourth or fifth in the country, they were highly touted, but Coach Parcells somehow, we get like four or five interceptions in the game, and we weren't supposed to win the game, it was in Lubbock, and I didn't even play that game, that was Dunniven, he started the season, and we ended up beating Colorado, then next week we might have, I don't know who, maybe Arizona, whoever it was, and then we went to A&M, and that dynamic changed, and Tommy got hurt, and I went in, and then we won the next one, and gosh, then we won the next one, and we played Texas here and beat them with Earl Campbell. It just got rolling. I'm not sure if it was the most talented team that's ever been here, but the confidence just built and it just got better and better as the year went on, and we played good. I mean games of great significance back when there was one or two games a week on, and we were on against Texas, and we were on against I think Houston that year, whatever, and it just is one of those years that ended up being a 10-2 team. Nebraska beat us in the Bluebonnet Bowl, which back then the Bluebonnet was a significant bowl because there was only ten or twelve bowl games—there wasn't very many games. That whole year was a great year, we should have beat Nebraska—or had an opportunity to beat Nebraska in the last game, Vince Ferragamo was their quarterback, Tom Osborne was the head coach at Nebraska, I mean it was at a time where Nebraska was really good, but they ended up beating us 27-24, so it was a special year.

DS:

And prior to that when y'all lost to Houston, that was a little heartbreak because Tech had been knocking on the door for so many years, and Houston's first year, and they tie y'all.

RA:

Yeah, Danny Davis was the quarterback, Bill Yeoman was the coach, and we played terrible for half, I mean we didn't play good or they played good and we didn't, or however it worked out, they got ahead of us a significant amount, but we had a terrific comeback the second half, I mean I think we started out behind 27-9 or 27-6 or something, and we got it rolling, and I actually threw for I think 300 yards the second half, which that wasn't my game, and they had a guy—I'll never forget—a guy named Wilson Whitley playing on defense who went on to play with the Bengals for shoot, I think he was all-pro and all that stuff, and we had a great offensive tackle named Dan Irons that ended up being in the Tech Hall of Fame and Southwest Conference Hall of Fame, and I'll never forget that battle that Dan Irons and Wilson Whitley had all day—Dan won some, and Wilson, and I ran away from Wilson Whitley all night long, and we got—we were down by eight, and we had the ball on our own twenty or twenty-five and drove it all the way down the field, and there was seven or eight seconds to go in the game, last play of the game, I think it was fourth down, and we're on like the seven or eight, and I threw an interception, and looking back, it was a bad throw, but there was a little bit of coaching mistake made, too, but I threw the interception, but at that point, looking back, and you didn't realize it at the time, but Tech had never been to the Cotton Bowl, I mean we're at the goal line to put Texas Tech in the Cotton Bowl, which we've never been, and to this day I think Spike took us to the Cotton Bowl in—I can't remember what year, it was the year we got beat by USC in the Cotton Bowl, but it was a four way tie for first, and I think Tech was 6-6 or something or 6-5, but the significance of that game and that play at the time when you look back on it made—what if we'd have won that game and gone to the Cotton Bowl, how would've maybe possibly that could have changed the dynamic of Tech football, I mean you don't know.

DS:

Yeah, it's one of those what-if moments.

RA:

I mean to go the Cotton Bowl, that was a big deal back then, that was one of the New Year's Day deals, and Tech had been good, but they'd kind of never gotten over that hump, and that day and that play and that game—I think that's a big what if in the history of Tech football because if you'll remember right after that, in '77, we were pretty good, that was the year I broke my ankle, but after that, Tech football went into pretty much hibernation for seven or eight years. Rex Dockery took over, they were okay, then the Jerry Moore era came, which was really a bad five years, but it's just that always been interesting to me, maybe the significance of that game and that play and that ending—it could have—what could have happened maybe.

DS:

And you won a lot of accolades personally as did other players on that team that year, there were

several all-Americans and all-conference players on that team. So what was it like to be a part of a team that had such a great season? What was the expectation during that summer?

RA:

Well, we had a really good team, but coming up after the '76 season, but the thing is—and a lot of people don't realize—I think the expectation was really high because of what we had done the year before, but defensively off of that team going into '77, we lost Thomas Howard who was an all-American, we lost Harold Buell who was an all-conference defensive end type guy, we lost Greg Frazier who was a DB that kind of was the quarterback of the secondary, he was—we lost four or five really substantial guys on defense that we had to replace. We had some decent guys behind them, but we weren't going to be as good on defense, I think we were going to be close to as good on offense, but I don't know, if you win that game against Houston, you go to Cotton Bowl, who knows, I don't know, but going into that next season, all the expectations were high, but then I ended up getting hurt the third or fourth game of the year, and it just—we ended up I think we went to the Citrus Bowl and played Florida State, and we ended up 7-4 or whatever, we had a pretty good team, but we lost a couple games after I got hurt, and it just, it just didn't happen.

DS:

Who was the backup the that year you got injured?

RA:

I think it was a guy named Mark Adams, I think, or no, no, no, Mark Johnson. It was Mark Johnson, and he was a good player, it just—I don't know, we went to North Carolina, and played them, they had Lawrence Taylor, and I think we lose 7-6 or 10-7, really a low-scoring game, we just couldn't get it going offensively, but we lost a couple games there, then we go to Austin and get beat, and it just—we ended up I think winning seven games.

DS:

Yeah, because back then Tech had a tough non-conference schedule, USC was on that schedule for a while, too.

RA:

And during Spike's deal they played anybody, I mean they played Ohio State, Tennessee, I mean they played anybody. But the '76 year was a great year, and you asked me earlier about people that have made impacts on me, and Dick Winder was the guy in high school, but besides Steve—Steve Sloan made more impact on me personally than probably anybody, I was a little bit of the Baker Mayfield—I had some confidence and type deal, but Coach Sloan personally because I ended up—Steve Sloan ended up being the best man in my wedding, I named my son Sloan, my son's first name is Sloan, so I've really learned personally a lot, but the guy that—after we

played A&M, I went in '76, threw three touchdowns or whatever it was, player of the year, conference player of the year, I mean week, and we go on that Sunday, boy I think I'm good, I walk into the meeting, you got your chest sticking out, boy you've just beat A&M at Kyle Field, and I'll never forget it to this day, and it was right there on the south end of Jones Stadium in those meeting rooms, and Bill Parcells walks up to me and—not violently—but he sticks his elbow in my chest and kind of forces me up against the wall, and he said, "I want to tell you one thing you little son of bitch, you have not done shit as a quarterback until you win a championship. Quarterbacks are judged on championships." And that's stuck with me because he was right, and you look at today, whether you go in to the hall of fame, whether you're one of the great quarterbacks of all time, or whether you're in the discussion for whatever, from a quarterback perspective, it's championships. And I didn't really get it then, but as I got out and went into coaching, that stuck with me for a long time because he's right because of the nature of the position, that's how you're judged. And so, him and—from that perspective—Steve Sloan from the personal perspective, and Dick Winder from the fundamentals perspective back when I was in high school, those three through my college deals were probably the three people that made the most impact.

DS:

After your senior year, you weren't—were you drafted by the NFL at all?

RA:

No, back then—and I—a lot of teams wanted to move me to DB, and I probably maybe I don't know could've played DB. Back then you could play strong safety in the NFL and run four six and be a tough guy, and you didn't have to cover anybody but the tight end, you know. I mean I might've had a chance to do that, but I wanted to play quarterback, and if you'll remember after Joe Barnes left Tech, he went to Canada and played for a long time and was really good and was really successful and gosh, he won Grey Cups which is their Super Bowl, was MVP of the league, Condredge Holloway had gone up there from Tennessee, and you know quarterbacks from the states were going up there and were having success, and everybody told me I was too short to play quarterback in the NFL, and I was, so I made a decision to go to Canada.

DS:

Yeah, because that was even like the Doug Flutie era. Same thing, he wound up in Canada, too.

RA:

Yeah, being a great player. So I did that, and then I got up there, and during college I had some arm problems, and I got up there and I got the starting position, and I hurt my arm, and I don't know if you know the dynamics, but the field's wider, the field's longer, and it's—I had some shoulder issues, and I ended up not making it.

DS:

And I think, you know, and contrary to what you played in high school and at Tech, that was probably more of a passing league too, wasn't it?

RA:

Well, you had to have a good arm because the field's like seven yards or six yards, it's wider, and you know, to throw that ball out there, that don't seem like a substantial amount of yards, but it's major difference, and throwing the ball to the sideline, and shoot, I remember I threw an out cut when I got up there in the first exhibition game or practice or something, and shit, it nearly took forever, my arm wasn't strong enough. I couldn't get it out there like some of those guys.

DS:

And that's still kind of the test of the quarterback's arm nowadays—how quick they can get that out out there because if it's not out there quick, it gets intercepted.

RA:

Yeah, from hash to the boundary, that's a—

DS:

Yeah, if somebody can make that throw, you know you've got somebody.

RA:

Exactly, so—back then I don't know, I went up to Canada, I went to Toronto, I mean I enjoyed it but, I don't know, I wasn't—it just didn't seem like—if it wasn't NFL, I just didn't—I don't know—and I always wanted to be a coach, and so I came back after the season, and they wanted me to come back, I was still under contract, and I decided not to go back.

DS:

Yeah, in fact you stayed on here as a graduate assistant. How'd that come about?

RA:

Well, I knew I always wanted to be a coach, I mean I went to school—even when I was here at Tech I wanted to be a coach, I didn't want to—and to my demise, somewhat demise, I liked being in the coach's office watching film a lot more than I liked being in class. So I struggled with my grades to a certain degree until a couple years later when I figured out I had to get this degree to be able to coach, and so—but I always wanted to be a coach ever since my dad coached me back in little league, that's just something I wanted to do, I didn't want to go into business, I didn't want to go into engineering, I wanted to be a coach, so I got in the P.E. department here and got my degree, and I didn't want to be a graduate student, I mean I didn't want a master's, I didn't care, I wanted one degree and go coach. That's what I did.

DS:

And where did you start your coaching career?

RA:

Well, I started here. I came back from Canada, and I still hadn't gotten my degree because I played four straight years, so I was still short of my degree, and so Rex Dockery was the head coach, and I came back and I was a graduate assistant for Coach Dockery, I believe it was one year, and a lot of people won't remember these names, but Jim Bates was here, who I think was one of the top two or three assistant coaches to ever coach here, went on to coach in the NFL for twenty-something years. There was a guy named Al Groh who was the head coach of the New York Jets, and NFL and all that for years, and I got to coach as a GA under them, and really had a good experience, and it might have been Coach Dockery's second year I was here because I think it was second or third year, but I was here as a GA when Coach Dockery went to Memphis. Coach Dockery took the head job at Memphis. They interviewed for the job here, and Jerry Moore got the job. Jerry Moore was at North Texas at the time. Jerry Moore was a longtime assistant at Nebraska for Tom Osborne, and so Jerry Moore comes in and hires me full time as a running back coach, and so I get my first full time college job, I guess I was twenty-four years old, and to be honest with you, looking back, I wasn't ready for that. I mean, I really wasn't ready for that, and so I stayed here with Jerry and that staff, and I love Jerry, Jerry went on to win three national championships at Appalachian State, and I mean Jerry's a hell of a football coach, but that was really a dark period of time in Tech football, I mean probably the worst five, three or four or five year stretch in the history of the school, and I was part of that, and there were some things going on and some different dynamics that I wanted to change. It was time for me to leave Texas Tech, and I needed to go. I'd played here, I'd come back here, I'd GA'd here, I was coaching here, I was twenty-seven, twenty-eight years old, and on New Year's Eve—I'll never forget it—I'd drank some beer, and I called Coach Sloan, he was the head coach at Duke, and I said, "Coach, I need to leave here. I need to leave Texas Tech." We talked for a few minutes, and I don't know if it was a week later or ten days whatever it was, he calls me and he had an opening on his staff, so I went to Duke and the rest is kind of history, and it changed my coaching career in a lot of different ways, and one of the ways was it taught me the student athlete part of that job because at Duke, it's student athlete—I mean it legitimately is—some schools student athlete doesn't meant student athlete, it means athlete then student, but at Duke, it was totally the student athlete, and being with Coach Sloan and it just—I grew a lot during that period of time and really kind of flourished with him, and during that period of time, I hooked in with Tommy Bowden was the offensive coordinator, and so me and Tommy became really close friends, and I ended up coaching with Tommy, shoot, at Auburn, at Clemson, I ended up coaching with Terry Bowden. I coached with Jeff Bowden. It just—our relationship just really worked, and that's kind of what happens in coaching, you kind of get hooked into a coach or a couple of coaches and it's the way it works, it's kind of like business or something else, you kind of, you move kind of together up the ladder or up the deal, so Tommy Bowden ended up being in

my wedding and that whole deal with—I never coached with Bobby Bowden, but that whole dynamic, they became a huge part of my thirty-one years of coaching.

DS:

Yeah, and they were a huge part of the college football scene at the time.

RA:

Yeah, Terry was the head coach at Auburn, and Tommy ended up being the head coach at Clemson and Tulane, and you know, that whole family probably at that time, they were kind of the family of college football. And I kind of got hooked into that and I was kind of designated as a step Bowden. I wasn't a real brother, but I was a step brother. And it's kind of weird too because Tommy—me and Tommy it's weird because we were totally opposites personality wise, but we were so the same from a coaching philosophy standpoint that we meshed, we became really really close friends, and to this day, we're still close friends, but I hooked into the Bowdens in my coaching career and kind of—that was the path I went on.

DS:

Yeah, and then Sloan again opened up the door for you as a head coach, right?

RA:

You know, his story is really interesting now because from here he went to Ole Miss against the best wishes of Bear Bryant. Back in the day, Ole Miss was a little shady, but he ended up doing that. Then he got out of coaching, and he took an AD job, then he got the AD job at Alabama. He was their quarterback at Alabama. When Bear Bryant suspended Joe Namath for that one year, Sloan was the quarterback that took them to the Orange Bowl, the national championship, but then Coach Sloan got into the administrative side, and he was at Central Florida for like thirteenth years as the AD, and I was at Clemson, and he was born and raised in Cleveland, Tennessee, which is a suburb right outside Chattanooga, and my chances—and I had a pretty good career, I went from Duke to Southern Miss, and I was Brett Favre's quarterback coach at Southern Miss. I went to Auburn, was the offensive coordinator. I went to Clemson—I mean I had a pretty good little resume, but I wasn't getting the head coaching attention. I wasn't able to get a Memphis or a Louisville or a job, maybe a job to—because I ultimately always wanted to come back here and be the head coach. That was my—that was what I've always—soon as I left here and I got into coaching, I wanted to be the head coach at Texas Tech, and until Kliff got hired, they'd never hired a former Tech person to be the head coach here, and I think they always wanted to. I think Kent Hance—and I don't know this, and I doubt he would admit it—but I think once I got into coaching, and got an opportunity to be the head coach, which I did at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga—I think they had their eyeball on me, and I don't know that for a fact, and nobody's ever told me that but that was a feeling I had when I was at Chattanooga, if I could just win, I thought I had a chance to get this job. But Coach Sloan was

AD at Central Florida, he was getting ready to retire, he was sixty-five probably, sixty-four, sixty-three, whatever he was, but was from Cleveland, Tennessee, which was a suburb of Chattanooga, and he took the AD job at Tennessee-Chattanooga, and they're a 1-AA school, they're not Division 1, we played in the league with Georgia Southern and Appalachian State, Furman, I mean one of the top 1-AA leagues in the country. I think Steve Sloan took that job to get me that job. I don't think that was 100 percent why he took it, but I think that was part of the reason he took it. We had become such good friends, he was like my father, my dad died, Steve Sloan was the best man at my wedding. I think he took that job to help me get a head coaching job, and he did, and I interviewed for the job in front of a panel or a committee and all that stuff, and I'll always remember a couple of times, one of the women administrators would ask me about Title IX, and I didn't know nothing, I didn't know how to answer the question except to say that I like women's sports, but I didn't have an educated answer for it. Coach Sloan stepped in and buffered it for me in front of this committee. I was set up, I mean I was getting the job, and that's just to me how relationships throughout your life whether it—it impacts everything, and I really believe that he took that job to help me become a head coach in order to give me an opportunity to come back to this school, I do. Several times during my coaching career, I called Leach twice, I tried to come back as an assistant coach here. I never did really call Spike during that era because I was at Clemson, I was at Auburn, I mean we were rolling now, we were pretty good, and so I thought I was on the right deal, but I always wanted to come back here, I wanted to come back as the head coach, but at worst—and not really at worst—but in some capacity if the head coaching deal didn't work out because I always appreciated what Tech did because I didn't always do what I should be doing while I was here, and I wasn't always the best—I don't know if I showed my appreciation the way I should have to what this school did for me, and so I always wanted to come back and do something to—and I know give back kind of sounds cliché—but I always wanted to do something to pay back and show my appreciation for what Tech did, and so it wasn't the head coaching position, but this opportunity came up to deal with the former athletes, so it's worked.

DS:

Yeah, and in fact you talked about that, how Kirby had called you about it, and said this position was going to be here. What did you feel like when you first heard that you had a chance to come back in some capacity?

RA:

I was really nervous because—and I don't mean this in a bad way, but—and most people know the story, especially the old heads around Lubbock—I left here under a little bit of a cloud, there was some NCAA stuff going on, and it was Chris Pryor and his recruitment from Converse Judson when I was coaching here for Jerry Moore, and Tech ended up getting some NCAA sanctions, and I was a part of that, and I always regretted that, I mean it was young, dumb, stupid stuff that was going on here that was really Mickey Mouse to be honest with you, compared to

what say SMU and some other schools in that conference at that time were doing, we were doing petty, minor stuff to be honest with you, but I was a part of it, and I left here with that cloud, and it was before it happened, before it came out, and that's one of the reasons I called Coach Sloan that night on New Year's Eve because I knew what we were doing here wasn't right. It wasn't right, I mean I couldn't look at myself in the mirror because we weren't doing what we needed to be doing, and I got out, and I needed to get out, but when I got to Duke that first year, some of the stuff started getting out, and there was an article, headline of the front page of the *Dallas Morning News*—back then, everybody read the frickin paper—and it was the headline about Tech, and I was very instrumental—spoken of it that article and about some things that had gone on with the recruitment of this kid. And Coach Sloan fought for me because the president at Duke wanted to get rid of me, I mean he wanted because of some of the allegations here, the president at Duke—I remember going and sitting in the president's office at Duke. I mean, this was Duke, you don't go to the president's office at Duke, and so Coach Sloan fought for me because he wanted to get rid of me, and Coach Sloan fought for me, and even when I got the head job at Chattanooga, some of this stuff came up in those conversations, and so there was a lot there kind of happened, a lot, a lot, a lot of good and some bad also here, and a lot of that has affected me for whatever amount of time it's been, and there was always that deal where I wanted to come back here, and that's kind of the reason I say give back or pay back or whatever it is for those things that happened that I was part of that shouldn't have happened while I was here, and from that day forth, once I left here, I was maybe the model compliance person in the history of coaching because I never ever again would put myself in a compromising position from a compliance standpoint.

DS:

Yeah because Chris Pryor was a running back, right? Was he—San Antonio, was that were he was from?

RA:

Judson, yeah. Number one player in the state I think or something, and we got him.

DS:

Yeah, he wound up not panning out anywhere, did he?

RA:

Well, he was—I'm not going to go into that.

DS:

Yeah, but I mean—all for that.

RA:

See I recruited Timmy Smith here too. I don't know if you remember Timmy Smith.

DS:

Yeah, I remember Timmy Smith.

RA:

MVP of the Super Bowl.

DS:

Super Bowl. Yeah, as a rookie.

RA:

I recruited him here.

DS:

Did you have anything with—well was Curtis Jordan here during your time or after?

RA:

Curtis was two years older than me, but me and Curtis are good friends, and Curtis—Curtis is probably the most underrated player—great player—that's ever been here, I think. I mean, that dude, now, guy wins a Super Bowl, plays in another one, plays in the league for whatever, twelve or thirteen years. When you talk about the greats in Tech history, his name never comes up.

DS:

Oh yeah, it should be up there.

RA:

It should be. I'm not saying he's ring of honor, E. J. Holub deal, but Curtis was a big time player here. Me and Curtis—yeah, we were pretty good friends, we had a couple ski trips together in college, yeah we had a few deals, yeah.

DS:

And so now you're back, and you're bringing in the athletes, what's it like touching base with these younger guys that have played here and even some of these older guys that are coming back. What's that like getting them back involved with Tech?

RA:

Well, it's really cool, and the thing I've been fortunate is I've been at Auburn, Clemson, two

places that are significant in how they treat former athletes, and it's a tradition at these schools to reach out to thank, to show your appreciation for the commitment that they made here, and to me, it's about the E. J. Holubs of the world, the Zach Thomases of the world, and the Darwin Hams, and Rick Bullocks, and the great Sheryl Swoopes—I mean it's about those people, but it's also about that walk-on that covered kickoffs that nobody even hardly knew their name. To me, it's just as much about those people, and I told you earlier this, it's about that girl that covered Sheryl Swoopes in practice every single day. None of us know what her name is, that was instrumental in helping her become what she became, and to me, it just represents putting on that uniform and making that commitment and that sacrifice to Texas Tech. Every sport does it, whether you're a golfer, or whether you're a football, or whether you're softball or whatever you are, you make the same commitment, and when I got here, our letterman's association, for the most part, was a good ole boys football club, that's what we were, and you've got to have your football guys, but the women, and the world we live in today, it encompasses all of them, it can't be the way it was, and so that's what I've got a lot of pride in is I think we're changing that dynamic, where we're inclusive and we're involved in you know every girl and guy that put that Texas Tech uniform on.

DS:

You know, it's interesting you mention those walk-ons because they play a big role, especially at a school like Tech.

RA:

Spike made a living with them.

DS:

Oh yeah.

RA:

But those guys—and that's the reason I became a head coach is shoot, I'd save two or three scholarships every year and give them to walk-ons and stuff because they lettered, but them people, that's special now. And so we try to include every person that ever played here.

DS:

Yeah, I interviewed somebody that—he's a local high school coach now, Jessie Arenas, he's at Lubbock High, he's a basketball coach.

RA:

What's his name?

DS:

Jessie Arenas.

RA:

Oh I know Jessie.

DS:

And Jessie talked about—

RA:

He was an overachiever, man.

DS:

He wasn't on a scholarship until Knight gave him a scholarship for his senior year. And so you know—but he put in the time to get there.

RA:

No, I love—he's a heck of a guy—he's done a heck of a job at Lubbock High, too.

DS:

Yeah. So it's kind of that mindset you talked about, you know, those guys give to the university, it's nice that they get something back in the end.

RA:

That's a good idea, I may do something on that. That'd be cool to have a reunion of the guys and girls that walked on. That'd be pretty cool.

DS:

Well, you know, even though, these aren't the athletes, I think you've made so many connections with athletics on the importance of those assistant coaches and how they impact the game, and what they go on to do themselves. People go interview—they'll go interview Spike Dykes, but all the assistants that were here—can you imagine if we had an interview with Parcells about his time here?

RA:

He loved it here. Parcells, to this day, still talks about Gordon Wood. I mean, he does. He loves Gordon Wood because Gordon came up here when he was the head coach at Brownwood, I guess, and to this day—and I still keep in touch with Coach Parcells—and he still talks about him, he loves Gordon Wood. As a matter of fact, couple things, this coming year, we're bringing back the '76 team, forty years, and Parcells is coming back, Sloan's coming back, and we're

going to invite back everybody that played on that team. But something we did two years ago, we invited back every assistant coach that ever coached here. Every assistant—Parcells didn't come because he told me he was going to come to this deal in 2016, but we had about fifty to sixty assistant coaches. We had Grant Teaff here—a lot of people don't know Grant Teaff was an assistant here in the sixties. We had coaches off J. T. King's staff, Carlen's staff, Sloan's—all the way—not many Leach staff guys because they're still coaching, but we had 55 assistant coaches and about 450 players that played for those assistant coaches, and you talking about, you're talking about 500 people in a room with their position coach, and it was the most unbelievable thing I've ever seen, I just sat there, and I'm in charge of it. I mean, I'm worrying about getting another keg, you know, but we fed them and drank and the emotion in that room was incredible. Gabe Rivera was there, and he saw the guy that recruited him to Texas Tech for the first time in like thirty years, and coaches that coached in 1970 whatever that hadn't seen a staff guy that they were on the staff with in thirty or forty years, I mean it was one of the coolest things I've ever seen, and I'm going to do it about every—you can't do something like that every year—but we're going to do that probably every three or four years because the relationship in football is with your position coach. The head coach—you go see him when you get in trouble or you're making bad grades or something, but you see that position coach every single day, but it was an incredible deal. It was really—I just stood back, we took pictures, and you know to see John Scovell with the guy that he played—I mean it was just a neat deal.

DS:

You know, we've been fortunate enough with the College Baseball Foundation stuff, when they bring their guys in for that weekend, you know, we get six, seven people to do interviews. We should be working on something like that when you bring in a batch of people, whether they're athletes or coaches, you know, from across the spectrum to work. They're coming in that weekend, let's set something up, get all our people here on board to be sitting around doing interviews, and we could—can't interview everybody—but you can get a big chunk.

RA:

Well, you need to partner with me because the history, like Jim Carlen's already dead, his impact on Tech football was significant now. Steve Sloan's going to be here. Parcells will be here. I mean, you're going to have arguably one of the top two or three teams in the history of the school players that played on that team here. You've got Thomas Howard who lives right here in town.

DS:

And I've been trying to get Thomas to come in for—

RA:

I'll get his butt over here. You've got to talk to football guys different. Just get your ass over here, and do what we tell you to do.

DS:

Well, you know, because I was trying to get him in this past year, but prior to that, the last time he had been scheduled to come in was happened to be the weekend his son died.

RA:

I went over then.

DS:

That was just rough, so I—

RA:

And you've got Larry Isaac right here in town.

DS:

Oh wait, I didn't know that. Larry Isaac's in town.

RA:

Larry Isaac's—coaches—well, he doesn't coach anymore, he's been at Estacado for probably, shoot, I don't know, thirty years. I can help you with that. I mean, we need to document some of this stuff.

DS:

Yeah, and like I said, it doesn't have to be the football guys because now you have access to everybody, and that's kind of a key component of what we lack here.

RA:

See we brought up, for a football game this year, we brought Darvin Ham in, and I mean we paid for him to stay at the Overton, we put him up in Kirby's suite, and we introduced him during the game, and we brought Swoopes in, we brought Darvin Ham in, and those were two non-conference games, then I brought four football guys in—I think we brought Tracy Saul, Dan Irons, I don't know, there's two or three more. We highlight a person at every home football game, and then during basketball conference games, we—like Saturday night we're bringing back—I don't know if you remember Keith Kitchens. Rick Bullock's coming back. Every conference home game, I bring somebody back, and we highlight them, and we do it for the women's games too.

DS:

Well, if you can put us in the circle and get them while they're here, I'd be happy to do those interviews, you know, because Rick Bullock would be someone we couldn't reach.

RA:

He's the greatest player in the history of the school.

DS:

While he's here—you know—talk about an out of position player that could just play.

RA:

But we bring back people all the time, I mean that's what I do, and I mean, like we're having—we're doing the '76 team next year. The cool thing I'm going to do next fall—and we're planning it now—is we're going to do a celebration of the history of women's athletics, and we're going to tell that story, how it all began, who was instrumental. We're going to do posters with timelines of kind of the main points of success in the history of women's sports, and Jeannie McHaney and, I don't know if you remember her name, very instrumental fighting the battle for women's sports. They didn't have a locker room, they didn't have anything, but we're going to tell that story and invite back every woman that's ever played a sport here because we're going to do a cool deal—you know, I don't know if you know Bobby Walt here on campus, he was a man that back then, in the early seventies was very instrumental in the fight to Title IX and all the stuff that happened, but we're going to do something really cool for women's athletics.

DS:

You know, we were fortunate a few years ago—gosh it's probably been seven years because I think I was still downstairs when they brought in the fencing team from '54, and so we did some interviews with some of those gals that were able to come in, and like Kirkpatrick, we got her, and they donated stuff to Lynn, so we have a core of that group.

RA:

Zoe's a piece of work now.

DS:

She is. She is.

RA:

I mean she's an elegant—she's a tough lady now. You know Jack? That's another dude—

DS:

I've never met Jack, and you know—

RA:

See that '53 team, too, man, was a great team—that was the team that played in the Gator Bowl that Joe Kirk Fullerton rode the horse out in '54 Gator Bowl, but Jack, boy you ought to talk—

DS:

I know. You know, we've talked and interviewed Jerry Johnson from that team.

RA:

He died—well, yeah, he died.

DS:

Yeah, he passed away about a year—

RA:

It was a year ago.

DS:

In fact, Jerry Johnson was kind of—like you mentioned that old guard, you know they were—they had the Buy 10 club, and that was kind of our—we didn't really do anything with the association but it was the Buy 10, the football club, that was inviting us to their monthly meetings and to talk to some of those old guard guys.

RA:

You ought to talk to Joyce Arterburn too. Joyce was the original lady that started the high rise—I mean she's—I've got so many people that would be great to talk to, man.

DS:

Sounds great. Well, is there anything else that we didn't cover that you'd like to get on the record while you're here sitting now?

RA:

No. I can't think of anything.

End of interview