

**Oral History Interview of
Louis Kelley**

**Interviewed by: Daniel Sanchez
September 14, 2015
Lubbock, Texas**

**Part of the:
*Sports Interviews***

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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 Louis Kelley as he recounts his career as a football coach at Dunbar and Estacado. In this interview, Louis describes his start in football, playing football in college, and his career as a football coach.

Length of Interview: 02:47:23

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Keywords

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Daniel Sanchez (DS):

My name is Daniel Sanchez. Today's date is September 14, 2015. We're in Lubbock, Texas at the home of Coach Louis Kelly. Coach Kelley, thank you for sitting down with us.

Louis Kelley (LK):

Thank you. Thank you for inviting me and asking me to meet on this interview.

DS:

Well, you're a legend.

LK:

Oh I don't know about all of that now. [laughter]

DS:

Now, let's state your complete legal name.

LK:

Louis—L-o-u-i-s—Elliott, my middle name—E-l-l-i-o-t-t—Kelley—K-e-l-l-e-y.

DS:

And when were you born?

LK:

July 10, 1938.

DS:

And where?

LK:

In a little town—in Fort Worth, really—but we lived in Mansfield. But they didn't have a hospital there so I was born in Fort Worth. But I moved to Abilene when I was about three or four years old. And that's where I was raised. In Abilene.

DS:

Okay. How about your parents? Give us your dad's name.

LK:

Yeah, my parents Emmett Lincoln Kelley. [?] [00:00:59] And my father, he was a wrecker driver for ____ [?] [00:01:03] Company in Abilene. He drove wreckers for, I guess, thirty-five, forty years. He was on call twenty-four hours a day. He'd keep the wrecker at home at night. And

many times, three or four o'clock in the morning, he'd get calls. They had a wreck somewhere, some truck is stuck, or some car. He had to get up and go. And he was work hard. But he kept twenty-fours a day. And my mother was a maid. She was a good person. Had good people she worked for. One thing—and my brother, we were raised together. We didn't have very much, but we had enough. We had enough to eat, we had enough to—you know, my parents provided for us. Was always clean. We had clothes. I lived in this kind of shotgun house in the beginning, before my parents bought a house when I was a freshman or sophomore in college. But we—my mother was very religious. My father wasn't so much. In fact, my father very seldom went to church but he didn't keep us from going. But he was very steady guy. They had a good marriage. We've been a loving home.

DS:

And you mentioned a brother. What's his name?

LK:

Robert Earl Kelley.

DS:

Was he older?

LK:

Yeah, he's older. He's a year—about fifteen months older than I was. And he's deceased. Been dead about ten—about fifteen years now.

DS:

Wow. Do you have any other siblings?

LK:

No. No. Just him.

DS:

So what was it like growing up as a younger brother?

LK:

Well, you know, we was very close—like I said, we got close for the greater part, and very competitive. He was a good football player. I was a good football player. And basketball, and baseball. Although we didn't have a high school baseball team. But the funny thing about baseball team, we would play in the summertime summer league, and it so happened that the Hispanics had a school, the blacks had a school—I mean white school there. In the summertime baseball we would all play a game against each other. About twice a week. We all had good

teams. But we just—Hispanics and blacks didn't have a school team, like Abilene High had. But we had baseball teams that played in the summer. And the funny thing about that, we all got along great. But it's going to be a fight at the end of the game. I don't care. Then we'll fight about fifteen minutes and hug, shake hands, "We'll see you next week.", "Nice game," and other things. But we was very close knitted community.

DS:

Describe that neighborhood. You were talking earlier. During the days of segregation [phone ringing] what was the neighborhood you grew up in?

LK:

I grew up in just right off Treadaway Boulevard in what'd be kind of an east Lubbock—I mean east Abilene. And north side of Abilene. It's right down Treadaway Boulevard they built right down through town. A big boulevard. And we lived in a shotgun house right off that. And school was about two blocks from my house. We could walk to school. This type of thing. But my last couple years of school they built a new school, Wilson High School, which was a little further away from me. We had to have transportation, and we had buddies have cars. And I got a car my first year of college, you know. It was a good neighborhood. Nice. No fancy cars, no fancy houses, and everything else. But everybody had pride in their neighborhood and this type of thing.

DS:

And did you have a lot of local stores and stuff like that?

LK:

No, it was—you had stores you had to go to get food up on Pine Street or something. Didn't have all the locations. You knew where you had to go to get food. They didn't have the big supermarkets during that time that they got now. Convenience store on the corner, 7-11 didn't exist during that time. So you had little local stores that carried just a little bit of stuff, you know. Nothing fancy.

DS:

Right. Now and you mentioned you grew up there. When did you become involved in athletics?

LK:

When I was in junior high we didn't have athletics in junior high. We didn't start until the ninth grade. But we would play kind of—we called it—we kind of had a little league of our own. Played with—when I first started playing football on Ash Street, which is about a block away. Was a kind of sandy, dirty street of sand. It was soft. It wasn't bad. We would get old oatmeal boxes and stuff them up and make our football with those when we were little kids. And we'd

play. That's how this first got started. Then we become a ninth grader. Didn't have a ninth grade team, but everybody was on varsity. No JV team. Just had to start playing there. I was very fortunate that we had a coach that had been there for years. We lived down the street from him. Really nice guy. But he was a kind of older coach, set in his ways. My sophomore year they brought in new coaches. Guys were out of college. Most of them went to Prairie View A&M college. And they came in and changed and the system. They were more close to our age. We learned so much from them. They had new ideas, how to do things, not the old, "One, two, three, and punt." And this type of thing. Spread out defense. You know. I was very fortunate to be involved—to get started during that time.

DS:

What kind of system were they running?

LK:

They'd run kind of a T formation, with three backs. First they had everybody spread out, you know, like we have now. Single-wing, you know, when you direct snap to tail back. And it was just pile up football. It wasn't much finesse. Just one on one blocking. Not too complicated. You didn't pull two of the people. You didn't spread out. It was very simple football. Real easy to defend. It depended on who had the best personnel. Because you knew what they were going to do, and vice versa. And who had the best personnel going to win the ball game.

DS:

And what positions did you play?

LK:

I played fullback and was halfback and fullback. And also my junior year the quarterback got hurt and I played a little quarterback. But I was the kind of running back. It wasn't blazing speed. I could run away from people. But I had good moves. I could cut on a dime. I was just—I really had instincts doing things like that. But it was—we didn't have many on our football team. In fact, I'll show you a picture of our senior team during that time. I've got a picture in the room. And we had some good skilled folk. I mean, the guy that we had on there I bet you we had about sixteen on the team. Seventeen. In about five or six or seven of us got scholarships to go to school. Which was unusual.

DS:

Yeah.

LK:

In those days. So that's how—just one of those deals, you know?

DS:

And mentioned how few players you had. So a lot of y'all had to go two ways, right?

LK:

Oh yeah. Most of us went two ways. It was just during that time you had to go two ways. That was the rule. When I first went to college we had to play two way.

DS:

Oh okay.

LK:

Until after my sophomore year. The freshman year, sophomore year then they two-platooned. But in college I played fullback and linebacker. But you had—that was the rule. You played both ways. Once somebody come in for you they've got to go both ways until you come back in. But it wasn't a two-platoon like we have now.

DS:

So who were some of the teams that you played against?

LK:

In high school?

DS:

In high school.

LK:

Okay. Midland Carver. Odessa Blackshear. Amarillo Carver. Wichita Falls Washington. El Paso—I forget what the black school was named out there. Encino black school was—I forget the name of their school. But those are the ones in this area. So we would play also the team out of San [Antonio], Fort Worth, no Dallas. We would go to Austin. They were a lot bigger schools, but we would go and play them.

DS:

Wow.

LK:

And we have a good record against them. We played against them. My wife is from Austin. And the school is Anderson High School down there. We played them and beat them down there. And they came out and played us in Lubbock one year. So that was a big rival. They were a higher classification than we were. But we played them. We had to play games. We couldn't play—

nobody else would play us non-conference games out here, see. The white schools would not play us and this type of thing.

DS:

Yeah. What were the different classifications of the Prairie View League back then?

LK:

You know, I go back and I think the highest classification we went to was 4A. And those were 4A schools during that time. Mostly was the schools in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Austin, San [Antonio]. Out this way we was probably 3A. The Odessa, Dillon, Amarillo, Lubbock, you know, Wichita Falls, this type of thing. But the highest classification at that time was 4A. But those were the Dallas schools, the Fort Worth schools, the San [Antonio] schools and this type of thing. You know, those schools in the Metroplex and things.

DS:

And did you win any titles in high school?

LK:

Yeah. We won in 1953. We won the state championship. I'll show you the picture we got in there. I was looking the other day on that thing. I talked—we keep in contact. I think it was—in all it was about eighteen, nineteen people on that picture. That included the three coaches, I think. And the principal. Booster club president. And the players. In all that group I think there's only about five of us still living.

DS:

Wow.

LK:

But we—I've got a picture I'll show you and everything. But it was close-knit. And the thing about it, we didn't get nobody hurt. I mean, we'd get nagged and bruised, but you had to go. I'll never forget the game. I was playing—we was playing down in Waco, I guess, against Moore High School. Which Waco had a 4A high school. One kid got his thumb kind of jammed. It popped up on him, you know. He was in the huddle back—boom, boom, boom. I just grabbed it and just popped it. Put it back in. He was sore but he played. At that time we had to—you're going to play. We weren't very far from getting to winning the state championship and this type of thing. But we had a good group of guys. We had a good knit school. We had some really smart guys on our team. I wasn't one of the smart ones. But we had some smart ones. Really, we had teachers that were very challenging in high school. I mean, they wanted you to get it. There was a younger group of teachers that were very knowledgeable. Although we had some teachers that'd been there for years, but we had some young ones come in. They would challenge you.

And the thing what kind of happened to me that made me want to go ahead and go to college and do some things; a lady named Ms. Roberts—Delma Roberts—she was from Wichita Falls. She was an English teacher. And you can tell I'm not too good in English no way, but we had an English class. I was kind of—not goofing off, but wasn't doing my best, you know. My best would have been a lot less than some of them others could do. But we was in class and she made a statement that really kind of hit me real hard at the time. We had about, oh, I guess twenty-five, thirty people in the class. The English class. And about four or five football players in there, I think. And she had said—she said some type of thing. She kind of got mad, pissed off. “You know what?” She said, “Four or five of you guys are going to get scholarships to go to college in here. In the first semester you're going to be back home. And Louis Kelley, you're one of them.” Just like that. And pointed. And that kind of—[laughter] You know? I knew I was in the group, but she didn't have to call my name! Call somebody else's name. And it so happened she left there. She was from Wichita Falls. Her husband worked in Wichita Falls. She'd come and stay the week and work there. When I graduated from college I went to—I came to Lubbock, and we played Wichita Falls the first game. One of my Estacado coaches coached in Wichita Falls. I went there and looked up—went by school. I said, “Mrs. Roberts,” you know. She said, “I challenged you, didn't I? You accepted the challenge.” And that's what made it for me. But she just—boom—came out hard and made kind of—“Oh man. Here we go,” you know. But you know, it was tough. And every time in college when it was getting a little hard in the semester a couple times, I'd often think about what she said. I had to buckle down. What really helped me get through college was—my first year, the funny thing. My brother, the year ahead of me, he had gotten a scholarship for Southern University down outside of Baton Rouge. Little town named Scotlandville. He was a quarterback. And they wanted me to come down. I was going to go down there. During that time none of the white colleges recruited black players. Nobody. I tell you about that a little bit later. But I was going to go down to Southern and play. I went down there, and the thing about it—funny thing—they got some of the prettiest girls down at Southern. Creole girls, you know. Beautiful girls. And that's why I kind of went down at a football game during my senior year of high school to watch my brother play. After I looked at all the girls, I said, “Boy, this is going to be nice.” Had a beautiful campus. I mean, it was beautiful. Still is beautiful down at Southern. So I accept the scholarship to go down there. Went down there in—we was there two weeks before school was starting. We were doing two-a-days, sometimes three-a-days. None of the girls were on campus during that time. It was just guys. And so after about two weeks I said—I got on a fullback, and we had five fullbacks. I was number five when I got there. And at the end of that week and a half I was moved up to number two. The guy ahead of me was a senior named Deacon. I'll never forget his name. All-American. And I was going to play a loss, but I just got home. Busted the girls weren't there. And I'd call the coach assist coach junior college, and about forty-five miles from Abilene they had offered me a scholarship. They was integrating first and everything. So four of five more of my teammates from Wilson I went to school in Abilene was going there. So they kept calling. The coaches kept calling me. So I decided to leave Southern. They begged me not to go. The head

coaches. They was really nice and things. They sent me a train ticket—me and my brother. My brother decided to come back with me. He'd been a sophomore. We were on the train—and we'd left the train station. Them girls were coming in to go to school. [Laughter] I said, "Boy, what in the hell have I done?" You know what I mean? But I'd committed to come on back. My parents didn't know we was coming back. They'd read in the paper a week after we got back, "The Kelley brothers at Cisco Junior College." And they was okay with it. About forty-five miles away. And they had gone the year before one and nine. The year we played there we went eight and two. Just turned around. Didn't have no problem. we had—it was about I'm guessing four blacks. And everybody else on the team Anglos was from west Texas, you know. Been in segregated schools. But they accepted us fine. We had no problems. In fact, we didn't stay in the dorm, we had an apartment next to the head coach. The coaches houses, we had the one next to—you know. That was better than that old dorm with old raggly—I'm glad we didn't stay in the dorms. We had a nice, full bedroom and everything. We'd eat in the cafeteria with everybody. In going there the one year, but I took chemistry, biology, and I took—it was a tough load. I'm not sure I could've done as well at New Mexico State as I did at Cisco Junior College. When I got those courses I had to wait, you see. It made it lots easier because I had all them—I had to wait and everything. So that was a good stepping stone. But we went to New Mexico State. I was the first black athlete to graduate from New Mexico State. Got out in '61. So this weekend, with lots of ____ back there [?] [0:20:38.3] that I was on the team in '59 and '60, '59 and '60. I graduated in January '61. I played '57, '58, '59. And we went to Sun Bowl '59 and '60. I was a graduate assistant in '60. But that's the last time they've been to a bowl game. In '59 and '60. And this is the ring.

DS:
Wow.

LK:
And that year we had—it was six of us that got drafted. Charles Johnson played quarterback with the Cardinals for a long time and the Denver Broncos. He lived there, and I'd be seeing him. And Pervis Atkins got drafted by the Rams, and Gabe [?] was drafted by the Giants. And we had Billy Ray Locklin drafted to the Lions. About six of us. We had a good group of us. Danny Villanueva—you might have heard of him. He just passed, oh, a few months ago.

DS:
Right.

LK:
And he was our kicker. He kicked for the Cowboys a long time. And when Danny first came there to New Mexico State—him and Myrna, his wife—she was about four or five months pregnant. He had a little black Ford Coupe with everything he owned in there. Everything. Well,

let me tell you something. I could tell Danny was a good football player. Kicker. Punting. A field goal kicker. He didn't play defense often. Backup quarterback about three or four teams. But smart. Brilliant. I mean you could tell by talking to him he was on a level that the likes of wasn't known. But it wasn't surprising that he was going to make something out of himself. He played with the Cowboys for a while, then he went into business and bought some Spanish speaking radio station. _____ [0:23:02.3] California, down there. It got him going and sold them made a big amount of money. Big amount of money. When they had the hurricane down in New Orleans—Katrina—just so happened he had—he was in the construction business in California then. And he had a contract. If they approve it, he had told the *Times*, he would clear probably around forty or fifty million dollars. And they approved it. Build houses temporarily—barracks—for them now and then. Okay, he's now got big ownership in Southwest Airlines. Major. You know. And stuff in California. And you sit down and talk to him like we're talking you could never tell it. He didn't—he was—and the guy—we'd go out and we'd stay with him. Go out and then _____ [0:24:05.4] I'd run with the millionaires and I don't know why they've got a peaty man with them. We'd stay with gym—we'd go out to the gym—and Danny was real close for a long time. He's been on some bigtime meetings. We're talking about eight, nine million dollar projects. And so Danny would never write anything down, and they would meet. Never wrote anything down. But he knew exactly what took place, you know. What he would do—he bought—his wife got a school—a high school—there on the campus named after her, Myrna. He's given the school, I bet you over the years, forty to fifty million dollars. And he's not flashy. He's got—he's got a really nice stadium out there. They built a new stadium. And he got a suite. Holds about oh, thirty people. Thirty-five people in his suite alone. He got all his awards up in there. We go there—wife and all of us—the teammates. And he always picks up the tab. We can't buy nothing. And I've seen him write a check for a credit card for four, five, six thousand dollars. And he's going to write it off. But he—he was very giving. But he was smart. I guess it's been a year ago the last time we got together and talked. When I was inducted into the New Mexico State—I mean, Texas Hall of Honor—Hall of Fame. High School Hall of Honor—he came down. Him and Charley Johnson were there in Fort Worth when we got inducted. But we were very close. But Danny was in the—he was a big part of New Mexico State. And plus lived in California all the time. I'd never go to his house in California, but didn't mind the extra roommate. He said he got a—nothing fancy, but big old place. Nice. Down there. And what he would do, he had a place we'd call an old ____ [0:26:39:2] Mexican restaurant named—oh what's the name of it? We'd go there every time we'd go to go eat. It'd hold about two hundred people in there. And we always got to go eat. And his wife loved those *sopapillas*. A little honey on them, you know? And he would get those for everybody. You had to have those when you come there. But he was a great guy. We'd all get together this weekend and—

DS:
Wow.

LK:

Yeah. But I got off the subject.

DS:

Oh no, no. That's fine, because that's great insight. Because you know we can talk about the records all day long, but it's knowing the people. That's really what it's about. And a lot of those guys you mentioned, y'all had very successful teams. Can you talk about some of those teams?

LK:

Well, yeah. In college?

DS:

Yeah.

LK:

Yeah. In '59 and '60. What happened, we—when I first went there a guy named Tony Cavallo was the head coach. He was back in Pennsylvania. We had lots of guys on the team that was from New Jersey and those places, and they wasn't very good football players. They was good guys, but they wasn't—and Warren Woodson had coached at Hardin-Simmons at one time, and he went to University of Arizona. And he coached—very successful at Arizona. Offense-mighty coach. He loved offense. They hired him at New Mexico State my junior year. I played for my junior/senior year. He came in there and we had, I bet you, during spring, oh a hundred players. When the spring was over we had about half of them left, because he had ran lots of them off. And those guys should have—they wasn't very good. You know, lots of them. [inaudible] [0:28:32.4] It wasn't very good. Out of shape. Just wondering. So he brought a new coach in and then had—do things his way. Brought a new coaching staff in there and some good players. You got Charley Johnson. He was at Schreiner down in Kerrville. The quarterback. He came there. And Atkins, all them guys come from junior college in California. Gaiters from California, Danny is from out of Cali. You've got to surround those guys—junior college guys—and we bought into what he was trying to do. Good guy. But he's strict. But he wasn't going to run nobody off that was going to help him. You had to do things right. Even his coaching staff. He was tough on them, you know. And New Mexico State hadn't done anything. Hadn't done anything big time since we left it. But we played in two Sun Bowl games. First time we beat North Texas State. That's when they had Abner Haynes. They had the best team. They was better than we were. They had better—we had a young group of good players, but they had a senior group. Personnel wise they should have beat us. Okay, they came out to Sun Bowl and stayed a whole week in El Paso. Las Cruces is only forty-five miles from El Paso, so what we would do—we would stay in Las Cruces in our own rooms—dormitory rooms—and get on a bus every morning and go down there for activities. Like luncheon, breakfast, social meeting. Then we'd come back in the evening and work out at our place. Same. The whole week Coach

Woodson was telling us, “We’ve got a good team. But we will play our best and we still could get beat. They’re just that much better than we are.” He said, “We can play the best we can play.” But we worked all that week. We worked. And finally—because they was down in El Paso partying. They was doing—one man I dumped him out in Haynes, okay, he wasn’t—the Texans drafted him as number one that year. He played out there and then moved up to Kansas City. He played there. Good player. Running back with North Texas State. Well he comes to our room—about four or five of them—and they’d be partying and everything. Living it up, you know. And they—going down that morning—bussing—we meet them at the gym. And Coach Woodson said, “I’ll tell you guys something. I’ve been telling you all week they’re just that much better than we are and we’re going to get beat on account of how good they play. You guys are showing me this week if we play like we’ve been practicing we’re going to win this game. We can do it.” We went down and we beat them 28-8. And I’ll show you a picture in there in a minute. I intercepted a pass in that ball game, and I was keyed on Abner Haynes and we shut him down. That ball game. Charley Johnson, the quarterback, was voted the most outstanding player in the Sun Bowl, but I was voted the most outstanding player for that year. The football team voted me the most valuable player. And I was fullback and I would run the ball six or seven times a game. I’d block for other guys and played linebacker. Special team and that type of thing. And to be honored from the team—it was a unanimous decision that I was the most valuable player. And I never had given much thought to it. When I win the Texas High School Hall of Honor, Charley Johnson done _____ [0:32:26.0] from _____ was down there. And he interviewed Charley. Charley said, “I was the most valuable player in the Sun Bowl. Louis Kelley is the most valued player for the season.” But we had a good group. And then the next year I got hurt. I came back as a graduate assistant.

DS:

Let me ask you some questions about that Sun Bowl game now.

LK:

Okay.

DS:

Your coach had told y’all, “Now I feel like you’re going to win.” At what point did y’all feel like y’all could win?

DS:

Oh we thought—we knew we had a good team. I mean, we had—we could match up nine guys out of eleven with anybody. We had passing skills—Charley. We had good tight ends. You know, we had—our fullback, we had Gaiters tailback. Atkins the wingback. Speed. We had what it took. We know—we knew Coach Woodson, how he tried to get—we wasn’t naïve to believe we couldn’t win. We worked—I mean, we didn’t stay nothing back. You know, but we had—in

the back of our minds—we wasn't going to let anybody run over us. We thought we had a good match up after watching and seeing them, this type of thing. So it wasn't just turn us on like that. We knew we was pretty good. We had gone out that year and beat Arizona State in Arizona, and they had an undefeated team in Tempe. Come from behind and beat them. So we had played against University of Arizona. So we had played some folks, and we knew we could play with anybody. Nobody was going to outmuscle us. We was not the biggest but we had good skilled people that could run on both sides of the ball. It turned out to be the people that went to the pros and successful. We knew we had to have a good nucleus. And so he wasn't telling us nothing we didn't believe. But that's how he got the hype of trying to get us fired up. And we worked hard. We worked hard. We got up in the morning and worked out, and go down there for a luncheon thing. After luncheon, news meeting things, we'd come back and work out again in our place. But it was—bowl teams is—you're in a hotel, you've got this distraction. We didn't have it. We'd go back in our confines. We'd right there. During that time there wasn't no classes going on. It's gone for holidays and things. So we had everything to ourselves and trying to work. But no, we always felt we could—we were going to man up against anybody, you know, and everything.

DS:

Okay. I interrupted you right as you were getting ready to start about the next season, right?

LK:

Oh yeah. Well, you know, we had a good group of guys that came in and wasn't all—I wasn't—we did some things. We'd go out and drink a beer and stuff. We didn't do no bad things and everything. Woodson would kind of keep a good eye on us and everything. We would know, you know. But Woodson was a kind of funny guy. A good story I tell about him—he was getting ready for the Sun Bowl game, and when you—on our field the band was going. They were the only count, they were there marching. We were supposed to be off the field a certain time to let them go through their routines. Because they're part of us. You know. And Woodson was kind of—that's the only negative thing about him. He's going to do it his way and he don't give a damn about no one. And it shouldn't have been that way. I mean, he just—anyway, he had told the band that we were going to be off the field—say we were going to be off the field at two o'clock. And so they line up there about two on the other end. They wasn't on the field, but they were down. And two thirty we're still out there. But we were wrapping it up and we was on the far end kicking extra points like we do at the end of the game—end of practice. You know. And so they was on the other end, which was eighty, ninety yards away from us—and they just kind of started lining up, coming on—You know, like they knew we was about through. Should have been through. At it's like, Coach Woodson was a great guy, great coach. He saw them coming on the field and he turned and said, "Punt team! We're punting. Go get them." Just at our band. Hell, we're going to go get them. And I thought he did some things. He was kind of naïve about things. And what he would do—a funny thing about him. Where are we going play—whether it's

in Iowa or California—I don't care. That summer before we'd go him and his wife would drive there and spend two or three days at the hotel we were going to stay at. The menu, everything. He did that personally himself. Everywhere we were going to be going. In Abilene we played Hardin-Simmons in Abilene. He would go down there and when we played during that bowl we had a packed house, because Hardin-Simmons didn't recruit, you know. It was Hardin-Simmons, McMurry, and ACU back during then. But we had a good group of guys. I had another teammate, E. A. Sims that went to Cisco. He came to New Mexico State too. But we was—you know, kids—guys from California that's been around the blocks, and we had some Mexican American guys from El Paso. _____ and _____, [0:38:34.5] lots of guys. Good football players. And they played—you know, came down there and didn't go to Texas, wasn't _____. And we're still friends. We'll go—George Mulholland—and most of these guys we'll see this weekend. Engineers, mathematicians—I mean, brilliant guy. Jim Beckham [?], we stayed with. He was nuclear [?] thing up in Lubbock and New Mexico. He was a big part of that and he's still a consultant. I mean, in another world Phil compared to me? But we always got along. Nobody was no—we just—we're still close. Guy named Ricky Alba—Ricky Alba and Armando Alba, his brother, and they was from Dimmitt New Mexico. And now Ricky is a retired general in the Army—the military. He lives in San Antonio. Armando, his brother, lives in Albuquerque. He's in the insurance business. But they was from a poor family. Never had anything. And both of them guys went through school. And Ricky was telling me he went to school—well, after then, because he lived in the same apartment and we'd go visit sometimes. But we had the conflict of wartime. He said that—who was the president? I guess it was—it had to be George Bush, I guess. Who? What republican was before Bush?

DS:

Help—which war was it?

LK:

President—well, it's Iraq, I think.

DS:

Okay, that would have been the first Bush, yeah.

LK:

Okay, he said—and this is confidential—he told me, he said, he knows for a fact they had all the leaders of the right had a big conflict meeting at a hideout—a compound. I mean, they had—and all we had to do is go and attack. We had everybody we wanted. They gave them all the information, you know. And Bush told them, “No. Don't.” But he said, “We had them all.” And I'm not for destroying and killing the people. But they're going to get us. But they had them all at a conference. Every one of them. And they said they could take them out right then, and they was all set to take them out, and Bush said, “Back off.” And you see what happened after then.

But Ricky said he knows. And that's why he's still down in that area. But all them guys was very successful. You see them now with families, we're all close to families. And my roommate, Brown'g Yelvington—I'll show you a picture of that—lived in the—in Arizona. Not Flagstaff, but another little town. Anyway, we all get together and it's really good. Lots of us going there. Some not. Every time we go we lose another one. But my wife, she's been around long enough. She know them and their wives and things. So it's really a good situation. And them guys in Las Cruces—you been to Las Cruces?

DS:

Never been.

LK:

Boy, I tell you what. When I first went there you're talking about—it was about thirty thousand people there, maybe. Twenty-five thousand. And now it's got about five, six high schools. About the size of Lubbock. It's the second largest city. Albuquerque is number one there. But it's spread out. Beautiful, beautiful place. All your mountains back behind it. In the stadium, from Danny's box, you can look up and see the mountains. They've got a big A for Aggies up there. It's a pretty place. Really decked out good. And lots of people—lots of graduate—they go off for a time, they come back and live there.

DS:

Yeah, sounds like they have a great climate and everything so.

LK:

Oh yeah. Oh man, it's ideal. You know. And some of the things we still [laughter]—let me tell you something. A funny story I'll tell you. Anyway, we had some guys from up in northern New Mexico would go hunt deers and all that stuff, you know. So I would never go. I'm not a hunter. I don't—can't get me to go. Anyway, one of the buddies of mine told me if I get the deer license he'll bring me a deer. Kill a deer and everything. So I got—at that time license was twenty-five dollars or something. Maybe twenty dollars I got the license. Floyd Strickland, that's his name, he went up to northern New Mexico and brought back a deer and had it processed. Steaks and all that stuff. And so I go to the guy with a cafeteria—the manager—and tell him what I've got. I said, "I need to store some meat." You know. He said, "Okay. Good. No problem." You know, he's got enough spot in there. I had all my meat processed, you know. And what we would do—there was some guys that was a little older than we were. They were from Tuskegee College. Engineers, mathematicians. Black guys. They worked in White Sand. I mean, they was heavy. It was about four or five of them and they was all single. They had a brand new house. And on weekends—ball games and things—lots of us would go have some beer and stuff, and we'd go out and drink and they'd come to the ball game. They'd have a cookout. So what I would do [laughter]—I'd go in there and get some steaks and things. And I would get three or four of my

steaks and I look over here and get three or four of the school's steaks. You know. And he probably knew I was getting them. Anyway, so this went on for about six months. And then the last time—because I was getting low down—I was going to get some steaks and the guy with the cafeteria, he said, "Louis, have you got all,"—I said, "This is my last round. It's my last batch of my steaks." So we got away with some stuff. But it was always—you know—it wasn't nothing just out of sight. And what we would do—I had a guy named Mick Gutiérrez [?][0:46:05.4]. He owned the City Drugs downtown. It was a drugstore plus it was a restaurant too. He was my sponsor—one of my sponsors. And anytime on the weekends the cafeteria was closed—especially on Sundays—when we didn't have a game I'd go out and eat, and I'd take four or five of my guys. He had the best hamburger steaks, onion gravy. I mean, you're talking about—you know. And I would take four or five guys with me just sign a ticket and go. But he was in the mayor of town. He owned this place. And a New Mexico graduate. Good guy. Mick Gutiérrez. So we met lots of good buddies there. They're still there, lots of them. Most of them are old now. Lots of them died out and gone. But we get there in Las Cruces, boy, we have—it's beautiful.

DS:

I think I may need to go down there and do some interviews.

LK:

I tell you what, you'd be surprised. Because lots are there and they could tell you some stories about old Aggies and everything. Old stadium. Old gym. They got all new stuff now, you know. But it's a beautiful setting out there. Just off the interstate. I guess that'd be 40 that run down through that way. From Albuquerque to El Paso. But it's a beautiful city. It's off in the valley like. You know. It's really good.

DS:

You know, before the interview we started talking about after you were—your senior year you were drafted by the upstart American Football League.

LK:

Yeah. Yeah, they just got started. Dallas, Texas.

DS:

You want to go with that story a little bit?

LK:

Well, about going? About what happened?

DS:

Yeah. What happened. You got drafted and everything else that happened after that.

LK:

Yeah. Well, I got drafted by the Dallas Texans in before _____ [0:48:01.0] they traded me to the Kansas City Chiefs. Kansas City at the time. And I got a five thousand dollar signing bonus and went to camp up in Kansas City. No—Denver Broncos. I'm sorry. Not Kansas City. Denver Broncos. And we had camp up in Colorado. I got my knee damaged real bad. Just couldn't—you know. Probably the best thing that happened to me. I probably could have made a team. Maybe played a couple for a year, maybe. But long term—going back and getting my degree. Watch them pro ball players get in there, sometimes they don't go back and get their degree. But I need a semester to go back. And they—I went back and got out in January of '61. I had—where I lived in Abilene my mother had moved to after I was in college—across the street from them was a principal of the high school there in Abilene. He knew—the principal's name was E. C. Struggs. Struggs Junior High School now. E. C. Struggs was the principal here. And the principals, all of them knew each other. You know. And I'd play against Dunbar. We'd beat them every year when I was at Woodson in Abilene. We'd go and beat them. Mr. Struggs knew about me. And so they interviewed for a job. And they called and said I had an interview. It was in spring, and I wasn't back to playing the spring game. Although I was—you know. When I got out of—when I finished in January I worked in Abilene and I was going back in May to play in the spring game. So I drove and then I got an interview. I got to interview Mr. Struggs here in Lubbock. I come back because I—then I also—when I was going to Dimmitt—I went through Dimmitt because—I don't know if you've heard of Junior Coffey. Played years ago. Went to the University of Washington. Played pro ball a long time. It was a predominant Anglo—Dimmitt was at the time. He's black. He's a great running back. So I came back through to talk to him about going to New Mexico State, and he'd already committed to go to University of Washington—which he made a good decision on. But I came on through Lubbock. And I just could—did no practice at all the whole spring. And then to play in the spring game. I was driving back to Lubbock. Boy, I couldn't get out to get the gas. I was just bent over. You know. It was tough. I got back. The athletic director at the time, he was only here that year and he left. But anyway, he interviewed me in the Struggs interview. And I was in there about ten minutes. They said, "You've got the job." You know. So I go in Abilene, and I work with my father. I wasn't a wrecker driver. I was at the Chevrolet company [?] [0:51:18.2]. And all I did that spring was bring the cars to the Cadillac and Chevrolet dealership. I worked at Chevrolet Company. And I would take—we had a Volkswagen Bug. A big van. Like you know they had them station wagon, like, you know? Hold about twelve people, and I would take people home and go pick them up and get the cars and this type of thing. Then the owner of the _____ Chevrolet [0:51:47.7] named Jack Hughes, he was a really good guy. He loved my father. And if they had a car to pick up somewhere I would fly with him. He flew a plane. A little four passenger. Scared the devil out of me. I had never been on no—you know. We would fly to Dallas, I'd pick up a car for him and bring it back. He had a cabin up in Colorado. And so my daddy would—they'd get a big eighteen wheeler and he would carry wood up there to him. And my mother, my mother would go with him. He would go up there and spend about a week and unload and come back. I

would go and—but I could—you know. And I had an old Chevrolet—a '50 Chevrolet. Boy, it was in good shape. And what I would do—and every summer I'd come home. That's the only time when you played. You came home in the summer. Now you just kind of stay. Football players got you on the year round. They pay your way to go to school and you go to summer school and they pay your way and you work out too. So I would come home every summer. Same job. But two weeks before I had to go back the two Cadillac mechanics—Cooke and Baker, I believe was their names—and they would tell me my last week there, when I come to work bring your car and they'd check it out. So I would park my car right in their two stalls in the building. And they both would check everything out. And whatever I needed—new hose, water hose, the brakes, spark plugs, whatever it was—they'd get it. I didn't pay one dime. But they going to have me to ready to go back, you know. And I'll never forget when my—and my little—didn't have air conditioning in the windows. You know, the old breeze thing. Didn't have that. But down in the black part of town—kind of the cusp, we called it—a guy would be hanging around there. I'd come during lunch time. I had two pipes and let all the windows up like I had air conditioning, you know? And I would put in second and just kind of cruise down through that block. And when I get around the corner I let the windows down to cool off, and make another round. [laughter] Boy, I laugh at that all the time right now. But we used to go come through Pecos _____ [0:54:34.8] old. Had to go back to school, you know, and everything. I come through little towns at forty in the morning, with pipe signing off and everything. But it was really, really, really enjoyable. Then my senior year my brother had been in the service—had been drafted into service. He had to go. And he had been living in Austin. He had bought a new '58 Impala. Blue and white. Beautiful. And when he was drafted in the Army he didn't have no way to pay for my parents when they—you know. And so he told me I could. So I called back to New Mexico State my senior year—junior year or senior year. And I told them, I said, "Well, I've got to lay out and work." Pay for my car and everything. You know. The _____ [0:55:34.2] called and said, "You get your butt here tomorrow. Bring the car. We'll—let us help." So I went back and needed about eighteen months to pay it off. I gave him the books and about three months later they bought everything and said it's paid for. But that was the—during that time he did some things and well he just took care of you. And the thing about it—what they were fixing to do—what they going to do in these big conferences—they're going to start paying them kids to go to school. And let me tell you why. I had a full scholarship, yeah. Paid for food and books and all that stuff. But I had to buy the gas. You know what I mean? I had some things I had to buy on the side, and they would give—at the time I was at school—they would give you—I got twenty dollars a month. That's not going to pay for a haircut. Some, not a lot. And the thing about it, what really stood out—and I can relate to this—during the holidays or vacation, both the white players had wanted to go and visit, but the black parents couldn't go. Our parents couldn't afford to. We couldn't go home and stay a week for spring break, something like that. It was really tough. And that's why they started giving—on the side, which was illegal—but you had to. And I know now, as much money as they make, these power conferences—these big five power conferences—they make so much money. NCAA got billions

and billions of dollars. That they need to—another cut away from people cheating. You know, I mean, now I think you can only give athletes—everything is paid for, but they're going to start allowing five hundred dollars a month. This is the proposal now.

DS:
Right.

LK:
And I think they need to. It's just been overdue. And they're making all that money. The coach is getting paid six or seven million dollars a year and the players are doing—so they need to. I think that's good for them. Because it's tough work. Working out, going to school, being there. It's a year-round job now, and they're making all that money off them kids. Like I said, some families don't have to have it, but most of them do. Just as many Anglo's parents is poor as it is the black, Chicano, this type of thing. So I think it's something overdue.

DS:
You mentioned coaching there, and you were talking about when you first got hired here in Lubbock. Can you talk about coming to Lubbock and starting out?

LK:
Yeah. I'll tell you what, I never did like Lubbock. We used to play them—come here to play. For some reason I just didn't like Lubbock. Didn't like Midland, Odessa. And I don't know why. But when I was playing we played that old Lubbock High. That was the stadium at the time. Had a built a new stadium. And we'd always come play there. And for some reason I didn't like Lubbock. Although Dunbar got more for the equipment, how they traveled was comparable to what we had at Abilene Woodson. They really did. Dunbar and also Amarillo Carver. They had to take charter bus and things, equipment and things. And we didn't have like that at Abilene. So I kind of didn't like it. But you know, when I came through—like coming through Dimmitt to come to my interview—it's changed my mind about Lubbock. When I got the job and I was hired, I said, Well, I'll go and maybe stay two or three years and move on to someplace else. You know. So I came in '61 and just so happened about six months ago I was talking to some guys that was on that first team when we first got there. And they had coaches there for a long time too, and we had new to come in that blood. And those guys told me _____ [1:00:34] passed me here. And those guys told the coaches, "You know what? We were so glad when you young guys came in here. Y'all changed things up. We learned so much that first year we hadn't." Because we were just out of college. We had the latest of things. And years ago when I was in high school before I got the new coaches, them coaches stayed there forty years until they died. You know, they didn't need the new stuff. But we came at the time—and this is the comment the kids made, "Coach, I was so happy when y'all,"—you know. So we came in there with a good system. And for nine years—I was assistant coach offense coordinator, and in

charge, you know. In 1970 and they built Estacado in '68 and I was interviewed for the job. Pete Ragus—Jim Keeling was the first coach over at Estacado. Good friend of mine. Guy lived in Abilene. And in 1970 he left and Pete Ragus had came in here the year—my second year here. In '62 he took over as athletic director. He became the head coach at Miller High School in Corpus Christi. Big time. Won state championships.

DS:

I was going to say, that was a couple years after you won that title, wasn't it?

LK:

Yeah. Yeah. Great guy. Great guy. But he picked Pete Murray because he knew Pete Murray was at A&I out in Kingsville there. He got a job. And then '70 I got the head job at Dunbar. Then in '75 I went from—'70 to '75 I was at Estacado, then I went over to Estacado. September of '75, I guess it was. Yeah. I was at Dunbar for fourteen years. At Estacado for twenty—let's see—thirty-one years.

DS:

Wow.

LK:

I've head coached for thirty-one years. Five at Dunbar and twenty-six at Estacado. So forty years in all. I assembled the staff. I wanted to get a good staff. A young staff. When I got to Estacado it was—they did things a little differently. They were a little loose with it. They had some good athletes but they just kind of did what they wanted to. Well, this wasn't going to happen with me and my staff, you know. I got hired at Estacado—the funny thing. In that spring of '75, I guess it was, one of the coaches at Estacado—one of the assistant coaches—committed suicide. They had the funeral up in Dimmitt. Dimmitt or someplace up there. Anyway, I know Pete Ragus was—Pete Murray was going back to A&I as assistant coach down there. And Mr. Reed was the principal at Estacado, and I went to the funeral up in—I think it was Denver City—
[01:04:10] where it was. Because one of the coaches at Estacado on the staff committed suicide. So I went to the funeral, and at the gravesite, Curtis Gibson, which had been my backup coach at Dunbar—he graduated Dunbar and we're still friendly around the streets. He had been at Estacado but he had then been at Dunbar. The assistant principal at Estacado. And told me they were going to have a change and might be interested, you know. So at the gravesite he told Mr. Reed, and Mr. Reed said, "Well, are you interested? I want you?" You know, at the time Estacado was going to move up to 5A in the fall. It was growing, you know. And so he told Pete Ragus, "Louis won't come. I want him." And Pete said, "Well, we can make it happen." So I was kind of tempted. I was hired at the graveside, you know. Didn't have to have no interview with nobody. But when I went to Estacado in '75 they had a staff there, but they'd get my people there. At first you had two or three of my people I wanted. It was—everybody coaches

differently. I'm kind of the person—we're going by the rules. We're going to work hard. You're going to do the right thing. Out on the football field, in the dressing room, and in the classroom. You're going to do it all. If you can't you're not going to play with me. We're going to treat them good. We're not going to mistreat them. We're going to work them. We're going to have the best meal for them. Can't no kid ever played with me say they wasn't fed good on the road. Equipment was nice. And I can say this, all the time I was at Estacado I was never turned down for anything I asked for. For equipment, for the uniforms, for the travel, for motels, eating food, never. I'd tell them what I wanted and of course if I didn't need the money I would turn it back. You can't—that kind of thing—receipt. And I tell you what we did, we knew how to go to restaurants. We knew how to conduct ourselves. I didn't have to jump up. We'd go to lots of restaurants. What I had, had about three or four captains, you know. I want kids to enjoy the meal. Talk and doing it. But don't just do crazy. You've had a group over there kind of getting loud, I'd kind of look over at that captain and he would set on them. He'd just kind of stand up. That tone. I mean, you know. When we was in Amarillo we played a playoff game in Amarillo. Went to Furr's cafeteria to eat. It was about sixty of us. The player, and managers, and everything. When we got through I got ready to go up, I said to my trainer, Bob Ramus—he was my trainer at Dunbar and Estacado for a long time out of Oklahoma—and I told him, "Go up and see how much we owe them." He had the money, check and things. He went up there and the manager said, "It's been paid for already.", "What do you mean 'paid for'?" He said, "Well, the guy he paid for it." He said, "No." He wouldn't give us his name or nothing. But he had told him, he'd never seen a group of guys—that many—that conduct themselves like that group did. And I was trying to lay it on him—he was a big rancher from up in the panhandle or somewhere. Him and his wife was in there. He paid for that meal. I came back and turned the money in. They couldn't believe it back here. They said—I said, "The guy has already paid for it." But we would go—we would always be asked to come back to the restaurants we go. But we're going to do it a certain way. And I had to get rid of some guys. I'd give them—I would give a kid a chance. Let me tell you something, I've gone in meetings with the parent and the kid. In my mind, this kid is gone. I mean, he's done. You know. But I get in that meeting and it all depends on how the parents act. I never did mind when I get to that edge I'd rather give a kid another chance than not. And if he's going to be that bad—if he gets another chance, he's going to mess up and that's going to be on him. But 95 percent of the time when I would give a guy a chance—the last chance—I had no problem with them. I mean, they would—you know—conduct themselves. And one parent, I'll never forget, we had a kid and the mom said, "Well, he's always done this." I said, "Yeah, we weren't here." And I had put a kid off the team—a good linebacker and fullback. Best player—one of the best players we had on our team my first year there. But he wanted to do everything—you know. And all the assistant coaches telling me, "Coach, he's hard to get,"—you know. So we had a—we was playing out at Lakeview. Going to play Lakeview next—no, we had a game. The day before the game he missed practice. He was one of those kids—guys—that could influence somebody else. You know how those guys are. They don't want to do it by themselves, they'll influence you. And the guy he influenced was our punter. A

kid punted, that's all they did. Their name was Don Wilson [?] [1:10:34.5] I see him now. He works for Pepsi-Cola somewhere. Nice guy. I mean, but he was solid. And the kid I'm talking about his named Homer Pitts [?]. Anyway, we're going to play that Friday. Thursday they weren't at workout. And it just so happened, we had two scouts had gone down to—we had a guy here would fly us and we had a scout trip someplace on the weekend. Guy named Jerry Miers [?] [1:11:06.3] had a friend, he was on our staff. The guy would fly us down there. They went down there and they saw Homer Pitts and this other kid with him in the stands. They come back. Well, they're definitely not going to play that game. And I told them, I said, "Now I'm going to give you a chance. One more. But you're not playing. You're not suiting up. Nothing." And the next week we was out there working out and one of the coaches, Coach Hines, "Coach, Homer, he is wanting to,"—so I said, "Okay. That's it. He's off." So his parents came up there. Talked to the parents. The parents said, "Well, he's always done this." I said, "Yeah, but I wasn't here. And our staff wasn't here." And they said—they knew he was wrong. But they said he—so the senior class—we had about sixteen seniors—and we would get everybody to play a playoff game. I could tell approximately the day after I pulled him off that they was kind of sluggish—didn't want—you know. We had just gotten out there. We had just exercised. But I could tell the mood, especially them senior guys, how they—you know. And so I called them, got them all up. All the varsity players. I told them, I said, "Let me tell you something." I said—[phone rings] I said, "Homer Pitts is not going to be with us no more. So you can,"—and I said, "By the way, practice is over. If you want to come back the next day, come on. If not we'll run the JV. We're going to play the game." And four or five, "No, Coach. We want to practice." And I said, "No. We're in no mood to practice. Go on in." And we went and worked them JV guys. I told them guys, I said, "You don't want to." The next day every one of them seniors was there, and had a different idea. We go down and win the ball game. Pitts is up in the stand hollering against us. But today—the next day at school—because he had influence and you could tell that just the regular students. I had study hall and I was standing in the hall. They come out, they're moaning. "We want Pitts back." I mean, you could tell the tone, you know? So I go to Mr. Reed. I said, "Mr. Reed, I need to make an announcement." And so I got on the public address system. He announced, "Coach Kelley will make announcement." I said, "I'm going to make this announcement and I am not going to make it again. I want everybody to know Homer Pitts is no longer on our football team. He will never play for Estacado again. If you don't like it, that's your—But that's it." That's all I said. Student body was okay. Pitts didn't play and we got in the playoffs. About three rounds of playoffs. Then Ranger Junior College, Carlos Mainord—was at Tech for a long time. Coached with Spike Dykes—was the coach down there. Carlos called me because he was interested in Pitts. Because he could play college ball. I said, "Carlos, let me tell you something. He's a great player. Both a punter, kick off man." I said, "But this other—this is what happened." And I explained to him. But I said, "You know what? Would you give him—I want you to give him a chance. I think he's worth giving—taking a chance on." President of the junior college. So he goes down there and starts a couple of games. In the third game we got beat. Carlos said, "Come back in the dressing room." He's telling all the guys how bad of

coaches they were and all that. So they had to ship him out and send him home. But I told them, "Give him a—he's worth,"—you know. He was through with us but the next year he could go. And he would have been—he's one of those kids that could have been in college and pro ball. That's how good he was. But he—and his mother told us, "But he's been doing this." I said, "But it's been wrong. You can see it's--"

DS:
Yeah.

LK:
You know? And so I had to deal with all kinds of things. But it all worked out. And once a couple of my coaches that was with other staff, they said, "Coach, it's heaven compared to what it used to be." I mean kids knew how to act. We'd go on bus rides, we'd come back. It's just a—and in some—Pete Murray was a good coach, but he was a little loose. I was just, "You're going to do the right thing. We're going to give you everything you need. We're going to feed you good. But you're going to do the right thing. In the classroom. In the workouts." Over the years I was head coaching—thirty-one years as head coach—I sent about, I think we counted, about a hundred and twelve kids got full offer scholarships.

DS:
Wow.

LK:
About six of them played pro. And Jerry Gray is still coaching the pros, you know. The biggest honor—the biggest thrill I got after I got after I stopped coaching in 2000. We went to the Super Bowl. That's when Jerry was coaching the Tennessee Titans. That was our first year, and they had played in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Georgia. So me and my wife, we flew—went down there. Stayed with the Tennessee Titan team in their hotel the whole week while they worked out. Now not only was Jerry was coaching there. On the Rams—St. Louis Rams at the time—was a kid named Taje Allen was the starting safety—cornerback—for them. I got the chance to visit with them the whole week. And Taje said Jerry went to University of Texas, and Taje went to the University of Texas too. And that was the biggest—you know. We stayed a whole week. And really was a great time. And Tennessee beat them at the end by one point, you know, and everything. But from then on, every year, where Jerry is coaching at me and Claudier go—well a group of us will go from here. What he started doing is Jerry Gray Foundation. I don't know if you've heard of kind of about it. He first started taking—sending about five kids from Estacado, pay their way up there, fly them up there, hotel, pay for everything the whole week. Just really—did it about five years, then they started doing it five from Estacado, get one from Lubbock High, one Coronado, Monterey, and one from the all-girl school. He had about ten. Got them going. Me and Claudier go with them every year. I've seen him go to sporting goods stores with them

kids, tell them, "Get what you want." I've seen him spend four or five thousand dollars, just getting—you know. Now they've got to qualify to go. They've got to write papers and it's a deal, you know. And he tracks them. He keeps up with them—his wife do. And now he's got—he's got a girl. She's a doctor. The one on the first trip with us. Got lawyers, got—I mean, professionals. They've all—and he kept up with them. Tracked them. He'll give back to them. He's from a big family. I never did know his father. Father never was around. He had about four or five—two or three brothers, two or three sisters. Mother worked two or three jobs. But he was very determined. When he was a junior—when he was junior we got beat in the state championship game. No, semi-final game. Against McKinney. And we should have won and we won state the next couple. We was better as a team pay for it [?] [1:19:52.6] We got beat. They line up for a field goal, and it's going to be a questionable field goal. We call a time out. I told the kids, I said, "Don't nobody jump. Don't jump off, because he could easily miss it." You know. And had a linebacker. Injured one of the kids. [phone rings] He missed it, but they gave him the five yards. They kicked the field goal, and they win at the end of the game. So we come that close to winning. To win a state champion you've got to be good, and you've got to be lucky. Everything had to fall in place. Anyways, after their junior year we got beat, he played football, basketball, and run track. So he goes out that Monday in basketball and they scrimmage Lubbock High or somebody. Played Lubbock High that Tuesday night. And he had about eighteen points. And he went that next day and told Coach Wood that he wanted to concentrate on football, because he knows he's going to be in college and things. Which was a good deal, but I'm being how they coordinate a school, my theory was this: Once you're out of a sport, even for one day, you're going to stay there in that sport. You're not going to have guys just go and stay a week and decide to come back. And I called him in my office. I said, "Jerry. [movement in the background] First thing, you're not quitting basketball.", "Okay, Coach." Then I said, "Jerry, what do you want to do in life? What are your goals?" He's about seventeen. Sixteen then. He's sitting there in my office. He said, "Coach, I want to get a scholarship next year; I want to go to the University of Texas; I want to play defensive back; I want to play pro ball; and I want to coach." Just like that. And everything he said, it worked out that way. His junior year made All-American two years in a row. Junior and senior year. And they gave him another time Kodak All-American. They give him kind of gold sweaters that have "Kodak" on it. "All-American Team." And he sent me a picture and the back of it said, "To the best coach I ever had. Thanks for making me do the right thing." And he drew a basketball on the back. When I made him stay in basketball. This type of thing. And boy, I tell you what. Now he—we've been following when he does things. And just a good community guy. That's kind of getting off the subject.

DS:

No, no, no, no. Because that's one thing that I'm interested in.

LK:

Uh-huh.

DS:

And there's another one I—Dennis Gentry. That name.

LK:

Oh yeah. Dennis—

DS:

And the story—I got a little backstory the other day from—I'm doing a thing on Dirk West and—well, his dad and him did some landscape work for the West people.

LK:

Oh okay.

DS:

And so she mentioned that Dirk also knew the coach at Baylor.

LK:

Yeah.

DS:

And Teaff.

LK:

Teaff. Grant Teaff. Grant Teaff.

DS:

Yeah. And so she was saying that there might have been a connection between them and getting Teaff to come look at him. But you're the coach. What really happened?

LK:

What happened—Now I left after Dennis's junior year. He played as senior at Dunbar when I come to Estacado. But Dennis was a good player, and he joked. We was at a deal—he said, "I guess Coach Kelley didn't like me, because he left me and went to Estacado." You know, and everything. But Dennis was an outstanding player. His father was a minister. Big family. And Grant Teaff—you know, I had about three—two or three other players that were going to Baylor—played at Baylor with Teaff and things. And I had guys go everywhere. But you know I was kind of accused one time of not sending more kids to Tech. And what it was, it was this: I had nothing against Tech. The coaches, anything against Tech. But they don't realize that these kids have never been nowhere. They're at home sharing the bedroom with two brothers or something. Big family. They want to go off. They just want to leave town. I've had some of them

go to Tech. In fact, David Efferat [?] [1:25:12.8] played quarter out there. I kind of covered him. Make him go to Tech. I thought there was time. But what happened was this: what people don't understand about Tech. Most years during that time we were going we had three or four or five guys that could play college. Great wide and everything. And Tech didn't think—only picked one out and think the other ones—you know—other guys like Dennis Gentry—the other guys Bobby Humphrey went to New Mexico State where I went, and he played ten years in the pros. But he's out of that same class, but they didn't think—you know. We had about five or six of them that year, and all of them got scholarships, and they would pick one. And like they said, all of them guys couldn't be—you know. Then Steve Sloan, when he was here—I bet you know Steve Sloan who was here that used to coach about three or four years here. I got the impression that he was ashamed to come out to Estacado to recruit. We was out during practice. He'd come out there and he would—one of us coaches would hide. [1:26:43.6] he would duck down like he didn't—you know. But they was peeking to see what—you know. So I didn't care. But see, we had every coach. We're talking about the most coach that I—the most gentleman that we had ____ [1:25:56.7], all them guys from Oklahoma, Texas. But Tom Osborne at Nebraska—he got about two or three of our guys. But he was more professional than any other. I mean, they would come there. He was always a gentleman about it. He always presented himself in a way—he was interested of all kid. You know. But we sent them to Oklahoma. Tech got lots of them. ____ get them out there. You know, I didn't—but I was accused of not wanting—you know?

DS:
Yeah.

LK:
You know you look up and you've got fifteen players from Estacado at Tech. That wouldn't be—but we had those kind of players. But they didn't—the coaches obviously think, “Well, they couldn't have that many D1 players.” Which we did. And we tried to set our guys up grade-wise. We made them be at class, on time, dressed nice. And the funniest thing. I'll tell you I did something one time. I would do things, but during that time it was important for us to have good hair. Cut—clean cut. We could do that. Times have changed now in high school. Jerry curls. We didn't have that. But we was going down to play San Angelo Lake View. Important game. I don't know how we missed this kid. One of our starting tackles. He had, I guess, that evening after practice he had gone to the beauty shop or wherever—they paid about—the mother paid fifty or sixty dollars to get his hair rolled or plaited or some kind of way. And I don't know if he had a hat on, but he got on the bus and I know the other kids evidently had to hide him from us because he wouldn't have got on that bus. So we go down there and we're getting dressed. We had about a couple of hours before time. And one of the coaches—somebody—spotted it. Said, “Coach, do you know?” I said, “Where?” And I called him out. Hat off. And I think mother paid fifty, sixty dollars to get all this stuff done. And I said, “Let me tell you something. You are not going to play tonight or go on that field with that. You've got one choice. Get it off.” And let me

tell you something, them student trainers and things he had them all around him. I mean, you know. And maybe I couldn't do it now, but all next week I looked for his parents to call. They was at the game. They never said a word. But he [laughter]. I said, "No. You ain't going." And he did it. He was our starting tackle. And a good kid. He wasn't no bad kid. I never had no problem with him. But I said, "No. You're not." Certain thing we do. Certain thing—we all dress alike. All the equipment is going to look. You're not going to do this, or stand out. We're going to all look the same. And I want our coaching staff the same way. We all wore the same uniform. I didn't do anything different than another assistant coaches. Same shirts, size cap, same thing. I didn't want no _____ [1:31:00.5]. I don't want nobody getting mad at the head coach and they spot me out and shoot me on the sidelines. I said, "We all look alike." So you know. But I had some things about doing things, because I had high school coaches that felt that way. I would tell them—my players, "Let me tell you something. I want you to be the best student, the best person in the world. But if you get in some trouble—If you get in some trouble anytime, anywhere, you call me. You may not be satisfied, happy when I get there. But I don't care what's going on, where it is, I'm coming for you. And I'm going to come help you and get you. The results after then may not be what you—it's going to be tough. But I'm coming."

DS:
Right.

LK:
I said, "I don't care what time it is." And the most I—I maybe got over all the time I've been head coach—thirty one years—might have got two or three calls by the kids out late or some trouble. But I said, "I'm coming. I don't care where it is. I'm coming. The results after then—but if you need me I'm coming." And I had that kind of deal with them and everything. And I always want them on the field a certain time. I mean, we're going to start practice at a certain time. You have some kids lay around and—so we had one of the coaches, Percy Hines's son played for us, and he—Percy would always be on the line. He always—if we got to be out there 3:30, dressed and ready to go, 3:29 he get there just—So one day we was out there and all these kids running around. It's getting time, and so I told one of the coaches, "Go up by that door and just hold the door." So about two minutes before time Percy hit that door and it wouldn't open. You know, so we had something for him. We didn't have that problem no more. In the dead circle [?] [1:33:16.6] he was knew, but he was always on the line. And another thing we did. In the summertime we started noticing after the spring—after school was out—our guys come back for two-a-days, lots of them be kind of underweight. I mean, ten or fifteen pounds. And what was happening, they wasn't eating properly like in the—you know. So then two-a-days start. We would have it say seven o'clock in the morning. Then we'd let them go and they'll come back in the afternoon. We'd tell them go home and eat. Come back and we'll work out. But those guys, some of them, they didn't have anything before they came up that morning at seven o'clock. Parents had to go to work. After we work them out two hours and send them back home to eat

lunch there's nothing at home to eat for lunch. So we're doing two-a-days, I've got the coaches wives and some other parents, and we start—we tell the kids that we're going to work out in the morning, and we're going to take a break, but we're not going home. We're going to stay here. We're going to have food for you here. Parents would bring—and I said, “Tell your parents to send something. Just whatever it is.” And all the coaches wives and other parents, they would bring big stuff. Then I start and we'd be in there—coaches eat, third [1:35:07.3] and four or five of them kids wouldn't come there to eat. And we'd try to be like—and what happened was the one that didn't bring any food felt embarrassed coming in to eat. And so we started doing—they'd put food on a table, and I'd make all my coaches and everybody leave out. And that way them other kids would go eat. And we start getting their weight back. But we had that thing set up. They would—kids would—my son would come home and hardly have food. You know. And most of them—75 percent of them, but there were 25 percent of them just didn't have—you know. And so we would always eat a pregame meal. I don't know if they still do or not. But we would eat a pregame meal and we'd go out to Amarillo, someplace. We would go down to Bryan's Steakhouse on 34th Street—you know where Bryan's Steakhouse? We'd have a pregame meal there. Then we'll have another meal after the game in Amarillo. We always ate two meals. I don't know what they do now. But we—funniest thing about it. In Amarillo we were going to Dumas to play. In Amarillo there was a hotel we'd always eat that, and the guy that ran the restaurant was named Big Harry, we called it. And I'd tell him—there'd usually be about seventy-five of us players and manages, and I want to get there a certain time, I want to eat at a certain time. Had to give us time going to Dumas. But at a certain time we're going to be there. I'd tell the bus driver—our charter. I said, “Y'all we're going to eat loads, we're going to leave school. And I don't care how fast you drive I want to be there to eat a certain time.” And this is our routine. It just so happened we got Clem Mancini, who lives out here in New Deal now, we were at school together. And he was coaching Wichita Falls Rider. And they was in town playing an Amarillo school. And we was coming in and they hadn't quit finished. And he was telling us, Big Harry came around and told Mancini, “Coach, you know we've got another group coming in. We kind of need you to kind of—but we've got a group coming in.” And he kind of asked them, “What team is it?” He said, “Lubbock Estacado.” And he said, “You can tell the head coach that,”—they got through. Their buses waited until we got there. Insists I talk to him. We come in there and went in. We was all looking nice. We always wore the same type of dress shirt. Not dress shirt, just open and blue, and blue jeans and things. But we dressed top. And then one of the guys said—coaches said, “We know why we can't play with those guys, because they look,”—you know. We march in there and we got—you know, and Clem came over. We talked and introduced him and things. But we had a good group. I tell you what, but we never did—whatever we needed we got. If I needed something. And there used to be a time where we had to get a requisition request, go to central office get the money to go get some equipment. Shoulder pads or something. But we'd go to Carter [?], John Carter, and I tell him what I needed. Then it would come later on. I could go get that thing. And I'll never forget they—I was talking to

somebody—anyway. I didn't find this out until after I retired. Guy used to coach at Lubbock High—at Monterey—named Lee—Leaf. Buster Leaf.

DS:

Um-hm.

LK:

Told him—said—when Pete Raytha [1:39:22.8] told him—he said now—Sherwood—he said, “You guys want the equipment to travel. Whatever y'all want y'all ask for it. Y'all might get it. You might not. You've got the booster club. But if Louis Kelley asks anything he's going to get it for his team.” And he said, “It's not _____, _____ from the top.” And I didn't notice until after I'd gotten out that they—you know. Whatever I wanted I got. And we would get it. We took pride in what we did, and we represented the school well and the district well. We didn't have—it was really a unique thing to have.

DS:

And you were there so long.

LK:

Yeah.

DS:

How did—we talked about the students and parents and coaches. How did the culture change while you were there?

LK:

Well, I tell you what. The difference now is the kids are raising their own self. We had good parent support. But now kids are kind of own their own. Don't have fathers. In broken homes and things. And we had some of those kids too. But we had the confidence of the parents that we were going to make them act how they were supposed to act. And it also helped them at home. We would shoot straight with the parents. We didn't pull no strings. We would do everything in our power to keep a kid on our team. Keep a kid's grades up. Or do everything. And another thing we did, our administrators, we worked with them. And our teachers. We would tell our teachers that if they've got a problem with one of our players they need to contact us coaches. The administration have enough due to all them other students. But you would get better results coming straight to us, because we're going to get the kids right then. There ain't going to be no paperwork, calling home. We're going to take care of that. We had the confidence of teachers when they had problems. And we didn't have many problems. But I think the ones we had, they would come to us and get work to us or one of the assistant coaches. And we would—boom—act on it. The kid knew we would act on it, you know. We had the confidence of the parents that

whatever we did—we had a few that didn't like—but we're going to make them do what he was supposed to do. And I treat my son when he was playing for me—a little funny thing happened. We was in Roswell playing a game, and he was a sophomore. He wasn't a starter, but he was on the extra point punt team—extra point team. One up [1:42:33.3] backs. We get a bad snap on extra point. We called “blue”. That means that two ends split and two running backs go out and flat. And we was in Roswell. We were playing and had a bad snap, they call blue. He winded flat. Threw the ball for a two point conversion. And usually when the guys make a play or someone comes to the sideline I kind of, [claps] “Atta boy. Good job.” For some reason I didn't say anything to him. Not because he was my son. I just didn't—I was busy doing something else. So he gets home and he tells his mother. “Dad always congratulates, but I got a two point conversion and he didn't say nothing.” And I look back and I didn't. It wasn't inten—you know. But he and mother—I says, “Yeah, that's probably right. I didn't. It wasn't intentional.” And everything. But the funny thing he tells about the story on him when he was playing—before he came to Estacado—when he was playing YFL [Youth Football League]. He was playing a league over here and so they're going to play the Estacado kids at area one Sunday. So we had had a meeting Thursday night and went to watch him play. Went by—I used to go by the school and pick him up from practices and bring him home. I went by there to pick him up and I just watched a little bit of practice out there. And a guy named Taft [1:44:08.2] that's stay back here, was coaching. He played cornerback. It taught him to and the kids to sprint out that way. And he would come up the field and make them cut back, but he would enforce him and keep our side contained. And so when he got in the car—van—I said, “Louis, I noticed out there when they sprint out your way you would box them, but you've got our side contained. But force them—but don't let them get outside of you—but you force them. You come at them.” He said, “But my coach told me,”—I said, “You're right. You're right. You do what your coach told you to do.” So that Sunday [laughs] we go to the game and we was playing Debbie [?] [1:45:03.1]—you know, east Lubbock. First play, Debbie sprint that way and he came up and boxed. And Debbie went about seventy yards, and Louis turned and stand and looked at me and I just dropped my head. I didn't say no more. From then on he was—because I said they're coaching him and I didn't want to—but that was a little—but I never get—later on in his sophomore year he started starting for us. I asked him, I said, “Was anybody complaining about you starting as sophomore?” He said, “No, and they better not, because they watch the way I practice.” And all the coaches—position coaches—they dictate who, and they want him to be the starter. And they said, “No.” So them guys know he worked—and all the coaches told me—he worked as hard as anybody. So we worked it out that way. And he would never—after the ball game—we never did discuss things about—I let, just like his coaches and things, I—he come home, and he would tell his mother some things. We wouldn't discuss much. But he was a good player. He played. But you know, it was a good experience being a coach during that time at Estacado. We went in and the student body—I made it plain to them that the faculty and the student body, we're all in the stands together. We're winning the game, but we're all winning because you support us. This is Estacado, this is your team. Not my team, this is your team. We enjoyed. We had the biggest

thrill, I guess, was when we won the playoff game someplace and we're coming back and they escorted us out of Post all the way in down—MLK and we got to have a big pep rally at thirty [?]. We was coming out from Austin, I think. But you know, we had—and I support the other sports. And I want our kids—I like them to play as many sports as they can play. Had to keep them active and everything. Some want to just to play football or basketball. The worst—the worst quarterback I ever had—the worst one—only played football. The worst one I ever had. The rest of them played at least two sports and most of them played three sports. The played football, basketball, and baseball. Jerry Gray played football, basketball, and ran track. I'd rather for them to be competing. I support all the programs. I'm going to be right with them, and I encourage them to do that thing.

DS:

You know, let me ask you about Zebe, [1:48:00.0] because he was a little undersized for a college quarterback. What was it about him that made him so special?

LK:

Well, he had—he was very smart, one thing. He had confidence. He wanted—at that time—he wanted to be sure he made it. I thought he was one of the best ones that could send out at that time. You kind of pick—and you're about the only other person I've told about this—that I kind of shield him away from other schools, because I thought he was going to handpick. I think he would fit in that collection real good, you know. And he paid it out for him and everything. Robert Johnson played out there, and made great—those guys. ____ [1:48:45.9] and all those guys. Thomas Howard. And so I had Thomas and Thomas's son played for me that went to UTEP that was killed in a wreck a couple years ago. But all those guys just—they was good. Really good people. Got along with people good. I think I had a part of it, because we made them do the right thing. I couldn't be with them twenty-four hours a day but if parents called me and they had a problem, I'm going. Or the kid called, "Coach, I've got some trouble." I'm going. Like I said, when I go the results the next day might be something different but I'm going to go. They had enough respect for me to know that I've got their back. I think their parents had confidence in what we did. They didn't—I had a few that complained, but you're going to always have them. "They should be playing," or something. That'd go off, end in rubble. I'd tell the kids—the kids knew who was supposed to play. I don't care what the parents thought. But we had a good—had good principals. I had good people—support groups. Like down in the athletic office they had good support groups. Those people would give us anything we asked for. We took care of it. We didn't—we took care of equipment. Everything is in place. You go in our training room, equipment room, everything is perfect. I mean, it's kept good. We had a good person to take care of—wash the clothes in the machine. Everything we did.

DS:

And you mentioned equipment, you know. Especially, like, the training equipment, because weight training changed from when you were first beginning to when you ended. What was that change like for y'all?

LK:

No comparison. We did have—when I first went to Dunbar we didn't have very little. We were just kind of one our own. We had four or five weight benches or something. Nothing. But at Estacado we had a really nice—what auto body was we made—a kind of a workout room. Weights and all that stuff. Then we built a new part back there, which I was on the designing on it. We had the weight room, the mat room where we could run plays and do stuff back there. We kind of designed it. But we got—our equipment room was as good as anybody's in town. We designed it. We wanted that this way. We went around to—we went to Amarillo. We went to up in the panhandle. We went to about eight, nine different schools—me and Greg Sherwood—looking at different facilities. See what we wanted to do. And we couldn't get what lots of them already had on one school—towns—you know. But we got what we needed. And we had the space out there to do it. We designed—I kind of designed. I knew kind of what I wanted the mat room and things. We had a place for the track to dress. Baseball. All that in there. And we still had a place up in the main building back there. But we had—it's better now, and it's going to get better all the time. That's a kind of year-round deal. I think it's the whole atmosphere is good. What they've done at Dunbar in the last year—their equipment and dressing facilities—is out of sight. They put stuff in there. I mean, I took a tour about two weeks ago over there. They called and wanted me to come and see and go through it. Boy, it's unbelievable what they have done over there. All the junior high schools. They've done something to upgrade them. Painted them. Put all kinds of material stuff. New lockers, new showers. I mean, they have really done well. This Mark Ball, he has done great things. He comes from the Metroplex and he wants—he's got big vision. We got administrators that let him—school board—that let him. That Plains Capital board, that's—

DS:

Yeah, they have state of the art.

LK:

They did something. And the thing about it—have you been out there on Thursdays for the luncheon sometime?

DS:

No, I haven't.

LK:

You ought to go there.

DS:

I need to sneak in with Bill one day.

LK:

Yeah, come on. I won't be there this week, because I'm going to New Mexico. But it started about three weeks ago. My wife, one time last year, she's ready to go every Thursday. And what it is, we have about—oh it's about a hundred people in that thing. And you talk about—this last week they had prime ribs. Boy, I tell you what. The cooks, they take pride in what they do. They have a big time. I mean, this dessert salad. I mean, it is—and the way they do it: they have all the coaches—head coaches just talk. And it's really about an hour, an hour and a half. Everybody is invited to go. You come out there and it's well—it's all or nothing. It's something that you—most towns don't have this.

DS:

Yeah.

LK:

You know? I doubt if Amarillo, Abilene, those people in the Metroplex, I know they don't. It's Lubbock. It's just a different atmosphere. Years ago we used to have a press conference down at—the steak place right back here. What's the name of it?

DS:

Fifty-Yard Line?

LK:

Fifty-Yard Line. And we had—it was nice, but it was just the coaches, news media, and we'd be there. We're talking about twenty-five people. Thirty. A nice meal. But now you've got Plains Capital. You've got good sponsorship. Suddenlink that sponsors the meal. They take pride cooking it, and serving it. It's class. I mean it is. You've got to come. You can't believe. You look forward to going every Thursday. It's just really different. Then on the night of the game it's on then too, but not on that big of scale. They have to feed them, but they have sandwiches and different stuff and then at night for that. But it's unique. They really go out. I think of Mark Ball. Everything is getting better. They just need to start getting to winning. It's what's kind of is surrounding people like Frenship and these. Cooper, Shallowater. Those people. Years ago Lubbock had a chance to consolidate all that stuff. You didn't. You built in. With four schools it's tough to compete. People moving them. You know.

DS:
Right.

LK:
From other places. It is—it's very difficult. It's happened in Amarillo, in Abilene area where they've got Wylie out there now in Abilene. But it just—but this is unique. You've got your I think, Cooper, Frenship. You've got Shallowater. You've got places around you can't—you know. And what makes it so bad—you go on the highway, you go to Frenship, and the population is about six thousand but they've got all them students. They've got more of them students going. And they're still growing. It's growing. And it's hard to compete with those people and things. But I don't know. Anything else you want to ask me? I got off route.

DS:
I think we got way off of this list, but that's okay. You gave some great stuff there. Well, let's talk a little bit about the awards you got and the hall of fames you've been in—you've got into. And talk about what those places mean to you.

LK:
Well, I tell you what. The Abilene Hall of Honor, because I was in the first class. The Lubbock I was in first class. Going in the Texas High School Coaches, I wasn't the first class I went in. The Texas Tech—

DS:
Legends?

LK:
Yeah. I was on that. New Mexico State. I've been—I'll show you in a minute. But it all means a lots to me. The last one I went into the Prairie View thing. And that's where I got started—in Prairie View—when I was in high school. A couple years ago I went into that, and that means a lot. Me serving this year—this will be fourth year coming up—on the Hall of Honor committee and be on that. We got a high school coach on it last year. I got Percy Hines onto it this past year. I've got one more year. I'll be the chair of it this past year. But that's a—Texas High School Coaches Hall of Fame. Have you ever been to that deal in San Marcos?

DS:
No, I haven't.

LK:
Headquarters. Oh, man. You've got to go. I mean you're talking the best, greatest of all of them is there. They've got all the officials lined up, and the plaques and things. And it's unique. It

used to be in Austin but they moved to San Marcos. It's got a great location down there. But people that think that much of you, especially in Abilene. I went in with five of us. It was Jack _____ [1:59:41.6]—went to Cooper, Glynn Gregory—went to Abilene High School, Chuck _____ was a great coach down there, Pete Shotwell—the stadium is named after, and myself in that first class. And since that time it has grown and things. But then New Mexico State was good. Of course there was people that's already in there and been a part of them. I've just—I mean it means a lot. And the thing about it it's not all me. You've got to think about the people that supported me and been around me. My coaching staff, people that I was involved with in high school and college. It's not about you. It's about you get the glory lots of times. Like when we win ball games they say, "Yeah, you're such a great coach." Well, I've got some great coaches around me. I've got some great players. There's lots of guys that are probably better coaches than I am that don't have as many wins because they don't have the surrounding like I had. You've got to have the folks, I said all the time. You've got to give your coaches the opportunity to coach. Your assistant coaches. I always believe this, and when I started hiring coaches years ago. When I was an assistant coach I wanted the head coaches to tell me what he wanted me to do, and then to do it. And if I don't do it fire me. I always had that same theory that I want coaches that I have confidence in and you're going to coach. I'm going to tell you what all we're going to do, and if you've got another idea about doing it we might look at it. I've changed my mind on some things. I'm not—you know. But one thing about it—I tell them all the time—whatever game plan we've got—I don't care if we're getting beaten and we have some assistant coaches out arguing about it—we're doing it this way. I'm going to—I said, "We're going to,"—And they've gotten me to change my mind, and I said, "Okay, this might be better." The one thing about it, when we leave that field house it's not going to be Louis Kelley's plan. It's going to be our plan. And I never point fingers at none of my assistant coaches. I'm going to take the blame from the top, and I don't want them to blame. Because I said, "It's our plan." And I've had to get rid of all the coaches. The third on has been a head coach. Three coaches. And of course for different reasons. But the thing about it, we're together. I'm not going to hang no coach out to dry. I'm the head coach, I'm going to take responsibility. But they know it's our decision. And if one of them said anything different and I hear about it he's gone. They're pointing fingers. "I told him we should that we should do this." I don't want—you know?

DS:
Yeah.

LK:
We've made decisions to do this and do that. We're going to stand by it. Now, we might change next week, and you've got the opportunity to tell us why we need to change. But I had—coaches, boy, I tell you what. They've been great. I've had them a long time. I let them coach, you know? I gave them the freedom doing it. But the final decision is always going to be me. We're going to make the final decision. And I never did try to run up the scores on nobody. I was always—we

want to win every ball game, but we want to do it in a way and I didn't want to make nobody look bad. You know what I mean? I'll never forget Greg Sherwood, when he was at Plainview, and he had a good team. We played them. We got to be real good friends, but in Plainview we had them down—a touchdown. At the latter part of the game, the last two minutes or something, and he went for the fourth down way down his territory. You know, he had no choice. But it failed. We could have ran up the score, but we were leading them. We're going to beat them anyway. So I told the quarterback we knee down for time. And he looked over at me and he just kind of—we got to be close, but we had the game won. I don't take pleasure in beating nobody on fifty points. We got the game won. We're going to take the knee and wait for another day, this type of thing.

DS:
Yeah.

LK:
Because the scores, that don't mean something. And the thing about it—I tell our kids—and I very seldom tell them, “Don't do something during the game.” Because we trained them all we could do. But Derek White—I don't know if Derek White. He went to the University of Oklahoma. He's back here now. Kevin White's brother. Played wingback. Good, good kid. We were playing in Brownfield—or Levelland. Brownfield, I believe—and we were beating them. We had the game. We won. He went back on punt return and I told him, I said, “Derek, don't field a punt. Just don't field a punt.” Because we had them down about forty points or something. And he said, “Okay, Coach.” Just let it roll out or something. And they punted about two minutes left in the game. Three minutes. And they kicked it and that thing rolled, going right at Derek. I mean, he was backing up, you know, about the ten yard line and it popped up right in his hand. And he goes ninety yards for a touchdown. And he came to the sideline and he said, “Coach.” I said, “I know it.” He said, “I was trying to get away from it, but when it jumped up on me I'm taught to go.” I said, “You did the right thing.” I said, “I'd have been very disappointed if you hadn't.” But you know what I mean? And we talked about two weeks ago. I saw him. Well, he called me. And we talked about that sometimes and he said, “Coach, you told me to back up.” And I never did try to beat anybody bad. We'd get the game under control and we'd _____ [2:06:34.6]. You know. I didn't have—I felt bad when we beat somebody fifty, sixty points. I just didn't have a gut, but I knew I did everything I possibly could to keep the score down. I never had nobody accuse me of running up the score. But you can't tell a kid. Once he gets his hands on the ball he's trained—he's taught—to go. And we was in one game and we used to tell them—defensive end and linebackers—if they get a fumble or something—interception—if something happens _____ [2:07:18.7]. We kind of—we want them to protect the ball. He had got—in one game—I don't remember what game it was—he was a defensive lineman or something. You know, a fumble came out and jumped up at him. And boy, he took off about five yards and just fell. Just dived. And I told—he said, “Coach, you always taught us to get on it.” A

linebacker, you pick it up. The rule changed. I want to protect the ball. He said, "I did what you told us to do. Protect the ball." I said, "Okay, man." But it's—I've enjoyed it. What else you want to ask me about?

DS:

Well, let's see what else you've got here. You know here we've got a thing rivalry games. What games did y'all really look forward to?

LK:

Well, you know, I think the games—when we started playing everybody in town. I think your cross town rivalry. And you want to win. The thing about it when we were so good we used to play our first ball game—it was hard for us to get scheduled anybody—non-conference schedules—they didn't want to play us. I mean they just—and I could kind of understand. But we had to play—for about six years—we had to play Plainview. When they was in the—with Monterey and Coronado. A non-conference, now. We would play Plainview, Lubbock High, Coronado, and Monterey for a district play. We would never be—the worse would be three and one. And most times we'd be four and 0. And we won this. Then we'd _____ [2:09:21.0].

Lubbock High, they was so outmanned that for about five or six years—and I don't brag about this or nothing—but for about five or six years they never scored. They never scored a point. A lot of them was—he's a nice guy. I know they had some good coaches. But the players just wasn't very good at the time. Our toughest game would be with Coronado and Monterey. Monterey we would battle but we would beat them. But we would battle them. And after a while—of course we couldn't games anyplace else. I think the people in town didn't want us to—they stopped that rivalry because we were beating them.

DS:

Well, and also for a time I guess it was up through the mid-eighties, those four were in a district by themselves.

LK:

Oh yeah. Yeah.

DS:

And so you were basically beating the district.

LK:

Yeah. Oh no doubt about it.

DS:

They were a classification ahead of you.

LK:

Yeah, and we did it. So they had to kind of stop. Funny thing happened to us. You won't believe this. This happened at El Paso's school. They're a little different breed out there. Pete Ragus and Sherwood had scheduled a non-conference game with one of the schools out there. We had gone out there that spring because they had spring practice at Estacado. Okay. That was in April, probably. In July Sherwood or Pete Ragus, _____ [2:11:15.3] got a call from the athletic director out there and said, "Well, we're going to let another team play Estacado." They thought the best team out there. I wouldn't have minded if we had known we were scouted, you know what I mean? And so they said they were going to come here. And they sent the best team they had out there, which they was real good. We beat them. But this type of thing in El Paso, the little _____ [2:11:50.3]. They get a little different breed. They do some things. It's not the way you do things. If they'd have said in the spring—they wanted another team. I said, "That's fine." We didn't complain. And we had to go. We played Roswell. We just could not—people just wouldn't. And I could kind of understand, but I always wanted to play the tough people in non-district. They'd make you better.

DS:

Yeah.

LK:

You see what I'm saying? Playing those four schools made us better. One year we had to play Midland Lee. Down at Midland Lee. I'll never forget that. That was the year we went to the state championship game. We got—that was the third week down there. They beat us—oh I think it was 21-14 or 14-7. It was a close game down in Midland Lee. And I told our kids after the ball game, "Man, let me tell you something. It's going to take a great team to beat us again this year." And it just so happened we got beat in the state championship game that year. We went all the way out after that Midland Lee game. But we—our kids—it was one of those combinations. We had good kids, we had some good coaches. We had something about the character. We felt like we could match up. And we didn't—we would match up against anybody. We went down there and scrimmaged Abilene High when what's it called was down there at Abilene High. Used to be at Tech out here. Well, I can't think of his name. Anyway, he's back to Midland. We won the state championship down there. We went down and scrimmaged them down in Abilene. We wore their butts out. I saw him not long ago. He said, "Soon as y'all came down there." And we played them. I'll never forget, we had this black place there had a restaurant. Good steaks and hamburgers and fried food. You know. And I knew the guy. So we're going down to scrimmage and we was going to scrimmage, take showers, and go by and get boxed lunches. I let them bring them to the stadium. And come on back. Because we had to get—and we call the guy, and I knew him and I told him what we wanted. I said, "We're going to get these things." And we wanted a barbeque sandwich. Got two sandwiches, and we had our own drinks. So didn't need drinks, you know. It made him _____ [2:14:59.1] and I said, "We don't care what the cost is. We

want to have it out there at this time.” You know. We get on the bus to call the kids to JV. We had two buses. Had about a hundred and something kids. We always take our drinks with us and everything to training. We got back. He made a ton of money. Which is good. I said, “We want it at a certain time. We’re going to leave there and I want it.” And they passed down buses of kids, and we come on back. But were down at Abilene High. I’m bummed out then. Had lots of people come out and watch us scrimmage, you know. And we played a playoff game down there against McKinney or somebody. And boy, we had a big turnout at the stadium and things. But we was organized. I always believed in being organized. Whatever I do around here is organized and get things done. I keep getting off. _____ [2:16:03.9] You want to look at this? Anything else on there?

DS:

Let’s see.

LK:

Probably you know the team philosophy. Team philosophy was to win.

DS:

Well, let me ask you something.

LK:

Um-hm?

DS:

Maybe more like a mindset. Because I know that when I interviewed this guy that had been on one of the Odessa High’s teams way back in the early eighties. He was on the team that made the *Friday Night Lights* about.

LK:

Lights, right. Uh-huh.

DS:

And he talked about what the mindset was there as far as from when you were born, basically, you wanted to play for Odessa. Was Estacado the same?

LK:

Well, yes and no. I’ll tell you what. It was—see when Estacado was built it was really built for the country club—Lubbock Country Club. And not Thunderbird but Manhattan over there.

What’s the name? I live over there. I should know. Anyway.

DS:

Cherry Point?

LK:

Cherry Point. See that was all mostly Anglos. And once Estacado was built, they built that for Anglos in the country club. As the blacks started moving in there they started moving out. I mean they just—and they was going to—it had a good mixture of people in Estacado, but mostly whites in that area. We lived on Colgate—East Colgate. Lots of them just kind of shifted. You know the country club people down in that area was building the school for Estacado, but when the blacks started moving in there and they started shifting out. But there was enough tradition there at Estacado, facility-wise and everything, that had a good mixture of Anglos and Mexican-American. Some of my best players was Mexican-American guys. My linemen. And captains. Shit, they was—I mean, we had a good mixture. When I was there we had—I would guess we would have four or five Anglos on the team. But we had some players in our linemen and—like we had Hector Lemon [?] [2:18:52.4]. Hector played for my defense then and good baseball player, football player, and things. Finally coaching over there. But we had some guys that—and they was tough. We got along good because we treated everybody the same. Like hell. [laughter] We just flipped that. Everybody there thought, We're going to be treated the same. And we didn't care who they were or what. We're going to treat them the same and we've got everything out of them. And let me tell you something. Them guys would fight for us, and we treat them all—and I see lots of them now around. I says, "Boy, what are you doing?" We always talk and hug and things. But they always respect me because I didn't care what color you were. If you could play you played. And you've got to get along. We didn't have no, "The blacks sit here," sitting on the bus. "Chicanos here and the white." Our seniors—the sophomores all sit in the back of the bus. We'd put the juniors and seniors in the front. Whatever color. But we got along fine. We had lots of people that supported us, and our booster club. I know the lady, Ms. Mandingo, she was a nice ____ [2:20:17.9]. My wife taught over there at Hunt—not Hunt, but Arnett—for a while. But we knew a lot of them. But it was really a unique place, because you had a good mixture right there from when they first built that school. Was that way for about ten years and then it started just kind of—but the community was good. People supported. And I think that was the main thing. But just got along good. But we was all—you know.

DS:

Yeah.

LK:

We was all in the thing together and everything. So it was good. It was good. And plus I had Robert Murr [?] [2:20:58.2] on my staff, and three or four other guys. I got Robert Murr out of New Mexico. From around Albuquerque. And he just come out of college and was looking for a job. His wife was working here. I got him interviewed and he came up and he was on our staff,

and Hector Lemon was on our staff. We had a good mixture of blacks, whites, Chicanos on our staff. And dealing with kids. We didn't have no—they just—You have some minor things come up. Nothing is perfect. But we would deal with it and we dealt with it ourselves. Our coaches, in the classroom, and teacher would rather come to us than go to the administration because they'd get faster results and it affected kids more.

DS:

Yeah.

LK:

You know, they go through the process. We weren't going to call no parent. We're going to get their butts right. It's going to be a process in about five minutes. We're not going to send them home, have the parents come up there. No, we're going to handle that, and if the parents don't like that they'd come up there after it happened and everything. But we had that leeway to do that.

DS:

So, you know, you mentioned some of your assistant coaches. What would you tell a young coach just out of college when they started working for you? What they needed to watch out and what they needed to do?

LK:

Okay. First thing, there's a way to do anything. There is a way to treat kids. There is a thing you've got to treat different athletes. There's a way you've got to relate to your staff. I didn't want my coaches ever in the conference room or the lounge talking about nothing about athletics. No discussion about players or nothing. They don't—the teachers don't need to nothing of what we—you know. What we do at our place is open to anybody that wants to come and see. We're not trying to hide it. But we don't need to discuss it with everybody else. And I tell the young coaches, "Do your job. Pay your dues. Do what you were there to do, and do it fair, and do the best you can. Don't try to be a head coach right now. Don't try to be a hard-nosed coach right now. Just come in and the head coach and the other sports people are going to set the tone. You kind of work under the system, and pay your dues." And the thing about it, I'd tell coaches—and this is the thing I would do when I would leave to go on a trip. Sometimes we'd go to—during spring—to some college and stay three or four days. I'd tell my coaches, I said, "When I come back I want every player still here in our program. You've got some coaches sometimes when the head coach is gone they get that thought, they're going to kick a kid out. I said, "When I come back—I don't care what a kid do—I'm going to make that decision. We'll probably get rid of them if it's bad enough, but you don't,"—you know. I said, "I want the same folks here when I come back as I left here." And I'd tell the coaches and the coach would come to me and suggest we do things, we're going to look at all things. I'm not just going to take a coach's word. I'm

going to take his word, don't get me wrong, but I want him to be sure what we—you know. Then there's some coaches been with me a while, they'll come tell me this, and it's, "Okay. Fine." We've been together, you know. But some young coach just getting some authority, you can hurt yourself. And what I wanted to do when I started coaching, I always wanted the head coaches to tell me what to do and let me do it. If I don't do it the way you want me to do it get rid of me. I'm going to follow the rules in school, I'm going to do what I'm supposed to do. We're going to have kids get good grades. And we'd check on grades. I mean, you don't want no kid—having no kid fail. If they're not passing, you've got to be passing and everything. We work on that and we have study halls. And if at any time—I don't care who it is—if a teacher calls—sent word to me. A note to me or something—said, "I need this kid after school to make up some work." He's going to be there. And one of the assistant coaches is going to make sure he'll be there. I don't want to ever deny a teacher. Some teachers want to take advantage, but I would always explain to them. "I want the kid to pass. Grades are the most important thing. And I want the kid to act right." But you know I said, "Now he's going to pass. If it takes this to do it—if you want to stay after school and help him I want you to do that. I never did have no problem. The teachers would come out to the fieldhouse sometimes. Help a kid. Or send word to coaches, "He needs to come take this over." I said, "Okay." I don't care who it is. "Go do it." We'll deal with him later on. But I felt that we'd do that—and I didn't—if a teacher comes to me about some problem with somebody we're going to act on it. I'm not going to sit. We're going to act on it. I'm going to look into it. I don't want that same teacher coming to me ten times during the semester. What I'm saying, if he's going to do that we don't need that kid in that program—in that class—or him playing with us and everything. But we got—I think the most important thing—coaches got to get along with the teachers. And we did. I'd tell them, "Guys, we're teachers first." And we mingle. In the cafeteria we all go in at different times. I sat with the teachers. It was a good relationship. And you've got to have a principal—and I've had some great principals and I had a couple that wasn't great. When you've got a principal that's jealous of you—you have that kind of thing too, you know. You win too much, you know what I mean? They don't realize this. When we win they win. They own the school. You know what I mean?

DS:
Yeah.

LK:
You know, people that get jealous—and the most of them were that way—is one that's been in coaching and wasn't very successful.

DS:
Yeah.

LK:

And when they get—they don't want you. You don't realize cream goes to the top. You know. And you've got some—I'll tell you what. Sometimes them guys can be crooked. I had a principal—won't call his name—but we had an athletic fund where we—coke machine [2:29:00.2] and our department—this thing. We've got different stuff. And we put it in the bank. Then on some spring when our kids had to go to someplace to look at spring training or something a couple of days the school would play for them, but then I might get fifty, hundred dollars more out of the kitty. The help, because it wouldn't—and so I had one principal—and it'd in the bank. In the Estacado Athletic Fund. They'd sent it to the school. And for a long time they had it on file. And then I start noticing I would get it two or three days later—the statement of the month. And sometimes it'd be kind of—you could tell where it has been looked at. You know what I mean? And the thing about it I'm not going to get fired on spending the school's money. I knew how to tell. So what I did, I said, "Okay." And we've had—I've had four or five, six thousand dollars in there. Because when we'd go—what we would do—coaches' clinics. Coaching meets in summertime. Coaches' school. I would ____ [2:30:23.7] every one of my coaches, and they would get money. And if they didn't go to the coaching school they don't get the money. So I would turn it back in, but AD is always telling me, "I'll put it in your athletic fund." And we'd build up over the years. Plus the Coke fund and stuff. And so I started having the statements sent to my house. And the thing about it—but you had—principal wanted—looking at what. And I'm not going to get fired over spending money. If they ever call me, "Here it is. That's what we spent it on." Every coach would get a receipt, and we'll keep it on file. We'll do that. But you've got people jealous.

DS:

Oh yeah.

LK:

In all walks of life. They don't want you to—I had one principal, a guy. When we go on the road to eat, and the administrators come by. What we would do, if they want to come eat with the team or eat before our team gets there, well we'll pay for it. That's fine. But this is what I found out a little while later. When they go to an out of town game it might be six of them. I don't care how many. It's fine. They go by and eat, put it on our tab. And I found out later on that they done turned into central office six meals and they'd go to the principal. They give him the check that said, "A hundred dollars." But that goes in his pocket. And we done paid. So when I found that out I stopped that too. I got—the principal got mad. But that's—I mean why would—

DS:

Yeah.

LK:

You see what I mean?

DS:

It isn't like they're not making any money.

LK:

Yeah! You see what I'm saying? And they're going to do—I said—Boy, I tell you what. There's people in all kinds of ways. And they're very jealous of—because I had thought of the travel of where I wanted to go to take the coaches. We wanted to go up to Colorado for spring ball. Stay three or four days. We could do it. They'll pay for it and things. We had our own car. I mean, a van. Credit cards and things. But they would—I don't know. I had two or three that was great principals. I had some of them that just wanted their turn. You know.

DS:

Yeah.

LK:

But we—I enjoyed it. I was very challenged. I enjoyed coaching. I enjoyed—my coaches enjoyed coaching. And I let them coach. Can't none of them say I didn't let them coach. We enjoyed doing that. I would back them. I'd tell them, "You need to be right." If he's not right I'll tell him later on, but I'd always support him. I'm going to back him. Then I tell them later, "You should have handled it this way, and next time you need to do,"—you know. It's no problem. They just do it. It was good.

DS:

You know all good things come to an end. At what point did you decide that it was time for you to move on to the next chapter?

LK:

Let me tell you. I had a good friend of mine named Jim Bradley that coached in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Went to New Mexico State. While I was in college he was coaching at Las Cruces High School there. We got to be friends. Known him. He coached baseball and I played baseball. _____ [2:34:17.1] there. He would come to baseball games and this type of thing. Got to be real good friends. Then when I started coaching we would play them at Roswell. He was coaching Roswell then. We would play them or meet in scrimmage. But we would play them and everything. And after a long time he retired. I asked one time—oh I guess three years before I retired—I said, "Jim, when do you know when it's time to retire? How did you come to that conclusion?" He said, "You'll know when that time comes." I didn't understand it. He said, "You'll know." And tell you what happened. My last year—I'm always—when we go to the

coaching school, that's in August, and we come back I'm ready to get started. I mean, I'm ready. We all geared—although we worked during the summer, summer coachwork, they was on eleven, I was on twelve month. We worked during the summer. But I would always—you know. So had the coaching school, and coming back I said, in my mind, I said, Well, I wish I had one more week before we start. I said I wish I had one more week before we start. Then something hit me. I said, You know what? It's time. I always wanted to go. In thirty-nine years I'm ready to go. And now all of the sudden I want another week off after coaching school. I said, It's time. So I came on back and that first day coaching, met folks, you know. I told my coaches, I said, "Man, this is going to be my last year. I'm letting you know a year ahead of time. I'd tell who they needed telling. "This is my last year. I'm retiring. I want to let you know now." So I told the coaches, I said, "You guys want to start looking for someone. Whatever you want to do. But after this year I'm through." And I tell you what. Sherwood was the—was coaching. What they did when the coach quit after football season, usually they let you deal with study hall, or they give you something to do for the rest of the year. So when I—this is how—the other coaches almost—nobody believed this could happen like this. But my last game in November—Coach Sherwood said—I said, "Well, what do you want me to do?" I said, "I can stop in January." He said, "No, you need to the end of May." He said, "But you don't have no duties. You do what you want to do. You keep your van. You keep your credit card until last of May." So I had that whole semester. I some other coaches—the head coach from other schools couldn't believe it. And my neighbors—I still had a school car. I had two more other cars. I didn't have to worry. But I kept it. I would go to track meets, baseball. I had no—and I got paid. I was still on the contract. Nothing. I kept the car until the first August and I turned it in. But that was—the other coaches and things couldn't believe this. And I didn't broadcast it all over, but they could tell. But it happened. Sherwood set it up. _____ [2:38:50.6] "Yeah, he's served his time." Just like _____, but don't report to nobody. And I didn't have to. And my wife was kind of upset because I was here all the time. But we did some traveling. But I would always go to where some team was playing and watch and things. So it was good. They paid me—they started paying me good. I never owed them. I once told somebody—we have coffee—lots of retired coaches and things—every Tuesday at Cardinals. Some of them go Wednesday and Thursday too. I don't go to those. I don't go every Tuesday, but I go sometimes. But about a year ago—I wasn't there that that day. One of the guys was telling me that _____ [2:39:45.3] was saying, "You know, Kelley. We had the biggest school, but Estacado and them got more equipment, and they got what we got and more, and they got all this stuff." And I think one guy told him, "Yeah, he won more games than y'all won too.", "Well, I won lots of them!" They would get on them. _____ was saying something. He's a good friend of mine. In all I won more games than anybody else in Lubbock over the years. Football games. I was there a long time. But it was good. I tell you, I wouldn't pass it up for nothing.

DS:

You know, and we've got some time I think before—is it almost five?

LK:

Almost six.

DS:

Almost six!

LK:

We need to go.

DS:

We need to go. I was just going to ask you one quick one then.

LK:

Okay, go ahead.

DS:

It's just now that you've been retired for a while, what are you doing?

LK:

Well, I was playing golf, but I haven't played in a couple of years. I kind of got dehydrated, and was in the hospital for about two weeks, but I'm fine now. But we do lots of traveling. I've got a grandson playing. He's a senior down in Pflugerville High School. And the last three weeks we go down there on a Friday and watch his game that night, and come back Saturday. Then I can't go this week because I'm going to New Mexico. We go a lot. One thing, I talked to my pastor at church. You know, I believe in going as long as I can go. I'm able to go. Me and my wife love to go different places and travel, because there's going to be a time when I can't. I still drive and go. Usually we get up to go eat breakfast some mornings, and I get out there. I still mow my yard about once a week. When I feel like it I water everything. Kind of—we do lots of things together. But we kind of—you know, whatever comes to mind doing we'll do. We don't have no certain things planned out. I just enjoy being here. We've been married now for fifty—let's see. We married in '62, so you know how long it's been. We just enjoy doing things. I just bought my grandson a—I've been telling him—he's a senior this year. I've been telling him I'm about to get him a car. They've been saying I'm going to get him [?] [2:42:23.0] car, so he's been on me. So I said, "Well, you find out something. I'll look around here." First one to kind of—a little pickup truck and things. Finally he found—I wanted to get him something little for the first year to kind of get a chance to tab [?]. You know.

DS:

Yeah.

LK:

But he wanted—he got him—he found a 2013 Dodge Charger or something down there. So I said, “Oh lord.” So we went down and took care of that for him. Got it so then when I go down every week I give him a—he had a birthday. Was yesterday, I think. So I gave him a card and put a hundred dollar bill in there. I said, “How’s your gas? While I’m here do you want me to get you?” He said, “Well, I’m going to go fill up.” I said, “I’m going to fill you up. Let’s go down.” So we down to Circle K. But he don’t ask for that much, but we’ve been spending some time and stuff. I’m going to take care of the car because I always bought my—had a daughter. She’s deceased now. When they was in high school they had a car. Louis had a car. We bought them new cars. I always felt that we should. You know.

DS:

Yeah.

LK:

But we do lots of stuff.

DS:

Yeah. And that grandson is being recruited right now, isn’t he?

LK:

Yeah, he’s being recruited.

DS:

Have you told him what to look for in a coach? Or a school?

LK:

Yeah, I tell him, but I’m trying to stay out of it as much as I can.

DS:

Yeah. Even though with all your experience you still have to let him?

LK:

Oh yeah. Well, I just tell him—he always—he asks me how to—fine. I’ll give him little tips after the ball game. But he’s very aggressive and a good kid. He’s very mindful, very popular and everything. But I tell you what, get on that highway and it’ll beat you down sometimes. But I enjoy doing that. We just kind of—if something comes up like this New Mexico thing we go. My wife got some relatives that live in Arizona. In the Phoenix area. We go out there every other Thanksgiving. They come here one Thanksgiving. We go out there and stay a week. Just when we get the urge to go we take off and go. I put some mileage on the cars. I’ve got a 2001

Pathfinder van. Like got about a hundred seventy thousand. No, a hundred ninety thousand miles on it. Still runs good. Plus, I've got Jaguar we go on the highway with. But we just kind of pace ourselves and enjoy. What I like to do in the evenings this time. I get out on my patio and sit out there and have a beer or something. Just a relaxing evening. Put the water sprinkler system on the water. We sit out there lots of time. But it's good. We're getting up in age. You know, I had some great parents that didn't have very much, but they raised us to. Everything I've got—house been paid for. Had it appraised. I think it appraised about two hundred seventy-five thousand. So I don't know what—you know.

DS:
Yeah.

LK:
We've got my grandkids. But it's just—it's been good. Not been all roses, you know. It's been work. Like people said about you—I try to stay out of her way as much as I can. You know, I like to get up in the morning and cook breakfast. If we don't we'll go to Red Zone or we go to IHOP, but sometimes I cook breakfast. We eat out a lot because—fix food here. I like to get out there. I've got a barbeque pit. Cook steaks. Some ribs or something when I've got time, the weather is good, and just sit out and relax and things. It's been good. Let me show you.

DS:
Well, let me end this with a thank you. Thank you, Coach.

LK:
Okay. I'm going to show you.

End of Recording