

**ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION**

**MAIN ENTRY:** Thomas, Duane Julius

**DATE OF INTERVIEW:** November 4, 2001

**LOCATION OF INTERVIEW:** Del Mar, California (Via phone)

**INTERVIEWER:** Daniel U. Sánchez

**FORMAT:** File on Server, 2 Audio Cassettes

**IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:**

**LENGTH OF INTERVIEW:** 1 hour and 28 minutes

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:** Duane Thomas talks about his life as an African-American professional football player for the National Football League's Dallas Cowboys. He reflects on his education, time playing at West Texas State, and experiences with racial discrimination.

**ABSTRACT:**

<b>TAPE 1, SIDE A</b>	<b>TIME STAMP</b>
Introduction	:00
Background	
Interest in sports	
Commitment to running	
Junior High football	
Opposition from parents	
Coaches	
Qualities of a good coach	
High school	:09
Preparing for college	
Recruitment process	
Communication studies	
West Texas State University (currently West Texas A&M)	
Influenced by father and teammates	
Racial discrimination	

Classes :19  
Discrimination by professors  
Business Administration opportunities  
Work ethic

**TAPE 1, SIDE B**

National Football League (NFL) :30  
Drafted by Dallas Cowboys  
Double standards  
NFL control of media

Unfair compensation :41  
Speaking engagements  
Negotiations

Game preparation  
Disregard for position  
Reliance on playbooks

Dallas Cowboys :52  
Motivated by intimidation  
Racial differences and social prejudices

**TAPE 2, SIDE A**

Time in Dallas 1:01  
Tainted Most Valuable Player (MVP) vote  
Taught values  
Challenging conditions

Football today 1:13  
Improved benefits  
Equality on the field

Writing  
*The Fall of America's Team*  
Impact of words on the mind

Interview ended

**DATE OF BIRTH OF INFORMANT:** June 21, 1947

**GENDER OF INFORMANT:** Male

**ETHNICITY OF INFORMANT:** African-American