

**The David and Barbara Pryor Center  
for  
Arkansas Oral and Visual History**

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**Arkansas Memories Project**

Clyde Scott

Interviewed by Scott Lunsford and Bud Whetstone

March 12, 2010

Little Rock, Arkansas

## Objective

Oral history is a collection of an individual's memories and opinions. As such, it is subject to the innate fallibility of memory and is susceptible to inaccuracy. All researchers using these interviews should be aware of this reality and are encouraged to seek corroborating documentation when using any oral history interview.

The Pryor Center's objective is to collect audio and video recordings of interviews along with scanned images of family photographs and documents. These donated materials are carefully preserved, catalogued, and deposited in the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville. The transcripts, audio files, video highlight clips, and photographs are made available on the Pryor Center Web site at <http://pryorcenter.uark.edu>. The Pryor Center recommends that researchers utilize the audio recordings and highlight clips, in addition to the transcripts, to enhance their connection with the interviewee.

## Transcript Methodology

The Pryor Center recognizes that we cannot reproduce the spoken word in a written document; however, we strive to produce a transcript that represents the characteristics and unique qualities of the interviewee's speech pattern, style of speech, regional dialect, and personality. For the first twenty minutes of the interview, we attempt to transcribe verbatim all words and utterances that are spoken, such as uhs and ahs, false starts, and repetitions. Some of these elements are omitted after the first twenty minutes to improve readability.

The Pryor Center transcripts are prepared utilizing the *University of Arkansas Style Manual* for proper names, titles, and terms specific to the university. For all other style elements, we refer to the *Pryor Center Style Manual*, which is based primarily on *The Chicago Manual of Style 16th Edition*. We employ the following guidelines for consistency and readability:

- Em dashes separate repeated/false starts and incomplete/redirected sentences.
- Ellipses indicate the interruption of one speaker by another.
- Italics identify foreign words or terms and words emphasized by the speaker.
- Question marks enclose proper nouns for which we cannot verify the spelling and words that we cannot understand with certainty.

- Brackets enclose
  - italicized annotations of nonverbal sounds, such as laughter, and audible sounds, such as a doorbell ringing;
  - annotations for clarification and identification; and
  - standard English spelling of informal words.
- Commas are used in a conventional manner where possible to aid in readability.

### **Citation Information**

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**Scott Lunsford and Bud Whetstone interviewed Clyde Scott on  
March 12, 2010, in Little Rock, Arkansas.**

[00:00:00]

Scott Lunsford: Okay. Um—Scotty . . .

Clyde Scott: Yeah.

SL: . . . this is—uh—our second day here at—uh—your and Leslie's residence [*CL clears throat*] in Little Rock, Arkansas. Today's date is the—uh—twelfth of March. The year is 2010, and I'm gonna tell you a little secret about today. It's my birthday.

CS: Oh, [*laughs*] well . . .

SL: And I—I can't—I . . .

SL: Thank you. And I—I—I can't tell you what a great honor it is to be spending this time with you and what a gift it is—uh—on my birthday [*bell rings*] to be sittin' across from you.

CS: Well, you're just nice to say that.

SL: Well, no, it's . . .

CS: But I appreciate it.

[00:00:34] SL: . . . it's the way I feel. Um—we're gonna—um—we talked a whole lot about your growin' up and your childhood and—um—uh—we—we started you out in Dixie, [*CS clears throat*] and w—we got you to Smackover. And—uh—I—I get here this morning, and it's not unusual for—for people to—to

think of stories that they—they think they oughta tell that they forgot to tell or had been struggling with whether or not to tell it. And you—and you came forth this morning with—with a—a really good, good story—uh—about—uh—your move from—uh—and the family's move from Dixie to Smackover. And—and this story involves your father and—uh—some stuff that happened on the way. And I—I just want you to—to feel good about tellin' this story because it's a great story and it just adds—um—even more emphasis on what a great family—uh—and how blessed you've been in your life with your father and—and your family. So tell me—you—so the—the scenario is—is that the oil fields dry up in—in Dixie, Louisiana. It's in the Depression. Uh—there's at least seven children moving from Dixie to Smackover. Your dad and your mom and you and six siblings are in the middle of the Depression and were—and were tryin' to find more work and were—were movin' to Smackover, Arkansas. Now tell me about that trip.

[00:02:05] CS: It—uh—it was a bad time for the Scott family, really. Uh—the production—uh—the lease Dad was workin' had dropped below—uh—commercially feasible and the—the Texas Oil Company—and they closed the lease down and—uh—then tha—with tha—that went Dad's job. So we—and [*clears throat*] the

other place that—uh—Dad had—could have a job if he could get it would be Smackover 'cause they were still producin' oil there.

SL: Mh-hmm.

[00:02:38] CS: So the Scott family headed out for Smackover. Uh—the first—uh—we stopped in a little town—uh—Lewisville, on the way to Smackover. Uh—the rest of the story is—is bad for me, but I'm gonna tell it. Dad was travelin' with ten kids. He left us one day and went in a grocery store and came out with groceries. The ne—and—and—and that—that served us well for one day. The next day, unfortunately, several cars came to the house, and, as it turned out, they were federal agents. Dad had cashed a counterfeit bill to buy the groceries. I have no—no idea, but th—the one thing's certain that I do know Dad didn't make the thing, but he had—had it, and he did cash it. Whether he was—had knowledge of bein' counterfeit, I—I don't—I can't attest to that. But it happened, and now the federal agents are there to pick him up, which they did. And then for the next nine months, Dad was in prison, and the Scott family continued their travel to Smackover. And Dad got outta prison and came to Smackover, and I—and then—I've told part of the story of him being there and his working there and our relationship, and my relationship workin' with my dad has been told. And Scott, I'll

turn it back over to you [*unclear words*] . . .

[00:04:59] SL: Well, Scotty, when—when—um—when the—uh—  
federal agents came to the—to the house to arrest your father,  
whe—where were you?

CS: I was—I was back behind the house. I was over—I—I don't  
know ?whether it was?—but—but I was attracted by these cars  
comin' up and the people, you know, very proper-dressed  
people, and . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: . . . I wanted to know what was going on. So I came around the  
corner of the house, and Dad was on the porch, and for the first  
time, my dad was cryin', which was just horrible. I—I—I just—I  
couldn't imagine my dad cryin'. So I ran—I ran to Mom. She  
was standin' in the door, and she hugged me an—and tried to  
tell me that she—"Well, it's okay. It's okay. Don't—you know,  
it's okay. I—I'll tell you later. It's—it's okay." And it wasn't. It  
wasn't okay. It was a terrible thing. My dad is goin' to prison,  
and it was a tough time for the Scott family for the next few  
weeks . . .

SL: So . . .

CS: . . . until we got to Smackover.

[00:06:23] SL: . . . so you're—you're there in the doorway with your

mom.

CS: Yeah.

SL: Uh—your dad i—is crying, and there's—uh—federal agents on the porch. Wha—what happens? Do they—um—um—te—tell me how the federal agents treated your father.

CS: They—it—it—it—uh—it wasn't—it wasn't a friendly rela—the federal agents, they were—uh—they were handling my father roughly, an—and I—I didn't understand that. That—that—that was not natural, you know.

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: Dad had never been roughed up, you know, or in that—in that way ever, you know. But these people were very—and one of 'em was turnin' him around, and then I—I saw these—this guy take handcuffs out of his pocket and whirl Dad around and—and cuffed his hands behind him. And it—tha—that wasn't natural, you know. Dad would've put his—he would've—he would've—uh—done anything, you know, whatever. But—and I didn't understand what was going on at that time, and it was later Mama told me all of it, but at that moment I—I—I couldn't believe what I was seein', and I was—uh—frankly, I was horrified [*unclear words*].

[00:07:51] SL: Were all the other kids—uh—there, too? Were all



the other—were your brothers and sisters there, too?

CS: I—I can't—I can't attest to that 'cause I don't even remember. Audie, my older brother, I think he was not there. And—uh—my sisters, I don't think they understood any more than I did . . .

SL: Yeah.

CS: . . . what was going on.

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: And—uh—they didn't know enough about it to be upset and disturbed, seemingly, as I was. But that—that happened, and my dad served, I believe, seven to nine months in—in prison.

SL: Mh-hmm.

[00:08:34] CS: We continued on to Smackover, and—uh—we have—we have discussed that. And—uh—we picked up where Dad came back from prison, and—uh—a job was waitin' for him because he was—uh—he was—uh—been working in the oil fields—the Texas Oil Company—for a year or so so . . .

SL: He was one of the best workers in that oil field.

CS: And he was a good worker.

SL: Yeah.

[00:09:04] CS: He was a very good worker. Uh—I—I read an article, and it made me feel so good after what had happened, and—uh—it—it—the book is around, and—and I—I pick it up

sometime and—and read it again, and it—it was a—it was written by one of the people who worked with my dad and for my dad. Dad was a gang pusher.

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: He supervised four or five other men, and one of these men wrote a little article sayin' that my dad was one of the nicest persons that he had ever been around and he was so proud to be workin' with him at—so that—that—that made me feel real good, and it still does.

[00:10:02] SL: Do you remember much of that time without your dad in Smackover?

CS: Oh gee, it—uh—course, I got a job, and my older brother got a job. I worked several jobs.

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: My older brother did the same, and we—uh—the thing I remember about that—those days—Dad's gone, and no money comin' in. And we goin' out, each of us, my older brother and I, to—to get jobs and—and—uh—help with the family. The people were so nice to us. They really were. They, immediately, they—uh—they took me in. I got a job at a grocery store. I got a job at a—at a drugstore. Just—uh—I got a job at the icehouse. Just—I got—everywhere I would go, I got a job, and that meant I

could bring money home to take care of the family. And so we did that until Dad got back. But I—I—and then later on—and—and I—we've—I've already addressed the fact of my goin' to the Naval Academy and how I got there and how I was assisted and helped by the people there in Smackover. And they—uh—and—and I—uh—now I—I appreciate so much what they did for me, and—and the town of Smackover is very, very dear to me. Always will be. Great place. Great people.

[00:11:52] SL: Your family got blessed there, didn't they?

CS: Absolutely.

SL: Um—well, thank you for that story. I—I think—um—uh—the way the community rallied around your family and supported y'all and—uh—you know, your father was a—a—a—a veteran and a good man and raised great kids. I think—I think this just adds—um—a—a good picture of the times during the Depression and how desperate folks were and how family—and families and communities came together to support each other, so this is a good story, Scotty. I—I'm—I'm grateful to have it. [00:12:31] I—you know—uh—there was another—you were a little bit concerned. I know you lost some sleep last night worrying about this, and I know that you were also a little bit worried about—uh—the age that you thought you may have been when you

were workin' with your dad on the rigs, up at the top of the rig. Um—uh—you've—yesterday you thought you were around ten years old, and today you're thinkin' you were probably a little older than that, and so I'm just gonna correct that now here while we're talkin'. And I—I think what we've done is we've kind of cleaned up yesterday's work a little bit, and we've—we've gotten a great additional story of your life this morning—uh—that—um—got passed over yesterday. I—I think—I'm going to—uh—encourage you. If you think of any other stories of your childhood while Bud is—is workin' with you and—or I'm workin' with you, it's okay to go back. It's okay to go back and forth. We don't have to stay where we are in the chronology of your story. This stuff is all valua—valuable history, and it—it—it's inspirational stuff, so I—I want to encourage you to feel very comfortable to talk about anything that comes to your mind at any moment. It's—it's just a treasure. All of it is. And I—I gotta thank you . . .

CS: Scott, you make me feel real good.

SL: Well . . .

CS: I appreciate you, partner.

SL: . . . you should feel good.

CS: Believe me.

SL: You've had—you've had a—a magnificent life, and you have—  
uh—um—you've made a difference in a lotta people's lives.  
Um—one of those people's lives that you made [*laughs*] a huge  
difference in is sitting in this room. [00:14:08] And—and Bud  
Whetstone is with us today. He's gonna take over some of the  
interviewing—uh—on your career because there's nobody in the  
world that knows more about your career than Bud Whetstone.  
And he has been instrumental in helping you feel at ease and  
letting the Pryor Center gather your story. And—uh—uh—I can't  
be prouder to be workin' with both of you than I—than I am  
today.

CS: Bud's one of my best friends.

SL: Well, you guys are gonna have . . .

CS: Has been and always will be.

SL: . . . you guys are gonna have a great time.

CS: And I appreciate him.

SL: Well, I do, too. Uh—I—I'm gonna tell you that I want you to do  
most of the talkin'. Now he's gonna set up some stories for you,  
but I want you to—to tell your story the way you want it. Bud is  
gonna—uh—give us some facts and details that you may not be  
able to exactly get. He's gonna steer us through your career,  
and he's gonna do a great job because I've been talkin' with Bud

for almost a year about this interview, and—uh—I have every confidence in the world that you guys [*someone clears throat*] are gonna have a good time. Now I'm gonna—uh—we're gonna stop tape here just for a moment.

[Tape stopped]

[00:15:16] Bud Whetstone: I'm Bud Whetstone, and I have known Clyde Scott since—uh—1948, when he autographed my helmet in—uh—Little Rock, Arkansas, before a football game. So this is quite an honor for me to be here, Scotty, and have an opportunity to—to go through your career. And—uh—let me start off by goin' back with you to—uh—when you first started your athletic career. What—what gave you the idea even to—to—uh—pursue that at all, to be a football player or track or anything else?

CS: I've—I've thought about that myself, [*laughs*] Bud. I don't—I—I really—it—I just—seemed I gravitated to the—up a little I—in my athletic ability—up a little bit up—up and to a point where I could perform. And actually—uh—in high school all the guys did, you know. When you—when you got old enough, you—you played basketball and played football and then you—if they had a track team, you'd go on the track team. All of the guys did that, you know. And I just happened to fall right in line with 'em and

tryin' desperately to be a little better today than I was yesterday, you know, and—and—uh . . .

BW: Your older bro . . .

CS: . . . had a lotta luck and a lotta nice people to help me along with it, Bud.

[00:16:47] BW: Your older brother, Audie, was a football player.

CS: He was a good football player. Got a scholarship to—uh—Southwestern in Memphis. Graduated until he went in the Army and—and—uh—he was in the—a pilot in the Marine Corps.

BW: Did you ever watch him play football? He was older than you, bout three years older.

CS: [*Laughs*] I shouldn't be sayin' this, you know, right in front of all these here—the audience. But the—the—our—our stadium there at Smackover's kinda small, but it kind of opened up into the back side. I could go around [*laughs*—I could go around it and crawl under a couple of boards and—and I'm lookin' at the field. So I'd just go—I slipped in, is what [*laughs*] I'm tryin' to tell you, to watch my older brother play. And he—he was good. I—uh—I'm sorry that—uh—I—I'm sorry I didn't get to see and do more with my—my older brother, Audie, but—uh—he did well.

[00:18:01] BW: Did he—when he went to—uh—Memphis to college, did he play ball at that time?

CS: Played ball, and—uh—unfortunately, I didn't get a chance to see him play. But I got reports back that he was—that he was—he was a good football player.

[00:18:20] BW: And then he went into the Marine Corps.

CS: Went into Marine Corps and . . .

BW: And he never—he never went back and played after that, did he?

CS: Never went, no.

[00:18:27] BW: Okay. Now let's talk about—you told us yesterday about you beat Johnny. The story of you beat Johnny.

CS: *[Laughs]* Oh, that! Oh, Bud, you know, it—it—it—it—*[laughs]* I laugh, but it is a true story, and I—I wish I knew more about the game we were playin', you know. But—uh—I think you had asked me, "When did you realize you, you know, that you were gonna—or could—uh—become an athlete or—or perform?" This game we were playin' was a—a kind of a tag game. Uh—I—I—can't—I really can't describe what it was. But it—anyway, you—you get the—the ball or the whatever and then—then you run around the building, and couple of guys chasin' you an—and it's a race. It's just a race and just a way to race. And I was caught and handed the ball or the whatever and around the building I go. And then *[laughs]* when I come back, this little girl over here—little girl—curly-headed girl, said—she says, "You beat





Johnny!" [*laughs*] and "Nobody can beat Johnny!" [*Laughs*]  
Well, ?you know that?—this is—this is—this is a silly story I'm  
tellin', but it's the truth. But it gave—but it—it gave me a  
feeling, "Hey, [*laughs*] I can do somethin', you know. I—I can  
run. Yeah." So from that time on, I—I started beatin' a lotta  
Johnnies, [*laughs*] and I—I—I—I just made up my mind to do it,  
and—and I—and then I—whatever I could do to be better at it, I  
did it along the way. And—uh . . .

[End of verbatim transcription]

[00:20:23] BW: Your goal pretty much was to beat all the Johnnies in  
the world, wasn't it?

CS: My goal was to beat all the [*laughs*] guys. You're right. Now  
that was a silly story, but it's the truth.

BW: Well, did it give you a little confidence?

CS: Absolutely.

BW: Now that was a . . .

CS: Absolutely.

BW: . . . that was at Crossroads . . .

CS: Crossroads.

BW: . . . Arkan . . .

CS: Just a little community—little church school, really. And I—I was  
there just a few months, as—I can't remember. ?Now? you're

goin' back so far now. I ju—I was just there at that time.

BW: Bout how old—bout how old was that . . .

[00:20:56] CS: Next stop was Standard Umsted, which is a little oil field community type, and I was there just a few months. And I can't even begin to bring you up to date on what date it was and what—and then the next step, I was at Smackover. And I can't even tell you the day that I enrolled at Smackover, so I'm—  
but . . .

[00:21:24] BW: Now is Umsted where you first started playin' football?

CS: Standard Umsted, yeah. I—and I didn't—I wasn't a runnin' back there. I was in the line, I remember. [*Laughs*] I remember gettin' bopped around pretty good in the line, but my only defense was I—is quickness. I'd step aside or get up. I'd get outta their way. I was—I learned to be quick.

[00:21:51] BW: Well, when did you start bein' a runnin' back or get in the backfield?

CS: Went to Smackover, and the first football I played was the junior grade. It was little—I don't know how to—I don't even know how to explain it, but it's a junior-grade football level. And the first game we played, I broke my left arm so severely; it was a compound fracture and didn't think I'd ever, ever play again.

And then, of course, the next year I was in the—playing on the varsity team and . . .

[00:22:48] BW: I don't want to talk about your track career completely, but in junior high school, I believe you had a state record in junior high school, did you not, with the hurdles or runnin'? Do you recall that?

CS: I believe that was the low hurdles. But I remember running track, yes, in . . .

BW: Well, your records showed it would be 1940, and you were runnin' 120-yard low hurdles, and you ran it in 15.3 seconds.

CS: Uh-huh.

BW: Does that sound about right?

CS: That's about right.

[00:23:29] BW: Well now, you had played—you had already played football, and of course, track season's after football.

CS: Mh-hmm.

BW: So you apparently healed up from your arm and then ran . . .

CS: Mh-hmm.

BW: . . . track that year?

CS: Mh-hmm. Mh-hmm.

[00:23:40] BW: Now how did you get the idea that you might run the hurdles in the first place?

CS: I've [*laughs*]*—*Bud, it—Smackover didn't even have a hurdle. They didn't have a track and didn't have hurdles, and it was just—all of a sudden it was something I thought I wanted to do, and I made some hurdles. [*Laughs*] Our school is right on a highway, the Camden highway. You look down, and the sawmill is just across the street and down a ways. And they cut these—trimmin' these boards they called slabs, and they would be on a belt that carried 'em up into a burn pile up there. So I just took a few of those slab back and made hurdles. I'd drive a stake in the ground here and one over here. [*Points right and left*] Run a slab across. Put nails in the thing. [*Laughs*] And it was a hurdle, but it, course, it was a permanent hurdle. You kinda—you learn not to hit the hurdle. That's the first thing you learn. But that was the first hurdles that I've—and I've—course, I had the height of the regular hurdle, but that was where I started hurdling.

[00:25:10] BW: And that was . . .

CS: Yeah.

BW: . . . in junior high school?

CS: Junior high school. And the only hurdles I would run would be in El Dorado. You—you've—you're aware with—of their track. They—I think they had—I don't know how many hurdles they

had, but Camden was the next place that I had hurdles to run over and then the state meet in Little Rock. And I'm sayin' all that—I didn't—I never had a track coach. Never did. All my whole career. Junior high on up way high school, college, didn't have a track coach.

[00:25:53] BW: You never had a hurdles coach at all?

CS: A hurdle coach, never. Never.

BW: Set a world record.

CS: You know, and [*laughs*]*—yeah, bu—I really did, and even after that, I go to the Olympics, for instance. I'm watchin' the other guys. They do things, you know. They had a technique, and I learned late, so late, that there truly is a technique to the hurdles that—you know, it's not just runnin'. My technique was run real fast and jump over the hurdle and then run like hell to the next one. That was my [*laughs*] technique. But then I saw these guys, you know, they—it was a place they'd have their arms when they go over. Reason, you know, you don't—you get your speed on the ground, not in the air. And you use your arm for—to get you over the hurdle and to the ground on the other side, so you can run at—and—technique.*

[00:26:59] BW: When did you learn that there was a technique?

CS: That was [*laughs*] almost after my career was over. Almost

after my career was over, I learned that there was a technique.

BW: Now was that when . . .

CS: Before I had just . . .

BW: . . . was that when you went to California?

CS: In California. On television, you know. Television came along, and they could analyze. And the computer world was entering into sports, too, and all of this was so very new to me.

[00:27:38] BW: Had you already set the world record in hurdles when you found out there was a technique?



CS: Yeah, that's right. That's right. And I—it saddens to think—me—that I didn't win the gold at the Olympics. I regret that. I sh—I didn't put the right effort in. I didn't—something was missing there. If I could've gone to the next Olympics and have a chance to utilize all the information that I had up to that point, I would've had much better chance to win the gold. But I'd signed a contract with the Eagles, and of course, you couldn't—your amateur standing was zero. And—but now, you know, our professionals go to the Olympics, our professional basketball players, our professional track, and I just wish I'd've had that opportunity to go to the Olympics after . . .

[00:28:59] BW: The rule, I believe, in the 1940s was that if you played any professional sport you could not ever participate in

any amateur sport. Is that . . .

CS: That's right . . .

BW: . . . the way it was?

CS: . . . but they changed that. It's changed to now our professionals go to the Olympics. Our basketball team, our—even track is turned professional. The . . .

[00:29:27] BW: Let's talk about the—when you were in high school and the track portion. We'll talk about football in a minute. Let's talk about track right now. Bout how big were you when you were, like, a sophomore in high school? What was your size?

CS: Oh, in height I guess I was about five nine or ten, in height, if that's . . .

BW: Right.

CS: . . . if that's what you're askin'. But that was about—and I needed, actually, I needed to be [*laughs*] taller than that. I needed to be—have longer legs. But you asked me that question. I don't even remember exactly how tall I was when I ran in the Olympics, but I think it was about five eleven.

BW: So in high school you started off as a sophomore somewhere around five nine, five ten? Somethin' like that, you think?

CS: Somethin' like that. Yeah.

BW: You weighed about a hund—your scrapbook showed you weighed about a hundred and sixty pounds. Is—would that be ri—bout right to your memory?

CS: The scrapbook, it—well, yeah. In the first game—first football game I played, the program for that game shows my weight at a hundred and sixty-five pounds and that—I think that the heaviest I was throughout my football career was about one seventy-five was tops.

[00:31:12] BW: When we look at your scrapbook and w—you only have a scrapbook for your junior—sophomore and junior year, and the track part of it is—we don't have that at all. And so I'm gonna have to ask you by memory, but let's go back to—let me ask you, first of all, why don't we have the rest of that scrapbook?

CS: Bud, you asked me a question that I'm not gonna be able to answer.

BW: Well, let's . . .

CS: You're talkin' about—yeah, repeat your question, Bud.

BW: Well, let me give you a little lead-in on that.

CS: Okay.

BW: I believe you had a girlfriend that kept your scrapbook . . .

CS: Oh! [*Laughs*]



BW: . . . in high school. Okay?

CS: Oh yeah. Yeah, that . . .

BW: Okay, tell us about that.

CS: I understand now. [*Laughs*] Oh boy. I should have those.

Miriam Jones who—the only girl that I dated in high school, left and went to college, but up until then she was keepin' the scrapbook. Well, she left and went to college, and then my wife took it up a little later on, and so there was a gap in between—on the [*laughs*] . . .

[00:32:38] BW: So what we find out when we look at your

scrapbooks is that you participated in track in four events, and that would be the 120-yard high hurdles; the 220-yard low hurdles; the javelin; and the high jump. Is that the way you recall it?

CS: Mh-hmm.

BW: Why just four events? Did—fast as you were, why didn't you run a 100-yard dash?

CS: We had—I think you could only participate in so many events, I think. And back then it was a team effort in track and not individual, so I participated in events that would—could contribute to more points for the team, and that's why you find me running 100-yard dash in one and hurdles in another,

throwin' the javelin in the other one, and a mixture. But it was a team effort that we were tryin' to accomplish.

[00:33:53] BW: So the—your coach was more interested in team points than he was your individual career?

CS: Absolutely. He wasn't tryin' to promote anybody. He was promotin' the schools and the team.

[00:34:03] BW: Now we don't have anything on your senior year as far as an—your scrapbook is concerned, but there's a notation in one book from Smackover that said that you held the 100-yard dash record and ran a 9.8. Do you remember that? Must've run it one time or sometime.

CS: I don't remember the—I don't—Bud, you're runnin' somethin' by me now that I'm not really—nine—the 9.8 doesn't—I just don't remember the . . .

BW: Could be or could not? It could be that it's that and could be that it wasn't?

CS: Could be that . . .

BW: Just don't remember?

CS: That's right. It could be that. Mh-hmm.

[00:34:58] BW: Kay. Now your sophomore year you were runnin' the hurdles, and you set a state record your sophomore year. Do you remember that?

CS: I remember it. I do, yeah.

BW: Well, tell us about that. It's—in the—it says it was on a wet track. Do you remember that much?

CS: Well, that—vaguely, yeah. [*Clears throat*] Scuse me.

BW: Kay, that was 120-yard high hurdles and—now we're talkin' yards and not meters, aren't . . .

CS: That's right.

BW: Correct? They didn't run in . . .

CS: Yeah, yeah.

BW: . . . didn't run in meters at that time.

CS: That's right.

[00:35:41] BW: So it's—you tied the state record in 15.5. Do you remember that part?

CS: Yeah.

BW: Where was that?

CS: I believe that was at—in Little Rock at the state meet. I—Bud, you're goin' back a long way for this old fellow to be [*laughter*] thinkin' back and pickin' up that kinda information. It—you're taxing [*laughs*] my memory on it. And I'd have to get some of the scrapbooks that my wife has been keepin' to get—to answer some questions you're askin'.

[00:36:25] BW: Okay. Well, I apologize for givin' this information

out, but I know it's hard for you to remember it, these exact times and dates and so forth. But your scrapbook also shows that your—the high hurdles, you ran that in 14.5, and that was a record, and you broke your own record by a full second.

CS: Mh-hmm.

BW: Is that—do you recall that?

CS: Well, I remember breakin' my own record. Yeah.

BW: And then the twen—220 low hurdles, you ran that in 23.3 seconds, and that was a full second and a half off your record of the year before. That's your junior year.

CS: Yeah, and that, in time, represents [*laughs*] a sizeable space on the track.

[00:37:24] BW: Well, a second and a second and a half [*CS clears throat*—to break a record a sec and a sec and a half, I've never heard of that. How did you do that?

CS: It's a [*laughs*—it is a dramatic improvement. It is that.

BW: Was there a way that you did that, or were you just gettin' stronger or more practice or what?

CS: I can't—may—I guess maybe just the—yeah, gettin'—workin' with certain—strengthening my body, in a way, especially my legs, and changin' and doin' more, practicin' more. And maybe [*laughs*] . . .

BW: Well, let . . .

CS: . . . the technique is settin' in, gettin' over the hurdles, and that improves as—through practice.

[00:38:14] BW: Well, how many hurdles did you have of your homemade hurdles that you built yourself?

CS: Three.

BW: You . . .

CS: I had three and . . .

BW: Now were they high hurdles or low hurdles?

CS: High hurdles. That—I didn't—I—it was [*laughs*] . . .

BW: Do you . . .

CS: I do remember wishing every time I'd go out to practice on these hurdles that it—"I wish I had a real hurdle," you know. I just—"I wish I were at Camden right now goin' over the real hurdles." And then when I got to the state meet at Little Rock and just to have a real hurdle to run. But yeah, it—I think it improved my speed and improved everything about it.

BW: Well, Scotty . . .

CS: Goin' over a real hurdle rather than a . . .

BW: . . . Scotty, help us understand.

CS: [*Unclear words*]

[00:39:29] BW: Help us understand. How do you practice for the

220-yard low hurdles with three high hurdles on a grass field?

CS: Well, it's just a—you don't. [*Laughs*] Oh boy, it's not easy. It's not easy. It would've been—I often think it—have—if I could've improved on the things that I did in track. If I could've gone back and had real hurdles, for instance, or had a coach to explain how to do it. Some—start with some technique that's not just jumpin' over the thing and runnin'. It—I often wonder where I would end up if I'd've had those things. Maybe—hopefully a little better and—because it—it's an unusual—especially hurdles and later on finding out there—there's a special technique when you get up into the speed that carries you to the—to win under—with the competition you'll be faced with. And if you could've had these things back in the beginning to work in, what—how you would end up out there. Hopefully better than I did.

[00:41:13] BW: Then as far as your career in general goes, I'm gettin' the impression from readin' your scrapbooks that an overall theme was Scotty's injured and may not be in the next game or may not be able to do this or that 'cause you were injured a lot.

CS: Seem like I was always gettin' over an injury—gettin'—preparing for the next race or the next game. I was hurt a lot, especially

my ankles in the beginning. In high school they referred to it as broken ankle. Well, that—and then that required a lot of taping, and they'd try to change the method of taping, would—tryin' to help. But my ankles were weak, that's for sure, and I had trouble all the way in high school with my ankle.

BW: Kay, you tol . . .

CS: And then later on, I hurt—started with—first with my right knee, and then that followed me all the way through professional football and finally created a situation where I had to quit, come home.

[00:42:42] BW: On your ankle or your foot, it was a metatarsal bone, you told me?

CS: Yeah, it—your foot is like this [holds hand out flat] and then it—you cup your hand, and the metatarsal arch in your foot is on the bottom side of your foot, and it's, like, just a concave like this. [Points to cupped hand] And they call it the metatarsal arch. It's on the bottom of your foot and up over the—up just below your toes. And it's a very serious situation if you destroy that arch, but I did and went all the way through professional—most of my professional career.

[00:43:34] BW: Now when did you hurt your [CS clears throat]—the arch? When did you hurt your foot and ankle?

CS: Played [*clears throat*]*—I was at Naval Academy, and we were playin' Duke University, and I—that was the—that was when I really destroyed that arch. And then it was a little later on the trainer for the Washington Redskins—they took me over.*

[*Clears throat*] Scuse me. He had developed a technique where he could take a—some gauze and roll it up into a roll and then twist it and lay it in that space where the arch should be and then tape over that. And it worked. It worked fairly well. But then he came right along behind that and made a steel plate that he wore—that I wore inside my shoe, and it replaced that arch. But you had to tape over it, and of course, it was much better than anything else before, but still it wasn't—I was just playin' with a handicap the whole time.

[00:45:04] BW: The—did you wear that steel arch when you ran track?

CS: [*Unclear word*] [*clears throat*]*—scuse me. Part of the time. Finally, there at the last, I found I could do better without it, but when I could wear the big shoe playin' football, it served well. But when I had to red—when it was reduced down to the track shoe, it was best to have the rolled tape that fit in that crevice. But . . .*

Leslie Scott: [*Unclear words*]



CS: I'm not makin' much sense, Bud, but . . .

BW: Can we turn it off?

Trey Lange: Yes, we can stop tape. Stopping.

CS: . . . the steel brace worked well with football . . .

BW: Just a second.

CS: . . . but it didn't with track.

BW: Kay. Just a second. We're gonna cut the tape off.

TL: Stop tape.

[Tape stopped]

[00:46:03] BW: Scotty, you had a lotta injuries in high school and continued to have injuries in college. How did the injuries, like your foot and ankle injury, how did that affect your running [*airplane flies over*] the hurdles?

CS: I've—because of injuries, I've had to change the—my—what I call my lead foot more than once, and it all—you hurt your ankle on the right, and if it doesn't get well, if it—for a meet that's comin' up, you merely change your way that you start over the hurdle to the other—and shift the power—go to the [*pats leg*]—another power source, to the other foot. And because of injuries, I've had to change my lead, what I call my lead foot, more than once. And . . .

[00:47:20] BW: Do you know whether, when you set the world

record, whether you were using your right or left foot?

CS: I think my power foot was my left at that time. I think it was my left foot, Bud. It's ridiculous that I don't know right off, but I think my lead at that time was my left foot. And the reason I hesitate, it'd shift. There are other times I've led with my right foot. I don't know whether I've set a record or not with it that—with that lead foot bein' on the right side. I—but I think the question you asked—I think it was on the left side. My le—my power foot—power leg was on my left side, my lead foot.

And . . .

[00:48:20] BW: When we review some of your photographs in your scrapbook . . .

CS: That's the best way to [*laughs*] solve that problem is look at the—look what I did. I think there's a picture maybe of the Olympics. And certainly there's some pictures of some of the Southwest Conference meet.

BW: Was . . .

CS: So it's just—you just look at the pictures and tell which [*unclear word*] . . .

BW: Some of the time you—seems like you're usin' one leg; other times you're usin' the other.

CS: That's right, and it has to do with the—this—the—my weak

ankles. I started back in high school havin' problem with my ankles, and it plagued me throughout my athletic career.

[00:49:12] BW: Now you've told us that the rules were in high school that you could only enter four events, and your events were the 120 high hurdles, 220 lows, javelin, and high jump.

CS: Yeah.

BW: Now tell us about the javelin.

CS: Javelin, I started way back there when I'd—when I made those hurdles out of what I—what they call a slab. It's that piece of board that they cut off. And one day I was gatherin' the equipment to make these hurdles, and I came up with one that was bout six feet long, and I started practice throwin' it like a hurdle—I mean, like a javelin. And I continued throwin' the doggone thing, throwin' them. And then I got where I, you know—then when I—it helped me when I threw the javelin. And I started throwin' javelin in the meets, and it all started back there with that slab—that—by that hurdle that I was building at the time and practiced throwin' it and then it—just carried that over into the meet.

[00:50:37] BW: Well, who was your coach?

CS: Mac Gibbons was the coach. He was the coach of everything. He was the coach of track, of football. I think he coached the

girls, the boys, and—most high schools just had one coach, and he wasn't a track coach. He didn't know more—any more about it than I did. But he was the coach, and they do whatever—used people however they need to to make the most points when they go to a meet, track meet. They're gettin' points to—for the school, not for the individual.

[00:51:25] BW: According to your cra—your, [*clears throat*] scuse me, scrapbook, you threw the javelin a hundred and eighty-nine feet and four inches. And then it said one time you threw it two hundred and seven feet, but you had your hand over the line.

CS: Yeah.

BW: Is that . . .

CS: Yeah, you can't cross the line once you release that javelin.

[00:51:51] BW: Well, to put that in perspective, you know who "Schoolboy" Rowe was?

CS: Oh yeah, a great baseball player.

BW: Right. He was from El Dorado.

CS: You talkin' about a strong right arm, he had it.

BW: Well, he could throw a football a hundred yards, they said and . . .

CS: Yeah.

BW: . . . and—have you heard that?

CS: I'd heard that. Uh-huh. Yeah.

BW: Well, he could throw a javelin a hundred and seventy-seven feet and nine inches, and you threw it a hundred and eighty-nine and four inches.

CS: Yeah, that—and that was an acon—accomplishment on my part, I tell you. To throw a javelin that far, I didn't—I really didn't—I wasn't—didn't have the body to throw a javelin. Maybe for running and maybe jumpin', but for throwin' a javen—javelin, I needed more muscle that I didn't have. But "Schoolboy" Rowe, yeah, he was one of the real greats in baseball, and obviously, at throwin' the javelin, he was the best.

[00:53:00] BW: Well, when you threw the javelin, was that a record, or do you know?

CS: I think it was a record that would—at the state—the univer—a rec—university record that stayed on the books for a long time, Bud. I don't know whether it's still—it—I don't know whether it's still there or not. I really don't.

BW: Now let's talk about—now wha—the—what I'm reading off to you now and what I'm talking about now when I'm talkin' bout the javelin, that's in high school.

CS: Uh-huh.

[00:53:32] BW: Now your high jump. You high jumped also. Help us

with that.

CS: The high ju—I high jumped because the coach told me to high jump. I wasn't a high jumper. [*Laughs*] He just wanted to get some more points at the meet, and there were different styles of gettin' over the doggone bar, and I'd use one technique one time; the next time it would be something else. I had no set way that—to get over the bar. Just kinda like the Scott method; just run up there and jump as high as you could. [*Laughs*] Jump as high as you could. And—but they—the style I was usin' that you face the bar, and you go up and roll over—roll your body over the bar. That's—that style last a few years and then—but I wasn't a—that wasn't my forte. I could—for a high school participant, I could do well, but I wasn't a high jumper. Get into college, I wasn't a high jumper. [00:55:03] I—one of the—my regrets in track is that I didn't participate in the decathlon and that—I'd have to throw the javelin, high jump, and do it all. I like—I'd—I wish now I had participated. I think I would've done well. I could do all of 'em a little bit and some of 'em well. Most of 'em better than fair. I would've—in the decathlon I think I would've scored well.

[00:55:44] BW: Why didn't you enter the decathlon in Olympics?

CS: You have to—in order to even have—well, you have to qualify,

and you have to qualify for the qualify. You had to enter a meet like the Drake Relay or some of the big meets to be—to qualify for the oly—for the trials, the Olympic trials. And I just—I had other things to do, and the hurdles was a thing that I worked on most. And fact, it was the only thing I worked on. I—lookin' back on it now, you—I'd say, and anybody'd say, "Well, why didn't you work out with the javelin? Why didn't you try for the javelin?" I don't know. I guess I thought I didn't have a chance for it, and the one chance I had was the hurdles, and I better spend all of my time doin' the thing that I can do best.

BW: Kay, you did not qualify to—for the decathlon because you had to qualify in a track meet . . .

CS: That's right.

BW: . . . in order to get to . . .

CS: You had to do . . .

BW: . . . Olympic trials.

CS: . . . you had to qualify in a track meet to qualify for—yeah.

[00:57:16] BW: Where were the Olympic trials?

CS: Oh.

BW: Was it in California?

CS: You catchin' me. Let's say . . .

BW: Was it—it was in Chicago or California?

CS: No, it was—I think it was in California that . . .

[00:57:41] BW: When you got out there, did you have an opportunity to see the ones that were doin' the decathlon, practicin' it?

CS: Well, I saw a lot. I saw a lot—I saw people running over the hurdles bet—with a technique that I wasn't—hadn't seen and didn't use myself, wasn't capable of usin'. And the javelin, they had different styles for that. And the only thing about what I participated in before the trials was the fact that the coach and I, at the time, we were determined to make the Olympic team. We—and the only—and the best—our best effort would be with the hurdles, so we spent all of our times with the hurdles, and I didn't pay much attention to all the other things, even the javelin or the high jump or pole vault. I thought only of the hurdles, and I was lucky to make that—make the team.

[00:59:15] BW: You at some point tied the world record in the 100-yard dash in 9.4 seconds. Do you recall that?

CS: I believe that was at Fayetteville.

BW: Kay, tell us how that happened, please.

CS: It—well, I was not—Ross Pritchard was our sprint man on the team. Cobb Fowler was a sprint man on the team. I had—up



until that time, I had not run a 100-yard dash in a meet for Arkansas. But the coach thought maybe I could participate and



make a few points. There in the race from Oklahoma A&M was a fellow by the name Fuquay. Fuquay had run the fastest time of all the schools that year. He had the best time, and he was the number one foe. And so the coach, he was runnin' Fowler, and he was usin' all the power that he could. And his—I believe, as I remember, he said, "Scotty, we gonna put you in the 100-yard race and pick up a—all we need to do is pick up maybe one, two, or three points, and we'll win this meet cause we're—we've done well on all these other things, and you can help us out in this in this race." Well, lo and behold, ran the race, and it—just one of the—one of my best efforts, and it tied the world's record. And then the very next week we entered the Southwest Conference meet at Texas, and, lo and behold, I won that. So the only two times I ran the hundred in college up at that time had been those two races; one I tied the world's record, and the other one I came close to it. Out there in Texas at the Southwest Conference meet, I think, was nine—I can't even come up with it, Bud.

BW: Six.

CS: Nine six.

BW: Nine point six . . .

CS: You do know more about me than I do. [*Laughter*]

BW: And then . . .

CS: That was—if had it all to do over again, I'd concentrate on the dash. The dash—you win or lose the 100-yard dash the first five steps from the starting—from the blocks. About the first five steps, you either win or lose the hundred. And what I was doin', and we didn't even realize it, I was comin' up—now on the hurdles, you gotta elevate up pretty high there just in a few steps. So you come up at an angle, comin' up quick so you can get that first hurdle without runnin' over it. Well, then you go back and consider the 100-yard dash. You don't need to be comin' up at an angle outta the—out—off the blocks. You need to put the power straight down the track, if you follow my lead. [01:03:05] So if I had it all to do over again, I'd be a 100-yard dash man, and I'd forget the hurdles. And I'd come off of the blocks straight and low with all the power in those both legs goin' that first five steps. Whereas the hurdles, you're—you end up just usin' one of your legs, the power legs, to get over that first hurdle, whereas in the dash you use your full power straight down the field. And I've thought about that so much, that if I could do over—do it over, I'd do it so differently. I really would. And the truth of the matter, if I had it to do over, I'd be a decathlon. I could do 'em all pretty good, and I could improve

on every one of 'em. But I got—I was stuck. No, I wasn't stuck. I was—yeah, I stuck myself with the hurdles, and I didn't improve in any of the other things in—pertaining to track. Just the hurdles.

[01:04:22] BW: When you tied the world record in the 100-yard dash, did you use the start, the hurdles start, or did you use the other kinda start that you talked about?

CS: I wish I could remember. I wish I could remember. I knew—I know one thing. The—my running changed with injuries, and I had developed a—what—actually, it's kind of a loping style. Once you get started and it—one leg was stronger than the other, so you ended up—and then the last part of a 100-yard dash, you find yourself into a loping position and you—I found out that I could build my speed. But this was something I found out much too late, but the day that I set the—that I tied the world's record, the last part of that race was a loping style rather than a smooth, churning style that most everybody used. And the lope came from building one leg with a lot more strength than the other, and I utilized the strongest leg that day out there on that [*unclear words*]*—I'm not makin' much sense on this thing, Bud.*

BW: Yeah, you are.

CS: But . . .

[01:06:14] BW: Was that because of your injury that . . .

CS: Because of the . . .

BW: . . . you—that you . . .

CS: . . . because of . . .

BW: . . . is that why you ran loping?

CS: . . . it was because of that weak ankle that I got in high school and I just—yeah, it was because of the injuries before. Yeah.

[01:06:30] BW: When you tied the world record in the 100-yard dash, did you get a good start? Did you jump out ahead of everybody?

CS: I was not—I was—it—I remember so well. At the time that I started—changed my stride to what I call a loping stride, Fuquay was two or three steps ahead of me. And all of my ti—in track all of the events that I entered all the time, the hurdled races and whatever, the 100-yard dash, if I could see the man in front of me, for instance, I don't think I rememb—I don't think I lost a hurdle race to a person that I could see in front of me. It's just a fact of him being there gave me more strength, more determination, more of everything to beat him, you know. But if he's over here, [motions to his side] I couldn't—I didn't have that. I couldn't rely on that. But if I could see the person I was



runnin' against, I could beat him most of the time. Fact, just about every time. That's just a fact. And then you're—by having him in front of you, and you gettin' near the finish line, you're—you develop a determination that puts power all through your body, just gives you more of everything when you see him in front of you. And that day that I ran the hundred, he was about two to three steps in front of me, three-quarters the way down the track, and it just gave me a determination, gave me strength that I wasn't sure I had, but—and I—I'm not—I know I'm not makin' sense, Bud, with this but . . .

BW: Well, that does . . .

CS: . . . but it's the truth.

BW: . . . that does make sense, Scotty, but . . .

CS: It just is something in my mind and my determination and my total being is explosive. I just—I was just doin'—it brought me to a level that I didn't have ordinarily. It—and just havin' that guy in front of me and the finish line comin' up.

[01:09:53] BW: Did you get the impression that day that that was the fastest you—that you could run ever, or did you think maybe you could ever run faster?

CS: At the moment I felt, "This is all I—this is the best I can do."

And it was just that determination that forced me to do the best

that I could. And I don't know exactly how to answer you except there's on—was just few occasion that I had that same feeling.

And I know I'm not doin' much on answerin' your question, Bud.

[01:10:44] BW: Well, you're doin' quite well. When you went to

Olympics, the people that were on the team—there were three people, different people, that were runnin' the hurdles.

CS: Yeah.

BW: Am I correct?

CS: Yeah.

BW: Kay. Of those three people, or the people that were on the Olympic team, you—how many of 'em were football players also?

CS: None of 'em. I don't think we had a football player on the whole team. [01:11:11] Of all—it—in fact, after the Olympics we went on to Scotland and had a—and this was an invitation meet from Scotland. Scotland, England, France—about five teams was—went to what they called the invitation meet in Scotland, and it was right after the Olympics were over. And we ran our—for instance, I won the Olympics—I mean, I won the hurdles there and . . .

BW: This . . .

CS: I won the . . .

BW: You won the hurdles in a meet after the Olympics?

CS: Yeah.

BW: Against the same runners?

CS: Against—Bill Porter was not—no, he did not run. All the other hurdlers did run. All of 'em but Bill Porter. He—the meet was—the person—if a person won the 100-yard dash in the Olympics, he was disqualified to run in this invitation meet, but he would run against all the competition. [*Laughs*] He would have to drop out of competition is what I'm sayin', if he had won the Olympics, and give somebody else a chance to win this. And the trophy was unusual. Trophy was a silver setting, which I still have, for serving fish. It's strange, but I—it's a big, beautiful silver setting. You open the lid, and it's this gorgeous setting, and I still have it. That was the—that was your medal, and I still got it. Quite unusual.

[01:13:46] BW: You go—when you went out to the Olympic tryouts, how did you do against Bill Porter at that point?

CS: I—that was the NCAA tournament. I beat him, and I tied the world's record. I beat Bill at the NCAA meet.

[01:14:19] BW: When you went to—after you qualified for olym—to go to Olympics, how did you get over there?

CS: Now the—I'm sorry now . . .

BW: Go ahead with whatever you were gonna say.

CS: No, it—in fact, Craig Dixon was there. Bill Porter was there. And I was there, and I—but we were quali—[*laughs*] we—oh boy, I'm not—I'm makin' a mess of this.

BW: That's okay. Well, let me . . .

CS: [*Unclear words*] keep it . . .

[01:15:05] BW: Let me ask you this. How did you get to a—how did you get overseas? How'd you get to Olympics, and where was it?

CS: We went—we were on the *SS America*, and we went to Southampton Port. We put in at Southampton in England. We went to our quar—what they call our quarters. Where we stayed was a little town called Uxbridge, and it was a RAF Base, a Royal Air Force Base, that we stayed during the Olympics. [01:15:45] And the stadium was—the day we got there, there was bulldozers and everything scrapin' up the—redoin' this though. The track was rebuilt after we got there, and this little town was about, oh, I guess ten, twelve miles away from the stadium. And I wa—I [*laughs*] thought—I often thought—I wished they had left the old track down 'cause it was kindly hardened by people runnin' on it, you know. And the new track was just a little spongy. Not—I'm not—couldn't—shouldn't use it as an excuse for not winnin' the doggone race, but it—the new track



wasn't real firm as a track would be after years of you running on it.

[01:16:59] BW: What kinda surface did it have?

CS: It was red. It was composition red, and it was very similar to a cinder track, very, very cinder. In fact, it—in fact, you could run a race—I could run a race, like the hurdle race, and look back down my tra—behind me, and I could see cupped, you know, where I was diggin' in. See—I could see my tracks, just makin' track—plain tracks behind you. Well, that's a loose track when you see that, you know. And I'd consider myself a power runner, and it—I didn't—and I shouldn't use that as an excuse because, heck, everybody was runnin' on the same track. The—my—the hurdle race was the third day after the Olympics started, and the inside track was beginning to firm up a little bit by then, and I had the outside track over here, which was still pretty loose. It [*unclear words*] . . .

[01:18:17] BW: Well, the outside lane is the worst lane to be in in a track meet, isn't it?

CS: Yeah, it—there again, it was a [*laughs*—I couldn't see my opposition. It—but I always wanted to know where he—where my opposition was and—but it—I won silver medal and regret that I didn't win the gold. And had a feeling if I could've had

four more years to train for the next Olympic, I'd have a better shot at it, and I'd be more determined, more everything. But I had signed a contract with the Eagles, and I wasn't qualified for the Olympics then. Now they let the professionals participate, professional basketball players. All of our pros go to the Olympics now. Back then the amateurs' standards were so rigid and so high that you couldn't have any compensation for your participation in whatever event you were in. You just didn't qualify, and I was one of 'em.

[01:19:44] BW: What kinda start did you get on the—when you were runnin' the hurdles in the Olympics?

CS: What kinda . . .

BW: Start. How was you start . . .

CS: Start?

BW: . . . outta the blocks? Yes, sir.

CS: Outta the blocks? Outta the block. For the hurdles?

BW: How good a start did you get? Tell us about your start.

CS: [*Laughs*] Well now, that was a—that was very foolish on my part. Now lookin' back on it, I'd probably do the same thing if I had it to do over again. But I was—before the hurdle race, I was over on the side of the lane that I was gonna run in, and I was walkin' back and forth. And the starter, with a very rich British

accent, and had a little—the pistol, of course, with caps in it, and he—"On your mark, get set, go!" You know, boy, you know, and I'd walk on down, and then I'd turn around and walk back and—"On your mark, get set, go!" I just—boy, [*unclear words*] hey. So I walked back by him again [*laughs*] for the next race. Then, "On your mark, get set, go!" Well of course, what you wanna do is get the best start you can. Don't wanna jump the gun, by any means, but you wanna get the best start you can. You—the perfect start would be that your full energy is startin' you when the gun goes off. You don't wanna be ahead of it, but it—the instant the gun is shot, you want to gather all your strength and movin'—not across the line, but your—all your whole body's gotta be—have the energy goin', and here this guy is—"On your mark, get set, go!" And I said [*laughs*] to myself, "Boy, this is easy. I'm gonna get me a good start, that's for sure." So I go to the mark, and he—"On your mark, get set"—and he hesitated. [*Laughs*] And old stupid Scott, halfway to the first hurdle before he shot the gun. I jumped the gun just terribly.

BW: So that . . .

[01:22:15] CS: Only time. Only time in my whole athletic career in running hurdles or whatever, comin' off of blocks. The only time I ever beat the gun. And it was so close [*unclear word*]. He

still—I was almost to the first hurdle before he shot the recall gun, so it was almost legal. In the mind of the starter, it was almost legal. But he shot the recoil gun just before I got to the first hurdle. And Bud, what—and when you run in the Olympics, it's a awful thing they do to you. The guy came out with a little old probe, and he went right down in front of my blocks, and he put a big, deep X [*laughs*] just so that when I went to the mark, all I could see was that big X. It's just—you know. And if your—and if you screw up this time, you can go on back to Smackover 'cause be all be over. [*Laughs*] So it works on your mind. No question about it, you know. You've gotta hold your—you've got to hold your mark. Hold and not jump the gun. You've come all this way now. You—there's no way for you and if—and that makes you hold it a little bit longer than you normally would. And the race was so close. Really, it really was close. There's pictures to prove that. At Fayetteville they got a picture that I'd like to have back, and I'm tryin' to get it back. The—it was—that they gave me at the Olympic. The original picture of the finish. I'd like very much to have it. I've been tryin' to get it, and I got some people helpin' me. But it—and there again, I'm usin' excuses for losin' a race, but I only did it one time. I . . .

[01:24:45] BW: Well, Bill Port—did Bill Porter win?

CS: Bill Porter won.

BW: Okay. The picture shows the—it's a photo finish. It took about forty-five seconds, excuse me, forty-five minutes for them to . . .

CS: It took a long time for 'em to determine who . . .

BW: Who won.

CS: . . . the winner was. Yeah.

BW: Kay. And one of the problems was Bill Porter's hand hit the tape before . . .

CS: It was his . . .

BW: . . . his chest did.

CS: . . . it was his left hand. What it is, very plain, he's—course, you're supposed to lean over, you know. But leanin' over, he extended that hand, and the tape is up here high on his wrist, right—just like that. [Holds up left arm and points to wrist] Just plain. Just very plain. And here I am over—way over here on the other side with my little old skinny breasts, [*laughs*] tryin' to, you know, cross the line.

BW: Well, the obvious . . .

[01:25:40] CS: And I've often thought—I don't know. Back then—over there, they didn't have any—they had stopwatches to—for timing and stopwatching, and they had judges on the sideline to

determine who wins. They, you know, they—now they have electronic advice—devices to do all of that. But over there it was all manual and done [*taps wrist to mimic using a stopwatch*]. And I don't know whether they would qualify for a person who did what Bill Porter did, but if you—I keep lookin' at that picture and seein' how far he was leanin'. He was way over here, [fully extends arm] and then that tape is way up here, [points to wrist bone] and you go over there, and they—it was decided that maybe he'd won it by a inch or two. I said, "Damn! You know, dadgum!"

BW: Well, why didn't you . . .

CS: And I . . .

[01:26:39] BW: . . . why didn't you stick your hand out?

CS: Well, if I had—if I'd've had any idea that it was legal, I think everybody would've been stickin' their hand out. He, you know, he was the only one. And he—evidently, there wasn't a rule against it.

BW: But you thought it was illegal.

CS: A rule that could change a decision by the judges, you know. It—there was more than one judge.

[01:27:14] BW: Did you ever contest it?

CS: And I think it was only one judge was contesting this [holds up

wrist]—that's 'cause they waited so long to tell us who won it.

BW: Did you ever contest it?

CS: No, I haven't. Never did. Didn't know I had the right. You know, didn't know I had the right to contest. But when I got home, and I had the thing—I had the picture that they took up there—the—and I kept lookin' at it and kept lookin' at it and lookin' at this [leans forward and holds wrist out away from his chest] and thinkin' that, "Doggone it, I'm—I was told that you break that doggone tape with your chest." And that's the reason everybody's stickin' their chests out, you know. You'd lunge forward and stick but you—but that—to do what he did, you know. And it's up at Fayetteville. It's at Fayetteville now. It's up there in that—in my track case. And they had my medal up there until they sent it off someplace, and I got a call one day. Want to know what they supposed to do with a medal that belongs to me. And I [*laughs*] said, "Well, I'm not sure about what to do with it, but I'd kinda like to get the doggone thing back," you know. What happened, they got permission from the university to have that medal on display in—with the new members to the Arkansas—to the College Hall of Fame. And once the ceremonies were over, I guess it—I guess that would be the only Olympic medal that—I mean, it—that I was the only

one who had won a medal and also was chosen and placed in the College Hall of Fame.

[01:29:48] BW: That was a silver medal.

CS: Silver.

BW: An Olympic medal.

CS: Silver medal. I don't think they had a—it's—they probably didn't even—didn't have any medal, but they wanted to borrow that one because I was the only one. But they didn't know how to send it back. And I just . . .

[01:30:06] BW: Where is it now?

CS: It's in the Arkansas Hall of Fame. I just thought—they sent it back to me, and I just put it over there. I don't have any strong preference to havin' it there or up at the university. I'd love for the university to have it up there and on display. I'd just as soon for them to have it as the Arkansas Hall of Fame. All I wanna do is have it on display someplace and someplace that will take care of it and be sure that it's out there intact for my family—for the—for my grandkids in case they want to move it someplace. They can do what they want to, but I want it to be intact. So I'm—but right now it's in the Hall of Fame here in Little Rock.

[01:31:14] BW: Let me ask you about the time that you went to the



Southwest Conference track meet. You scored seventeen points in a Southwest Conference track meet, which is the most that anybody has ever scored, which is still the record.

CS: Yeah, that's . . .

BW: Tell—how did you do that? What were your events, and how did that take place?

CS: High hurdles, low hurdles, javelin, and . . .

BW: The hundred-yard dash?

CS: Hundred-yard dash and the relay, four-forty relay. So—and javelin, if I didn't put it in. Javelin was in the mix.

BW: Which one of 'em did you win?

CS: It—and it's the biggest score that the—that was ever scored in the Southwest Conference. I'm not sure. I won the hundred [*birds chirping*] and Texas Tech—I wish I could recall the names of the sprint stars back then, but they were greats. I won the hundred. I won the two-twenty hurdles. I won the high hurdles and the javelin. I think I came second in the javelin. Anyway, I won more points than—that had ever been scored in the Southwest Conference meet. And . . .

[01:32:50] BW: Who was on your relay team?

CS: I think it was the same one that held the record here in Arkansas for so many years: Bud Canada and me, Cobb Fowler, Ross

Pritchard. Those were our—that was the sprint team.

[01:33:10] BW: Somethin' I think that's interesting, and particularly for people that are younger. You mentioned the cinder track. There's a cinder track, and now they have a different kinda track.

CS: Yeah.

BW: It's more like an asphalt-type track. Tell us about the cinder track.

CS: Bud, I—every time I see a track meet on television or anywhere and watch 'em run and everything, I [*laughs*—my mind goes back, and I feel if I just—that if I just had another shot at it under these conditions. Back in my time, we ran on a cinder track. We didn't have blocks. They'd give you a little trowel that you—a little garden tool that you—they work in a flower bed—a little trowel, a little converted shovel-type thing. And you'd get down. You'd go to the mark, and you'd make a ring around your toe. You'd back off, and you'd dig a hole. You'd dig two holes down there in the cinders.

[01:34:24] BW: So you didn't have startin' blocks?

CS: No startin' block. Dig a hole down in [*laughs*] the cinders and then you—when you go to the mark—well, [*laughs*] you can imagine competin'—that competin' with blocks where this thing

just comes up, and you're braced against—and the blocks are driven in, stakes on either side, you know, where it doesn't give at all. And you're competin'.

BW: Did you ever use startin' blocks?

CS: Yeah, at the end. Before I got outta college, they approved the starting blocks at the university, but it was way late after runnin' on cinder and—almost all the time. And that right—real late in my career at Arkansas, they started usin' the blocks. But heck, they—back then, that was standard. Everybody had to do the same thing, but that's what you—dug a—but . . .

BW: Did . . .

CS: . . . that's not as bad as the composition track that they use now. Back then . . .

BW: Now you never ran on one of those did you?

CS: Oh good gracious, no. The old cinder track, you know, you, gee whiz, you'd [*laughs*—when you were really openin' up, really doin' your—I mean, you're really givin' it your best. You're kickin' up cinders back [*laughs*] behind you, and gee whiz, you're not—your feet are—you know, you got spikes that long [*shows the length of his index finger*] on your thing, but the spikes had to—you could just feel 'em diggin' in. And then now they come along with a composition track, and that is—it's

artificial. You don't slip at all. There's no slippage at all. The track they use, the shoes they use, the cleats would not slip not even a eighth of an inch. It was just solid, you know. And I often wish, especially runnin' the hurdles, my power running that I did, I [*unclear words*] have—what I could do on one of these artificial tracks, [*laughs*] boy! Because the surface was everthing, you know. And the weather—if it happened to be rainin' or, you know, how long ago has it rained and everything? The track was the determinant factor on who's gonna win the doggone thing. The guy that's a power runner like me with not enough weight, you know, is at disadvantage. A muscular—a kind of a muscled-up person, he has more weight when his cleats dig in better, hold better. So yeah, it made all the difference in the world when they changed the tracks.

[01:37:50] BW: What year did you go to Olympics?

CS: Nineteen forty-eight. Now you askin' me questions. Nineteen forty-eight . . .

BW: Right.

CS: . . . oughta be close to it, if not . . .

BW: That's right. That's right.

CS: Yeah.

[01:38:02] BW: But here's what I wanted to ask you. You didn't

run—after your senior year in—at the University of Arkansas  
playin' for the Razorbacks, you didn't run track after that did  
you?

CS: No.

BW: So . . .

CS: No, I wish I had, and I wish I'd been able to go to the next  
Olympic.

BW: Why didn't you run track your senior year at Fayetteville?

CS: Boy, you askin' me a question now. That's after the Olympics.  
Bud, you got me.

BW: You don't remember?

CS: You don't remember. Don't remember why.

BW: But you went . . .

CS: [*Unclear word*]

BW: . . . to Olympics before your senior year in . . .

CS: Mh-hmm.

BW: . . . college.

CS: Mh-hmm.

BW: Correct?

CS: Mh-hmm.

BW: Before your last year.

CS: Mh-hmm.

BW: Okay.

CS: Yeah.

[01:38:55] BW: Okay. That—let's go back to Smackover. Talk about your football a little bit. You made sixty-five touchdowns in high school in three years. What formation did you run out of?

CS: We ran out of a single wing, and, actually, they called it a old Notre Dame Box, they called it. And the ball was centered back. I say single wing. The ball was centered back to me and—every time.

BW: Kinda like shotgun?

CS: Yeah, shotgun. And the—you fake this way, and you fake [*unclear words*]. Anyway, it was a kind of a—not so much a single wing as an old—they called it an old Notre Dame Box. And I [*laughs*] don't—I—all I know is the ball was centered to me every time and then . . .

BW: So . . .

CS: . . . I did all manner of things with it.

BW: . . . so anytime we're . . .

CS: Some . . .

BW: . . . talkin' about your foot . . .

CS: . . . some good, some bad.

BW: . . . anytime we're talkin' about your football career, all the time

from junior high school all the way through college, the ball was centered straight to you?

CS: Yes. Now when it got . . .

[01:40:31] BW: Did you ever go up under center?

CS: . . . it—Barney came from Tennessee, and they called his just a straight single-wing formation. Straight single-wing. And the ball was centered to me every time. Yeah. It was just like in high school. A little bit, just a little bit of spacing between players, but it was the same. They centered to me. And then I did whatever I could. Some good, some bad.

[01:41:06] BW: Kay. You punted also.

CS: I punted also.

BW: And when you punted, you averaged thirty-seven yards a punt in high school.

CS: Yeah. [*Laughs*]

BW: That about right?

CS: [*Laughs*] Yes, probably. It—now when I got to college, Bud, I said I punted every time. Cobb Fowler punted most of the time in college. Most of the time Cobb punted. And . . .

BW: But you punted in high—I'm talkin' bout in high school.

CS: High school, I punted.

BW: Right.

CS: Yeah.

[01:41:42] BW: Now what about your—like your ankle injury? Did it—did that bother you?

CS: The ankle in high school bothered me worse and more than any other time. It really did. They didn't give it time to heal ever. It just—they never did give it time to heal. They—the taping job that they would do would—sometime would be bad. But I suffered with that right foot because of the anchor—ankle the whole—my whole high school career. I—and sometime it would hurt so bad. We played El Dorado our last game, and they were sayin' if ar—if we won that game, we were gonna be—win the All South or all somethin', you know. Big, high honor if we beat El Dorado our last game. And I remember it hurt more on defense 'cause when I'd tackle and hold, all of that force would go down to that right foot, and oh, it hurt. When it was over, when the game was over, I went in the locker room, and it hurt so dang bad. I got a towel and put over my head and kinda got in the corner over there outta the way. Just got outta the way where nobody could see me. And it really did hurt bad, and I don't know. It got well. It got better. I'll put it that way. But my ankle and my knees—it was very seldom that I played a game when they—when it was—they were perfectly well. Just very



few games I played, including the pros, that my knees and my ankles were well.

BW: Well, your scrapbooks, if you read the headlines, say over and over and over again that "Scotty's doubtful for the next game. Scotty's" . . .

CS: Yeah. Yeah.

BW: . . . "hurt. Scotty's"—whatever.

CS: Yeah.

BW: You were hurt the whole—your whole career, were you not?

CS: Yeah. Not just the knees, and the knees is what—they finally—I had to quit. Just finally I could—when I couldn't cut, they would just—my knees would fold up just completely. But I had [*pats shoulder*] my right shoulder dislocated I don't know how many times, three or four. Left shoulder dislocated almost every time I—every time I took the ball. And with any type of movement, it'd dislocate the doggone thing.

[01:44:56] BW: Are you talkin' bout in high school?

CS: I'm talkin' bout pros now.

BW: Okay.

CS: I'm takin' it all the way up to pros. [*Pats shoulder*] I had all these injuries. And I think I might've told you that I finished my career at—with Detroit.

BW: Right. I'm gonna ask you about that in a minute. Why don't we take a little break, okay?

CS: Yeah.

LS: Yeah [*unclear words*] . . .

CS: Yeah. That'd be fine.

[Tape stopped]

[01:45:25] BW: Scotty, you have told me before that one of your themes throughout your life was, "Boy, when I get well." Do you remember that?

CS: Oh yeah.

BW: Well, tell us about that.

CS: Well, it's just that I stayed hurt so much, starting way back in the very beginning of my athletic career. It even started way back in grammar school, breakin' my arm so very severely, compound fracture, that I've—that I had said so many time, I—how much I could—if I could just play well. If I'd just get well to play, like tomorrow when they—and when we gonna have a big game. If I could just get well. If I could just get well. I said it so many time. I—and, actually, the indication that I was—that I really was hurt most of the time playin'. Just never did get completely well.

[01:46:33] BW: Your high school scrapbooks indicate that you

completed over 50 percent of your passes, so you ran outta that formation, and you also passed. Correct?

CS: Yeah, yeah.

BW: And you averaged thirty-seven yards a punt in high school.

CS: Yeah.

[01:46:48] BW: Well, did the injuries affect you as far as your punting was concerned?

CS: Oh, I could—I punted only 'cause I had to, and it—they probably didn't have anybody else to punt, but that's not a very good average. But I just—but I did punt. Yeah, I punted because we didn't have a punter. Actually, runnin' from that formation, I did just about everything. Just about everything. I did—had a part in every play that we ran.

[01:47:28] BW: Your scrapbook also indicates that your senior year that you might not even be able to play in college and that you only played about 20 percent of your senior year. Is that the way you recall it?

CS: That was because of my ankle that I had broken, and it never did get well. And it hurt me to run on it all the time. They'd tape it up best they could. But every game, it would hurt, and after the game's over, taking the tape off of it, and it, you know, it just—I was just hurtin', and it was obvious I was hurtin'. And

I think maybe the statement was made, "Well, you'll never, you know, you'll never get to college. You'll never get through college if—never get there with all these injuries. You'll never get well enough to play." That was kinda the . . .

[01:48:23] BW: What did you think?

CS: . . . general theme at the time; I would not ever play in college.

BW: What did you think?

CS: Oh, it was just—it seems that you talk to this guy and then that guy and then the—somebody comin' up with a better mousetrap ever month, you know. That type thing. Better brace. Better equipment. Better style of taping. It—but, "Oh yeah, we'd—they'd take care of—yeah, they'll take care of that. Shoot, they can wrap tape here and wrap tape here. Yeah, you can"—and . . .

BW: Kay. So . . .

CS: . . . so they . . .

[01:49:11] BW: . . . so you were three years All State, one year All Southern. What kinda offers did you have, and what were your considerations comin' outta high school about where you were gonna go to college and play ball?

CS: Well, it wasn't so much now when it—see, I'm in high school, and we're—it's—we're at war. We're—it's the beginning of the

war. And I took a test. I wish, Bud, I wish I knew the name of the doggone thing, but it was to qualify you for—to be pilot. It was a test they gave to most all high school seniors like me, and I had taken that test, and I was waitin' for the result of it. But I believe my banker had talked to Oren Harris, and then that's when it—talk then was that getting a appointment to the Naval Academy. So . . .

BW: That was kind of a big thing, it come—being wartime.

CS: Oh yeah. Oh yeah. Yeah, sure. Absolutely. It—if I gotta go to war, I'd just as soon maybe to be a sailor as a flyboy. But the—that's what I'm sayin'. And I hadn't heard from the results of that test before Oren Harris said he would give me a appointment to the Naval Academy. And then we—then the wheels started rollin'. Comin' from Smackover, it'd be doubtful if you—if I ever passed the test into Annapolis. Those tests are pretty tough. [*Tapping sound*] That talk was around, and then that's when, as they did so often, somebody came to help me. Smackover was a great, great, great city for me. Has—was, has been, and always will be great. Two of the bankers . . .

[01:51:30] BW: What were their names? Do you remember?

CS: J. E. Berry owned a drugstore. L. E. Tennyson owned a drugstore. They got together and enrolled me in Bullis Prep in

Silver Spring, Maryland. And it's a prep for the Naval Academy, really. It has quite a few of the boys that—and I went there.

Had I not gone, I—it—very, very doubtful that I would've passed the test into Naval Academy. It was a pretty tough test.

And . . .

[01:52:09] BW: So did Bullis have a football team?

CS: They had a football team, but they used the playbook of Smackover. [*Laughs*] I took—this is the truth; I got my playbook, and I gave to the math professor. I wish I could recall names. I wish I could and give 'em credit. But I gave it to him, and we went around and—"You're gonna play, and you're gonna play, and you're gonna play," [*laughs*] you know. These are—all the guys that were there that anticipate goin' to the Naval Academy and especially those who already had a appointment from their—from Washington. So all of a sudden we got a football team, navy. We usin' the old formation that we used at Smackover. So yeah, we had a football team.

BW: And you're on—you're in the Bullis Hall of Fame of football . . .

CS: I'm in the Bullis . . .

BW: . . . team.

CS: . . . Hall of Fame of football. It . . .

[01:53:15] BW: Let me ask you this, Scotty. Before you went to

Maryland, what's about the furthest you'd ever been from home in terms of miles?

CS: Oh well, now that . . .

BW: From Smackover.

CS: . . . that was somethin' to go all the way from Smackover all the way to Maryland. Now that was somethin'. On the train. Oh man, that was exciting and . . .

BW: What . . .

CS: . . . gettin' there.

BW: . . . what towns had you been to before?

CS: And the little town of Silver Spring, beautiful little town. It wasn't much, but it's way away from home, you know, and I was very, very excited.

BW: How far had you ever been from home?

CS: Well, [*laughs*] Shreveport, I think, was—back close to my old home base, my—where I was born, close to—from Smackover, Shreveport was about the farthest place [*laughs*] I'd been. Course, I'd been there.

BW: Bout ninety miles?

CS: Bout that. Yeah, about that.

BW: Bout ninety miles is the furthest that you'd ever been from home before you went to Maryland?

CS: Yeah. I'd say.

[01:54:19] BW: Okay. What did—what was that like?

CS: Well, and of course, now I'd been to Little Rock in track, you know. I'd—but that—I'd say Shreveport would be a little farther. But yeah, it'd be that—that's about the farthest.

BW: What was that like for a Smackover boy to be in . . .

CS: Very exciting.

BW: . . . Maryland?

CS: Very, very exciting. Not knowing—scared to death of the people on the train, you know, and the—they had these sleeping berths on the train. If you go that far, you could sl—and they had a—on the back of the train they had a coach that—where you could eat and, you know, and I'd leave my seat and not know whether to [*laughs*] cover it up, you know, or close the door and just what. But I was—all the way, Bud, I was scared of doin' somethin' that would be stupid, [*laughs*] which I really—which I probably did several times. But it's—and then there's an excitement for somebody who's never been that far, as you suggested. That's exciting. Like, very, very exciting. I mean, like, "Gee whiz, this is what the guys did that had the oil money, you know. They could do whatever they—and here I am doin' it. I'm [*laughs*] travelin' on a train." Big deal. Big deal. And I felt



that. That was my feeling.

[01:56:02] BW: So you took the courses that you needed. That—and the team that you played on, I believe, play—actually played high school teams, didn't they?

CS: Yes. When we got to Bullis, we played other high school teams.

BW: How well did your team do?

CS: We didn't lose a game. And I've—I was fortunate to make all—whatever they call their high school . . .

BW: All-conference type?


CS: All, yeah, all—oh, for goodness sakes. Well, anyway, I got a trophy and—it's at home. And before—at the end of our football season, it was time to take the big test. And I went to Washington. Got locked up in a room. Had a desk in there. Took the hardest test I've ever taken. It was tough, just on and on and on and on. They tested you real, real well to get to the Naval Academy.

[01:57:29] BW: Had you given consideration at any time to goin' to the University of Arkansas and playin' football?

CS: Oh, I thought about it, Bud. This is the truth. People say, "Oh, you—don't give me that old wash." I was from Arkansas. I—you know, in the back of my mind that's where I was gonna go. When I was playin' football in high school, my thought was I was

gonna end up at Arkansas. Naval Academy was some distant country that—or I never—and I never placed myself in my mind at the Naval Academy playin' football. Never. It didn't—that was somethin' else. The war was going on. I'd be out there in the war games and whatever else, but to be out there playin' football. But my—but now Arkansas was a different story, you know. If I got a scholarship to Arkansas, that's where I wanted to go. That's the reason that when it came time I went to Naval Academy, went through all it and then was—went home on leave and finally got a discharge from the Naval Academy, which took me about three months to do. But when that was all over with, I'm out now, and I'm home, and the scouts from other schools, other coaches, [*unclear word*] they came by just—every day there'd be a whole bu—I mean, I was in Lake Village visiting Les, incidentally.

BW: You're second-team All-American and played two years at Navy at this point.

CS: Yes. And I had a whole bunch of people comin' and talkin'  contracts. And people say, "Well, you mean you had big, big offers. Like, I heard those guys sayin' that all you guys—how much"—I said, "Well, yes, I did. Really did." I think I had some very attractive offers. Offers that if you sign the contract today,

something that would extend itself on out for years, you know, and it's pretty good pay, pretty good compensation. "Yes," I'd answer.

[02:00:06] BW: Talkin' bout like jobs when you got outta school?

CS: My answer would be, "Yes, I had all of those. I sure did." "And now you tell me you're goin' to Arkansas?" I said, "Now I'm tellin' you I'm goin' to Arkansas 'cause that's where I wanna go." And it—I'm not being facetious. I'm not being anything but sayin' that the—here's the old country boy that played high school at Smackover, and when he got through there, his only thought was—is playin' for the University of Arkansas because I'm an Arkansan. I'm a—that's where I'm goin'. I'm—you know, yeah, that's where I'm goin'. [*Laughs*] I remember goin' to the Olympics on board ship, *SS America*. But they have a big—it's like a little city and a big [*sound of paper crinkling*] dance hall down in the—and music and everthing and, you know, and then they started playin' something about the South. And I got up and just yellin' like a crazy person. [*Laughs*] I wanted 'em to know that I'm from the South. I'm from Arkansas. So yes, my only thought back then, Bud, was to play football [*birds chirping in background*] at the University of Arkansas. So when Barney came around, he didn't have a chance. I mean, he didn't have

any—no problem at all—just, you know, "When you gonna come up? " and "You're gonna have to sleep in the dormitory with the rest of the guys," you know, just on like that. But . . .

BW: So . . .

CS: . . . I was an Arkansan from the start.

[02:01:50] BW: But some of the coaches offered you money?

CS: Yes.

BW: Some of 'em offered you jobs when you got outta college?

CS: I mean, attractive jobs. Like real, attractive jobs. Yes.

BW: You turned all that down and said, "I'm goin' to Arkansas."

CS: Yes. Yes.

BW: Kay. Now I'm . . .

[02:02:06] CS: Les had a lot to do with it. Les is Arkansas. We were Arkansas. We—I—we couldn't—neither one of us could see packin' up and goin' off anywhere but Arkansas. Yeah. Yeah, we were Arkansans.

[02:02:21] BW: Let's go back and talk about Bullis. When you got outta Bullis, you took the exam . . .

CS: Yeah.

BW: . . . and you got in the Naval Academy.

CS: That's right.

BW: What was that like?

CS: Oh boy! That was a—now that's another story. Here I am from Smackover and kinda country boy, and I go to the Naval Academy, and the first thing, the first thing, I run into is this hazing. You know what I'm talkin' about—hazing that's going on—that go—that was goin' on then? And at that time, it was so bad at the Naval Academy. It was—man, for some people like me, it was tough, I mean, like, tough. They could run up to you. Stick their nose right up in your nose. Call you mister, and, "Hit the deck, Mister, and give me forty-eight." And you hit the deck, and you did forty-eight push-ups, you know. And the next one come along, and, "Hey, Mister. Hey, yeah, you—you—you—you—you—you, flop it down. Flop it down, Mister!" And come over there and put his foot in your back—on your butt, you know. Reach over where he could be pointin' his mouth at my ear and tell me to do some stupid thing down at the sea wall down there that I'd never seen or been to—want—"You go down, you get it, and you bring it back. I'm gonna be sittin' right here waitin' for you. Now get goin'. Off, Mister. Get it." You know, you go off there, and it's some peg that you pull outta somethin' and come back. [02:03:58] Now that went on constantly, I mean, constantly for months when I got there. One of the two guys from Louisiana—I hate to say this, but the two guys from

Louisiana came in my room. Hell, I'm scared to death. The grades—you—when you go to classes up there, the first thing they do is give you test. You give—they give you a test on what you studied that night, on the work they assigned to you. And I'm scared to death that I was gonna screw that all to hell. Have two guys from Louisian—Alexandria, Louisiana, come in. And of course, they've—first they brace you up. "Brace up, Mister." Well, you gotta get up, you know, and go through all that crap. And then they'll—invariably, with me, and it infuriated me—they'd get around where they, [*takes deep breath*] they breath. And they get up—they have to sometime tiptoe to get up, you know, even where they breathin' in your ear, you know. And then they come around, and they'd have maybe a stinkin' mouth and come and walk all the way around you, you know. And then—and my roommate over there, two—one of 'em would be doin' him that way. And he says, "All right. Okay, hit the shower, Mister. Hit the shower." Go in the shower with your pajamas on. They reach over and turn the water on. "Turn the damn water on, boy." On both of us. And I started to get out. He said, "Get back. Get your ass back in here. Get back here. Turn around! Turn around! Get—turn—face the wall over there. Get—start turnin' around," you know. He reaches up and get my

toothbrush. He said, "Now catch your ankle. I said catch your ankle, damn it! Grab your ankle, man!" He'd push you over, you know. You grab your ankle, Bud, and he goes behind you, and he puts his hand on one cheek of your ass. He takes that toothbrush, and he pulls it back and pop! And popped the other cheek. Reload. Pop! And doin' my buddy next to me. Doin' him the same damn way. They keep doin' it till they see blood. [02:06:32] Now you think about that for a minute. Old country boy from Arkansas being subjected to—you get—you [*laughs*—you just about lose it. I did. I just about—[*unclear words*] two or three times I came very close. But everybody else is subjected to it, so you know, "You're tough. You c—hell, if they can do it, by goddamn, you can tough it out, too. And you're here, and don't screw up now," you know. You let 'em go through with all that damn stuff. Next thing you know you're out in the hallway. Just—the bu—the shine in the—I can still see these shiny—they cleaned the floors out there, and they put a—some kinda wax or somethin' on it. It just shine and slick, slick as glass. Then they have a big old box down here, and they call it your ready box. It keeps your belonging in it, and it about this high [holds hand out knee high] and about six, eight feet long. They crawl on top of the doggone thing and then, "Mister!" They

put you down in front of it, Bud. He hops down, and he—"Come on, I wanna open ?you?. Pu—get your knee—get your knees in—get your knees on the—get your knees on the floor!" You know, and he pushes you around—straighten you around. He's got a piece of chalk, and he chawks—puts your face right down, and he chawks where your nose is on the floor. Crawls back up there on that box, and you can hear it. You can't see it then. You'd be down, but you can hear it [*whistles*] that he's got a damn broom that's been soakin' in water, you know, twistin' and twistin' and twistin', and then he—whap! He'll hit you—your butt just—you know, and [*vocalized noise*] that floor is slick. And he could knock—you know, you slip up about that far [*gestures to show about two feet*] when he hit you. He'd just knock the shit out of you with that wet broom on your ass. [*Laughs*] And they would bet money. Another one jump up, you know, and maybe he wouldn't knock me quite as far. [*Laughs*] I'm gonna stop this because it went on and on way too much. Way, way too much.

[02:08:58] BW: So what did you do about it?

CS: It was so bad that two months, two months after I got to the Naval Academy, they—Congress passed a law that the hazing at the Naval Academy was out of order and that they could



continue on the basis of not physically touching a midshipman. Nobody was able then, from that point on, to touch me in their ha—they could make you memorize somethin' and some, but touch you physically—that—they couldn't do it. It all started right after I got there.

[02:09:43] BW: Well now, when this happened, these—this—these events that you just got through tellin' us about, did you go to anybody and talk with 'em about it?

CS: My—I wish I could—Bud, that's so long ago. I wish I could recall names, and I'd give anything because a teammate and a real good friend of mine happened to be comin' by one time when he looked in and saw two people in my room. And he was—I think he was a tackle, and I'm . . .

BW: Was he upperclassman?

CS: Upperclassman. Upperclassman on the football team. He came in, and he reached and got the nap of neck of one and just literally raised 'em up outta their seats and twisted their faces together, you know. And he started to really, you know, just to absolutely tear 'em apart. But then he released 'em because of the new rule. But he bent over and got right in their face, and he said, "If I ever"—I could hear it. He said, "If I ever catch you guys in this room, you're gonna regret it, boys. You're gonna

regret it." So he came over there and patted me on the shoulder and took it—took me out, and I got cooled off and went on back. But that's what I was subjected to at the Naval Academy, one of our great institutions, one of the great schools. And what I'm sayin' should not reflect in any way on what they do now because they don't do that now. But then they did it so bad that it took Congress to stop it. It was that bad.

[02:11:38] BW: Tell me about the event where you were on the boat. Do you recall that?

CS: Bud, I do. I really—I do recall that, and it—I hesitate to tell you, but I—and then I'll tell you why because it involved an accident that happened aboard a ship. We were—that was my first year there, and we'll—and first—actually, about the first month I was there, we went on cruise on a LCI. LCI is a landing craft in shallow water. This was a training course. This war was going on. We—you know, they had look out for torpedoes, and so we're—you're not fightin' a war because our training the next morning was gonna be a simulated attack by an airplane. We were gonna—they assigned all of us to a position. I was assigned to a fifty-millimeter machine gun on the very back end of the boat, along with three other guys. And it—so—but it was dummy. It was playlike. Playlike. The plane was gonna make

out like we were being attacked in war, but it was playlike. And as I say, I was assigned to the gun along with these other three guys, so we were to meet the next mornin' on our positions. So the next mornin' when general alarm sound, gee whiz. It was guys fallin' over each other, and this one runnin', and that one crawlin', and oh man, I'm makin' my way back to the ladder that goes up on my—where my gun mount is. [02:13:52] And when I got about halfway, Bud, I was lookin' over the side of the ship at—and off out there, there was a little plane right on the water, prop plane, and it was blowin' water back, sprayin' it back behind him, just, you know, just a big spray behind. But it's comin' right straight at us, simulatin' attack. But it—that's—so we go on. Two of the guys on the—that would be up there with me had—was already up there when I got to the foot of the ladder. And when I got there, I looked, and that plane was out there, and it was closer. So I went on up the ladder, which is bout as high as that ceiling right there. It—and that would be right at the top and that mount—machine-gun mount was right on top of that. So I go on up there, and when I get up, before I step out on the platform—I just had my hand on the platform, really, and I look back. "Damn, there's that plane. Damn, he's down yonder. He was out there. Now there he is right down

here," you know. And I look up there, and the boy that was assigned to the gun was strapped—had a big shell belt strapped on, and he was simulating, [gestures to show machine gun firing] you know. Boy, he was right on that plane comin' down like that. And then on the other side over there, a kid with binoculars—don't even know their names 'cause there's [*unclear word*]*]*—but this crew's—first time I'd even been out with the guys. Okay. I take another step. I'm right up—now I'm almost touchin' the britches leg of the guy on the gun. My duty was to—was the ammunition box, which is a great big old—got metal sides on that [*unclear words*], and I had—almost had my hand on that box there. But dang, I look over, and he's—it's—there's no time to think. I just flattened out down behind that ammo box, and the sensation I had was just a whoo! It was a-raisin' me up off of the—and then I plopped back down. I wasn't—certainly wasn't hurt. [02:16:30] But Bud, what happened—that plane—they were—it was a dummy, and he was demonstra—and he was a pilot on leave, on a ninety-day leave back to the States, and they had him. He was an expert pilot, and he was makin' it look real, you know. He was really makin' it look real. But he had gotten too damn close to the boat, and they—some friends of mine who saw it from that angle and then

some of 'em from the—all around, the report that saw the doggone thing. When he got—he saw that he was too close to the—and he didn't even have room to climb, but he cut—he turned like that, [gestures to show a 45-degree angle] and he just cleaned those—the gunner, Bud, was still strapped to the gun. And I crawled up on my knees, and he was cut. Everything was gone from here up [draws line across his shoulders] was gone, and there was just a little bitty squirts of blood, like that—you know, like a—it was his heart dyin'. It—and I am bloody. I—it—some of it is blood; some of it is goo. And I'm on my knees, and a guy that wasn't a midshipman, but a guy aboard the ship, he came up, and the first thing he did was he asked—he said, "Are you hurt, Mister? Are you hurt, Mister?" And I told him, "I don't think so. I don't think so." And he said, "Well"—and then he tried to look at that boy strapped to the gun. He didn't know how to handle it. He turned around and yelled down for somebody to bring blankets. He needed blankets. He needed blankets. The little fellow over there with the binoculars, and the reason that I hesitate to be talkin' about it, he's gone. He's not—he doesn't exist. It's just me and the guy that's strapped to the gun is alive. I'm the only one alive, but whether—his body was there, and then the other bodies

were gone. They were—they—whatever action that plane went, it swept 'em off the—off of the plane.

[02:19:20] BW: Did anybody die but the one boy?

CS: I don't know. See now, there's two midshipmen that disappeared. I don't know whether they died or not. They had a hearing, I understand. I wasn't involved with it. But I never heard. I wanted somebody to tell me that they made it. That they fell over the ship, and they got out. But I can't get anybody—the plane—they described the plane. He—when he came in, he did his wing, I believe, from this side; he did his wing. [Tilts hand to show an approach that turned sharply to the right] And they said he—his prop hit part of my—that box I was lyin' on and he—they said the plane did two, maybe three barrel rolls and plunged and hit the ocean. And the rumor wa—I guess it's rumor that he had la—a girl in the plane with him. A Navy WAC was in the back seat of that little two-seat plane. And that . . .

[02:20:36] BW: Course, everybody in the plane got killed.

CS: Oh yeah. Oh gosh, yeah. Oh yeah, yeah, yeah.

BW: And you came—you had . . .

CS: I'm the only one. I'm the only one on my crew. I was the only one that survived. That's the reason I didn't—I'm not sure that I

want this—some said, "Well, of course, it's part of his—that's part of—it's exactly what happened. Why not?" But that—the family of those people, those three boys, you know. I don't know how they would feel, lookin' at or seein' somethin' that I say about how their boys were killed, you know. And so I just don't know what right I have there except to tell you, and I will, that it happened. I was involved with it, and the Lord was just with me is all. Just—I just—there's no question because that prop—the—any way you look at it, that prop—because I was behind the ammo box and because that steel siding was so heavy and it—the prop—and plane comin' this way. [Gestures to demonstrate a hard bank to the right] It hit that side of the ammo box, and the plane was—I mean, the prop [*snap*] was destroyed just like that. And then the plane, it came right on up and over rollin', so there was nothing that hit. It wasn't anything touch me except the blood and the remains of that boy that was strapped on the thing, and it was—I had to, Bud, I had to rake stuff outta my face and just had to breathe and to get—and it just—I was covered with the sinew of a body that was put through a propeller of a damn plane. And it was just turned out mush, just—so yeah, that happened, and I'm not sure . . .

[02:22:51] BW: Well, how did that affect you, Scotty?

CS: I was so—got back to the Naval Academy. Now this is my first year, and this was about the first month. This is the—one of the first training—when they—the first training mission, and it was just right after I got to the Naval Academy. And I got back to Bancroft Hall, and I have a seat over on the sea wall side and there, off over there, they were just testing new motors—new planes, new motors, new wings, new everything, and it was just—and they were comin' up off of the bay. They're all little sea planes comin' up off of the bay, and for whatever reason, I [*unclear words*]*—it just—I finally got—I couldn't stand it. When they'd take off, they'd come right up over Bancroft Hall, and when they'd get right out there, just—vroom—you know, up over. It's training, and—but—and, you know, and no—and not tryin' to hit anybody. It's not tryin' to hurt anybody now. They just—they're workin' on a new plane or a new prop or new somethin' and comin' right over Bancroft Hall, and that—that's where we had all of our classes. And it—the second day, I just couldn't stand it. I couldn't concentrate. I couldn't—you know, here comes another one, you know, and you keep waitin' for it to go past, and you'd wonder if he's gonna go past. And so that was my horrible experience of first two weeks in the Naval Academy and how I got to—you know, it just—it—now later on, I*



was out at football practice, back gatherin' myself and startin' a season with 'em. And all of that became history, you know, and I got over the being—queasiness that I had there in Bancroft Hall. [02:25:18] So that was it and I—here about a month ago, two or three months ago, I started havin'—Les finally said, "Well, you just—we're not gonna put up with it anymore." I started havin' nightmares. I started dreamin' about that—going—it was goin' through that same old, same old, same old. And I couldn't sleep, and I wrote up to the Naval Academy and wrote a fella. The thing that was hurtin' me so was the three that didn't make it, the three guys that supposed to have been on that deck. They supposed to be on the deck, and if not, where are they? Where were they? And I just—I'd lay there, and I couldn't sleep. So I wrote the Naval Academy to find out. Well, they—he—they had a meeting—a inquiry, they called it. The boys were presumed dead, and they—the ship that was over following us saw some—two bodies goin' over the side these guys were on. So the—they think that they died—that they—nobody was picked up from the thing. And . . .

[02:27:05] BW: So you were one outta four that made it.

CS: One outta the four that made it. And just gettin' that letter and read—reading and reading more again where we were; it was

just outta Chesapeake Bay, and if—it—I—it—I can go to sleep now.

BW: Good.

CS: I don't think—I know it's something that I should—and then the only reason I hesitate is because of those boys that didn't make it, and what did happen to 'em and what, you know, just how—but that's the Naval Academy. And I think we [*laughs*—first . . .

BW: Well, let me . . .

CS: . . . we go through hazing and then we go through with that.

That's not much—that's not . . .

BW: You had a pretty rough start there, didn't you?

CS: That's a rough start there. You better believe it. It really was. Yeah.

[02:28:09] BW: Okay. Well, let me ask you about a couple other things that happened at the Naval Academy. You boxed there, didn't you not—didn't you?

CS: Yeah, I tell you if—yes, I did. Not by choice, Bud. I've—for the—I guess that's the last thing that I would do by choice is box. It—I'm—it—I'm sure it is. That's the last thing I'd ever even think about doin'. But my platoon commander didn't ask. He just said, "Mr. Scott, you report to Jim, section so-and-so, at five o'clock today. You're on company blah, blah, blah, boxin'

team." And that's the way . . .

BW: No tryouts?

CS: So I say, "Hold it just a minute," you know. [*Someone laughs*]  
And he said, "No, we're not holdin' it just a minute. You be  
there at five o'clock. You are on company so-and-so's boxing  
team."

[02:29:16] BW: Now how'd they know whether you could box or not?

CS: Well, they didn't care. I was on the football team, and they  
picked on the football players, you know. And they just—I—  
that's the way I—because he'd have no way to know back in  
Smackover. There was a gym down there. They'd—we'd box,  
and they'd throw pennies out there, you know, just to—just  
playin' like. But here, he put me on a boxin' team, you know.  
And he had—they've—then my first—I was assigned to a coach,  
and he was—he took me in a little old room, and you know, and  
he'd wanna—had to see what kinda reflex I had, you know. And  
he said, you know, we [*unclear words*]—and he says, "Go  
ahead." He said, "Go ahead! Go ahead! Go ahead!" He was—I  
was hittin' his glove every time. He'd—"Hit me," he'd say, and I  
says, "Well no, now I'm not gonna hurt—I don't"—"Hit me! Hit  
me!" You know, like that. And he's [*unclear words*] and then I  
popped [*laughs*] him. And then I—so he says, "Ah, okay. That's

what I'm talkin' about." So after that, I was on the boxin' team, and, Bud, we boxed only other midshipmen. We didn't go off to other schools or other . . .

[02:30:45] BW: Did you represent the platoon?

CS: . . . division. And I represented my team. I had seven, no, maybe it could've been eight, bouts. I boxed about eight times, and I won every time. And I didn't hurt anybody along the way. And the only reason I won is that I hit him more times than he hit me, and then sometime he didn't hit me at all. I was dancin'. I could dance better away from somebody. [*Laughs*] I could put on a show. I did. It was a dancin' show, you know. The crowd out there, you know, they—[*claps*] old dancin' Scott.

[02:31:34] BW: Now who was the crowd?

CS: Huh?

BW: Who was the crowd?

CS: The crowd—and they were dressed in full dress. Yeah. Boy. Yeah, yeah.

BW: Midshipmen?

CS: Ladies of the neighborhood would come, invited. Whole big bunch of people would come to the boxing. I don't know why, but it was real fancy. But I could—nobody could hit me. Just—it just—I just can't box, but by damn, [*laughs*] I'm not gonna let

'em hit me either.

[02:32:11] BW: Did they ever hit you?

CS: No, they did not hit me. Two or three times, and one time made me feel real good, and they—I'm sure they—some of 'em thought that "Well, there's a smart-ass for you." I was out-boxin' this guy, you know, and he was forced to box, too, obviously, you know. [*Laughs*] And I could—by this time, I could do all the good things, you know. It [*unclear words*]*—*and finally I got in position, and I give him one good punch, and then I was all over him, absolutely all over him, and he ended up, you know, like that [*covers his face with his hands*]. So I just walked out with my gloves down, and I tapped him, and he looked up, and I touched gloves with him. [*Laughs*] And the crowd just went—I just—oh, they, boy, they just went crazy. I just—the greatest thing they'd ever seen. [*Laughs*] And I was bein' a smart-ass, but gee whiz, here was a guy that—he was completely helpless, just completely helpless. And [*laughs*] so I'm—well, that—you ask about boxin' . . .

[02:33:22] BW: So you were light . . .

CS: [*Unclear words*]

BW: . . . you were the light heavyweight . . .

CS: Light heavy.

BW: . . . champion.

CS: Light heavy.

BW: And you were ?even? fightin' upperclassmen?

CS: Fight upperclassmen. Yeah. In fact, the one fight I fought a upperclassman that was in charge of his group, and he was the—he was training 'em. He was a boxer. He was a boxer, and he—I—he scared me. I—he scared me enough I kept away from him, [*laughs*] I tell you that. He didn't hurt me because I was scared of it. I w—I didn't try to hurt him either. But that's my boxing at the Naval Academy and it . . .

[02:34:13] BW: Then why didn't you keep on boxin' and start boxin' professionally and quit that football business?

CS: Oh good gracious. I thought—well, Bud, if I'd've had you for a trainer, [*BW laughs*] boy, listen, I'd've, gee whiz. I'd've said, "No more football" and . . .

BW: But you had a lot of ability boxin'.

CS: . . . and then start buildin' up some muscles [*laughs*] to box with.

[02:34:34] BW: Did you feel like you had the ability to box?

CS: Bud, the—I know it would sound terrible for a person to say so. I had the ability. I don't—it wasn't—the—I didn't—the feeling wasn't that I had ability to box. It was a feeling that I had that

nobody would beat me. No—nobody—I'm not gonna let anybody hurt me in boxin'. I could maneuver in—on—in the ring to—they just couldn't—they couldn't get in position to hit me, and I had that feeling. Now far as beatin' them, I, you know, I never attempted to beat anybody. I just attempted to keep 'em from beatin' me. [*Laughs*] And I wa—I guess you'd call me an old scaredy-cat, you know.

[02:35:38] BW: Well, that was mostly quickness?

CS: Because I was quick. I was quick. I could dance around, and I can be in front of somebody and have him scoochin' and scoochin', tryin' to get away from a . . .

BW: Was that the sa . . .

CS: . . . [*vocalized noise*] and then all of a sudden he realizes I'm behind him, [*laughs*] not in front. So yeah, I was—I knew that I had a ability to keep away from the guy and not get hurt. ?But it? . . .

[02:36:07] BW: Was that the same kinda quickness you had on a football field?

CS: Bud, on occasions. On occasions. On occa—you know that picture that he's talkin' about that I ran and beat Davis to the goal line?

BW: Right.

CS: [*Clears throat*] If you ever have a chance to see the thing again,  
I'm over here . . .

[02:36:27] BW: Now scuse me. Before you tell that, you're talkin'  
bout the Army-Navy game.

CS: Army-Navy game.

BW: And Glenn Davis—there was some question about whether he  
was faster than you.

CS: That's right. After this play that I'm gonna describe to you, it  
was in the paper that "Glenn Davis beat Scott." And then the  
next day, the next issue of that paper, "Gonna have a box—a  
match between Clyde Scott and Glenn Davis in Madison Square  
Garden. Set for Wednesday, dum-du-du-du-du." Yeah. Didn't  
ask me. They just announced that they—it was gonna be in  
Madison Square Garden. But [*laughs*] it—I'm all dressed out  
pretty and ready, and I'm at Madison, and Mr. Davis didn't show  
up.

[02:37:26] BW: So y'all were gonna have a foot race in Madison  
Square Garden.

CS: Gonna have a race. Yeah. We're gonna have a race. Yeah.

BW: And you actually went there, and he . . .

CS: They were gonna have me—it was gonna be me and Davis and—  
in Miami, somebody, some young guy had run the length of the



field with a punt return, and they were gonna invite him [*pats leg*] to race, and it seemed that somebody—I think it—I think they had four of 'em. And me and Davis was the drawin' card, you know, because, see, they said that "Davis is faster than Scott. Scott's supposed to be the fastest man in football up there," at the time they were talkin', you know. So . . .

BW: Why'd . . .

CS: . . . Mr. Davis didn't show up.

[02:38:07] BW: . . . why didn't he show up? Did you ever hear?

CS: I don't know. I have a feelin' that he knew damn well that [*laughs*] I'd beat him. I had a feeling I'd beat him. If you could—if you ever see that picture again, I'm over here, [*points to his right*] and I go in motion, and I get past my quarterback. I turn; I break down through the line. Glenn Davis is a halfback defender over here, and I run right up to—I'm—if you look at the pictures, I'm runnin' a pass route, and I get out there, almost touch him. Well, I did touch him, and I went up and caught the damn ball. You could see that in the pictures. Caught the ball. Oh, of course, as I'm gatherin' it up, and he's on me, you know, [*touches his shoulders*] tryin' to get—trying to—you can see all that, you know. And then I break loose, and then I beat him to the goal line. Or I—and when you get down to the goal line I—

it—I'm there, you know, and I'm kinda shifted outta—kinda into neutral, but here's Davis comin' over from the side, you know, and tryin' to knock the feet out from under me. But I'd already [*laughs*] marked it down. I already scored before he got there. But now they made big to-do over that. The press made big to-do over the Scott-Davis.

[02:39:45] BW: And he was a Heisman Trophy winner, wasn't he?

CS: A Heisman Trophy winner. He sure was. Yeah. And a nice guy. But it—I had a certain feeling I could beat Glenn Davis, but . . .

BW: You had a certain feelin' you could beat just about anybody, didn't you?

CS: Well, yeah. I guess that's the braggadocio in me.

BW: No, just tell the truth.

CS: But just my certain feeling, I thought I could beat him. I did—yeah, I thought I could beat him. Sure did. [*BW laughs*] Yeah.

BW: Okay. Why don't we take just a little break.

TL: All right.

[Tape stopped]

[02:40:16] BW: Kay. Let's talk about Navy football.

CS: Okay.

BW: So when you first went to Navy, you're at Annapolis, and you're out for football. What happened? What happened there?

You're—were you tryin' out, or how did they figure out that you could play or not?

CS: Well, they had seen me play at Bullis for a full season, and they had a lotta material from Smackover, and they were running from the same formation that Smacko—that I ran at Smackover. So they had a pretty good feeling on what kinda football player I was, and far as I was concerned, I was just gonna—I just—I was gonna make the team. I was just gonna—made up my mind I was gonna—I'm gonna be on their team, make the team. So I went out with a determined feeling that I was gonna play for Navy. "I'm here, so I'm gonna play football."

[02:41:47] BW: Now you played offense and defense, didn't you?

CS: Yeah, unfortunately.

BW: Both ways.

CS: Yeah, at Smackover, Arkansas, and now the Naval Academy.  
Yeah.

BW: And played—and when you play . . .

CS: And not big enough—not heavy enough to play any of the  
[laughs] positions. But yes, I played defense, as well as offense.

[02:42:09] BW: Bout how much did you weigh when you were at Navy, do you think?

CS: One seventy-five was the largest I was at the Naval Academy.

BW: You were about five eleven and one seventy-five?

CS: Yep, that's it. That's it. The only thing I had goin' for me is that—you know, when you—when you're a little scared, you can run fast?

BW: Yeah.

CS: So when I got a little scared, I could run fast. And sometime I could run real fast, [*laughs*] so . . .

[02:42:45] BW: That was kinda like that bridge in Smackover?

CS: Yes. Yeah, we never did talk about that bridge. But that's about what it was. Absolutely. But . . .

BW: I don't think you said this before, but you'd told me that you think you probably broke the world record to 40-yard dash when you were a boy runnin' across that bridge in Smackover.

CS: No doubt in my mind about that. There's nobody could get across that bridge as fast as I could. [*Laughs*] And especially on those dark nights, you know, when those spooks and goblins and the things that go floppin' around at night. Under the bridge they'd be. They all lived under the bridge. They wanted me. They'd been after—I knew they were after me and the—and to attest to the fact of how fast I ran, they never did catch me. [*Laughter*] I'm kiddin', but I'll tell you . . .

BW: Do you think that's . . .

CS: Yeah, I knew I could run that way. I could run [*unclear words*]. I was—didn't have much ability to do much anything else, but I could run. Yeah.

BW: That got you ready to be the fastest man in football, didn't it?

CS: Yeah, that's right.

[02:43:58] BW: Okay, you're at Navy. Let me ask you a little bit about the equipment. Did y'all—did you wear a face mask?

CS: Face mask, I wore. Yeah.

BW: Face mask like this?

CS: Yep. With the face mask—with a nose guard. That was the first time though that I'd—when I was at Arkansas playin' Tulsa, player by the name of Jim Brown, he had the reputation of takin' the opposition out with some facial injury. Mine was a broken nose. I've had a deviated septum ever since I—that game. That was a Tulsa game way back there in Arkansas. So yeah. Go ahead now.

[02:44:51] BW: Well, the—what kind of uniforms did you have?

CS: Well, everything was goin' to lightweight—light—lighter the better. The clo—the—they had shin guards, they call 'em, you know. A football player, a runner, especially, gets a lotta licks on his legs that he can't avoid, you know. Even after he's on the ground, they—they're stompin' on him. With plastic—with the

advent of plastic on the market, they can make 'em real thin, lightweight shin guards. That was one thing. Shoulder pads. Shoulder pads could be stronger but lighter. Everything was better. [*Unclear words*] . . .

[02:45:42] BW: Do you remember, was that about the time you were at Navy?

CS: I'm sorry?

BW: Was that about the time you were at Navy?

CS: Bout the time I was at Navy. That's right.

BW: Pads got better?

CS: Bout the time at Navy. I don't recall that I had any of those at Arkansas. It came on the scene at Navy. Yeah, at the Naval Academy.

[02:46:00] BW: Well, do they have better equipment at Navy than they did University of Arkansas?

CS: Well, I'm not sayin' that, but [*laughs*] we would—at Arkansas we would—we were all singin' "Hallelujah, we got new uniforms" right before our first game with—what was our first game with? Well, anyway, and before that, we were playin' in the practice uniforms is all we had. [*Laughs*] So they—we're comparing schools, you know, and I don't wanna say that Arkansas was just dead last in there, but they were dead last in the [*laughter*]

uniforms . . .

BW: Okay.

CS: . . . and the equipment.

[02:46:50] BW: Okay. Well, let's go back to Navy.

CS: [*Unclear word*]

BW: Did you have leather helmets there?

CS: Leather helmets, yes, at the University of Arkansas.

BW: You had leather helmets?

CS: Leather headgear, and it was the first time at the University of Arkansas that I put a nose guard on. They—the—they'd put a nose guard to come across to protect my nose. I had a deviated septum from that game in Tulsa.

[02:47:18] BW: So but before that you never had a nose guard?

CS: No, I didn't.

BW: Just . . .

CS: No.

BW: But mo—did most of the players not have any kinda face mask?

CS: At then they didn't, but they all have 'em now. They—it's . . .

BW: Yeah, but back then, did they?

CS: No, they all didn't have it then. No. No, sir.

[02:47:35] BW: Kay. So you're—what position are you playin' at Navy?

CS: Navy, I was a—I'd say wing back. I was a wing—yeah, I played wing back.

BW: Well, did they center the ball to you?

CS: They centered the ball to—no, we had a quarterback—it's a—center ball to Bruce Smith, and I'm sittin' out here on the right—on the wing, on the right wing. And I never stopped to think what we called our formation. I just—it was just like a wingback, very similar to what Arkansas had when I was at— with Barnhill. Very similar.

[02:48:20] BW: What about your coaching at Navy?

CS: Coaching, now that—I had—and my only hesitation here is that I don't wanna talk about a school that's one of the real great institute that we have in schools and one of the real great places to be. Teachin' our boys to be naval people and doin' such a great, super job. But I'll have to say, and excuse myself before I say it, they could only coach at the Naval Academy if they were graduates of the academy. They had to be graduates. Well, that limited the field of coaches so dramatically. We had, and I won't—don't wanna pick anybody out, but when my coach was Coach Hagberg. Coach Hagberg was an admiral in charge of the submarine fleet, and now he's coaching one of—probably one of the best teams the Naval Academy had ever had. And the



simple reason for that was they had so many returning veterans, so many guys that had played someplace else, like myself, now playing for Navy. And bring a coach in that, at best, was limited in, not ability, but limited in how much time is . . .

BW: Experience.

CS: . . . spent actually coaching.

BW: Yeah.

CS: But—and a ni—he's a nice guy to go with it but it . . .

BW: Well, did you . . .

CS: Now they don't—they changed that rule. They don't have to be Naval Academy graduates to be coaches now. They . . .

[02:50:35] BW: Well, the Naval Academy at that time—Annapolis, where you were playin', they were in the top five teams in the nation all the time you were there, weren't they?

CS: They, actually, they—we were—I think at one time we'd—with—Army was first, and we were second at one time when I was there. The reason they had so many returning athletes—like I went to Bullis Prep, prep school. They were preppin' athletes to go to the Naval Academy. And people—like Bobby Lane was in a—he wasn't in the other school, but he was in a—one of the Army teams. But anyway, we—they—and they had their choice of all the armies that we had and all the people that were out

there.

BW: So the best players . . .

CS: [*Unclear words*]

BW: . . . were in Army and Navy?

CS: Army and Navy were the best players, by far.

BW: In the nation?

CS: Yeah.

BW: By far.

CS: Disregarding coaches of any kind, yes, by far they were. Yeah.

[02:51:53] BW: Now about the plays. You were tellin' me a while back that—about the admirals doin' somethin' about the plays. Tell us about that.

CS: Well, you see, this reflects back on the coach.

BW: Well, Scotty, this is just a sign—I just want you to tell us about the times. It's not . . .

CS: That's right. Okay.

BW: He was doin' the best he could do, and he had to be there.

CS: Well, the actual fact was that we would change formations every week. There would be some more admirals come aboard with new plays, plays maybe that they used back in high school or back college, wherever they were. But we were changing all the time, changing and never having a set of rules that we'd be—we

repeated with our plays. That we repeated, repeated. We had new plays that [*clears throat*]*—*for every game we had new plays. [*Clears throat*] Scuse me. No reflection on the coaches, but you can see that that type of thing would—when you got Army—old Blaik over there, one of the greatest coaches, he didn't have to graduate from the Army. He was just a great coach. He didn't have to bring anybody in from the fleet to help him coach. He was a great coach, just one of the greatest. He had the advantage. That's the point I was makin'.

[02:53:29] BW: And Army had two Heisman Trophy winners, Glenn Davis . . .

CS: Glenn Davis and Blanchard. Yes.

BW: And they were the ones that were All-American . . .

CS: Absolutely.

BW: . . . and . . .

CS: They deserved it.

BW: . . . they were good.

CS: They were good. [*Laughs*] One of the embarrassing moments in my young life was a Army-Navy game. Barney—Davis went out for a pass, and Blanchard faked like he was goin' out behind Davis, but then he came back. And unfortunately, he came back to my side. I'm defensive halfback, and I said, "Oh boy, lookie

here!" And [*laughs*] he came, and the truth of the matter, he ran over me. Just absolutely flattened me out. [*Laughs*] I made the mistake of hittin' him too high. I should've gotten under his legs that—you know, somehow get his legs out from under him. But I didn't. I was gonna hit him head on. Boy, I'm—you know, and I hit him head on. [*Laughs*] And I bounce off out there. You might've sa—no, you didn't, but you saw a picture of that.

BW: Right.

CS: Me flattened out after the play. Flattened out there. [*Laughs*] He absolutely ran over me. Well, I, you know—at that time in my life people wasn't supposed to run over me, not especially at the Navy—not Clyde Scott at the Navy. Could outrun most people. [*Laughs*] But anyway, I was embarrassed by gettin' [*unclear words*] . . .

[02:55:14] BW: According to your clippings in your scrapbook, John Barnhill said you were the best defensive back that he ever saw.

CS: I think it—yes, I know that. Barney has said that and he—more than once. I don't know whether he—he wasn't—he was referring to some ability that I had to, you know, maybe outguess and maybe outfake or maybe be at the right side. The fact was I could outrun most people. That was the—that is a

fact 'cause I'd—I just made up my mind to do, and I'd do it. And whether you're on offense, defense, or what, if you can run fast, you got an advantage. And I had the advantage. I could catch most people. I could catch most people. The passers, if I had any leverage at all on position in the field, I'd catch 'em, you know. I'd outrun the runnin' backs that might get loose. Oh, hell yeah. I'd—I could—I had the ability because of my speed to be a good defensive back, and Barney was very gracious in sayin' that, but he—and he did say that. It made me work hard to know that your coach behind you, you know, and the people to—people are behind you to do—not just to score a touchdown, but be on defense to keep them from scoring. And I did my level best to do it.

BW: Well . . .

SL: You know what? Can I grab this cane? It's kinda gettin' in the shot. Do you mind if I set it down?

CS: Yeah, you can set it. Okay.

SL: Okay. Good. Thanks.

[02:57:02] BW: I'm gonna ask you about—think it was 1947 when you were playin' for the Razorbacks, and you were in a—the LSU game at Cotton Bowl. Do you remember that?

CS: Well, vaguely, but I remember LSU, and I remember the Cotton

Bowl. Yeah, and . . .

BW: Well, let me ask you if it was cold?

CS: Yeah, it was cold. It rained. It snowed. It sleeted. It did everthing that weather could do to [*laughs*] mess up a football game, and I was out there the whole time. Yes.

[02:57:32] BW: Okay. There's a famous play in that game. I believe the score ended up bein' zero to zero.

CS: Zero-zero. That's right.

BW: Okay. But there was a famous play at the end of the game where they threw a—LSU was down on Arkansas's goal line and threw a ball to an All-Conference end, and he was about on the one-yard line. Tell us about that.

CS: There's not much to tell. It—and it was—it happened just exactly as you said. He threw the pass out and it—I'm over here on left defense. This ball was thrown out over here on the right side, almost against the sideline over there on one of their fastest men. Now I'm here, and he catches the ball here, [*points to indicate left then far-right sidelines*] and the goal line is there, and I've got a ways to go from here to the goal line if—but the minute he caught the ball, I'm here. I don't run over there. I run over there at the goal line. I ran it all the way across the field. And with my luck and with a little bit of speed, we both

met at—just before we crossed the goal line, it was—I tackled him. And when it started out, he—it looked like a cinch for him. He's over here, and it looks like he's just real—all he's gotta do is just run down there and run bout ten yards down there [laughs] for a touchdown. But I had the advantage of runnin' straight across the field and just barely got there. But it looked like, you know, somethin' outstanding, but it just a simple fact of runnin' and doin' what you supposed to do. And I was lucky to get to that corner down there before he got there and . . .

[02:59:50] BW: And you got him on the one-yard . . .

CS: . . . and the—and it—and I think it looked sensational. The fans and the press and everything, because I—when I get there, I'm movin' pretty fast. I'm movin' pretty fast. And I have all that speed and force [unclear words] what little weight I had, and I hit him just perfectly ?midsection?, and I not only stopped him, but I knocked him outta bounds way, just way out there. And it was kind of a sensational to see somebody do it, but it wasn't all that much. It was just takin' an old boy that doesn't know anything but run fast and, you know, and grab people when you get there and keep 'em from scorin'.

BW: Well, some people—some of the fans said they thought you were gonna knock him up into the stands. [Laughter]

CS: Well, you know, I got to runnin' about as fast as I could run  
[laughs] and . . .

BW: Well, I bet he still remembers it. [Laughter]

CS: . . . and I probably—probably if we had it to look at, you know,  
then he probably—right—leavin' the ground to be sure it goes  
over, and I mighta caught him in the air a little bit, you know,  
which made it easier for me to lift him up and get him on out  
there, way out there. [Laughs]

BW: But it was on the one-yard line, wasn't it?

CS: He was on the one-yard line.

BW: And he didn't score and . . .

CS: The nicest . . .

BW: . . . so the game was tied.

CS: Yeah, the great—the climax to this story is beautiful. After the  
game was over, it was zero-zero, and they had a big gathering.  
And they have a big coin flippin' for the game. [*Mimics flipping a  
coin*] If Barney called it right, he—Arkansas won. If they  
[laughs]—they flipped the coin for the . . .

BW: For the championship?

CS: . . . for the winner of the game. Yeah, they did, and we came—  
we won with the flip of a coin. And so that just made that play  
all more dramatic.



[03:02:01] BW: What was John Barnhill like? What was your . . .

CS: John was a . . .

BW: . . . what was your relationship with him?

CS: . . . John was a—almost you could—a fatherly type, you know.

Just—he—you could—you didn't have to guess how Barney felt.

You were around him three minutes, and you don't—there's no fakery about him. He's John Barnhill and, you know—if he's your friend, you know it without any question. If you're doin' wrong, you're makin' a mistake, if you're not doin' it like it's supposed to be done, he let you know it. And no uncertain terms. He didn't—we have—up there the—and it's sad that we do—on occasions we have our boys get in trouble off the field. Stayin' up at night and doin' silly things and even in dope, you know, and just on and on. And it's . . .

[03:03:16] BW: You talkin' bout now?

CS: Yeah, seem like every year, somewhere durin' the year they—

our boys get in trouble. You didn't get in trouble with Barnhill.

You just didn't do it to Barney. Barney, well, it—I don't know how—the guys were scared of him. I mean, you just wouldn't

even—you wouldn't even think about breakin' a rule of Barney's.

He just—he was that type of person. You—he's the man that

you don't want him to get mad at you. [*Laughs*] You don't want

him to get on you, you know. He was tough. Real tough. Just—he—and he had a way about him that he made a better person out of every one of the players. At the end of his tenure at the University of Arkansas, I was a better person because he was my coach. And I could say that almost everybody that played would say the same thing, "I'm better because I had a chance for him to be my coach." [03:04:22] He's a—and along with that, he brings a great formation. He's a—he wasn't strong on big people. He was very strong on using smaller people with speed. Lead him to say that I was one of the great defensive players that he had had. He—and defense was his game. My locker, right across just about eye level was "defense." My locker next to me, "defense." And you look around. "Hot damn, he's got 'defense' written on all the lockers." And so help me goodness, if you raise your eyes a bit, you know, in big letters he'll have had "defense" written up there across the side of the top [*unclear word*]. Defense was his game, and he did it not with big men; he did it with small, fast people. [03:05:27] So—and to describe Barney, you'd describe—he'd do anything to help you. He'd do anything to help you. But he'd do anything to keep you straight, too. He'd—to keep you on the straight line, straight and narrow. He—and whatever it'd take to do that, he

was ready to do it. So in my mind, Barney was one of my great coaches that we've had at Arkansas, and one of the nicest people we've had at Arkansas.

[03:06:07] BW: How did he feel—how did Barnhill feel about two-a-days?

CS: Bout . . .

BW: Two-a-days.

CS: Two-a-day almost killed me. He [*laughs*—you know, ?but? . . .

BW: Y'all had a heat spell up there, didn't you? Over a hundred degrees . . .

CS: Well, yeah.

BW: . . . during two-a-days?

CS: It—well, if it'd be four hundred degrees then we'd still be out there. Every year we had two-a-day up on the practice field—up on the—where the—it would—it was up. It wasn't shaded by [*laughs*] anything. Just up—kinda built up. And it was two-a-day. We le—when we left the dressin' room until we got back to the dressin' room, we did not touch a drop of water. It got so bad. It got so bad. Here's a guy—I love old Barney, you know, but with me, personally, how—why would he treat a nice guy like me, you know? [*BW laughs*] And not let me have a drop of water from the time I leave the dressin' room till we got back.

And that's a fact. That's exactly what he did. Why he—why didn't half of us die or get, you know—'cause you just don't do that. The doctors tell you now you don't deny your body of liquids that long and that severely. It's a wonder he didn't [*laughs*] kill half of us. And this is the truth. Be a towel over there that somebody had doused down to wipe off somethin', maybe a football, you know. I deliberately fake round the end, you know, and I'd slide off over here with—this hand [*laughs*] would grab that towel. And while I was on the ground I'd, I really would, I would suck water, old muddy water, outta the damn towel. [*Laughter*] It was like—it—you've—in your mind you have a picture of a—somebody on the desert crawlin' in sand, [*laughs*] you know. And an oasis that's just—and you're [*BW laughs*] three or four hundred yards, you know. "He's not gonna make it." But [*laughs*] that's what I—that's the way I felt out there, and all the other guys felt it. Said all that to say he was tough on practice.

BW: Now . . .

CS: He thought it tough—it made you tough but now they—I think they think maybe it—that has nothin' to makin' you tough. It might kill you. They don't do that anymore. But it was just one way Barney thought he was makin' us tougher.

[03:08:49] BW: You wanted to play baseball at—for the University of Arkansas.

CS: Oh gosh. Yeah. Goodness, yeah. [03:08:54] In the summertime I worked in the grocery store with Mr. Capehart. Capehart Grocery.

BW: In Smackover now?

CS: Smackover. And . . .

[03:09:02] BW: Now are you talkin' bout high school?

CS: Yeah, high school. This is summer vacation.

BW: Right.

CS: We had this baseball team, and we traveled to Camden, El Dorado, Hope. All the teams that we played football against, we played baseball. And Mr. Capehart was the manager. He had the catchin' mitt, and he had the baseballs [*laughs*] and the bats and the balls and everything. And he w—and he had the transportation. And we would go and play baseball. I liked to play baseball. I cou—I would—I was a good baseball player. I could throw, and I had a strong arm. I was born with a strong arm, I believe. And after cuttin' stove wood, you know, [*laughs*] and all the things and gardenin' and all the things that makes an arm. I could be a pitcher, and I was a pitcher. I could catcher. I was a catcher. I could play first base. I was a first baseman.

I could play center field better than anybody on the team. I was a center field man. I—whatever was needed, I would do it. And there was one guy that for every home run that we would hit in a official field—the official field would be Camden, El Dorado, especially Camden, and maybe at Hope. Man, I think there was only three official baseball fields. I—during the whole—during the season I made nineteen dollars. I hit nineteen home runs.

BW: Now you're in high school?

CS: Yeah. This was high school.

BW: Now the people that you were playin' against were . . .

[03:10:56] CS: When I—and when I—before I finished from high school, there was several teams that tried to get me to sign a contract to play baseball.

BW: One of 'em bein' St. Louis Cardinals?

CS: Yeah.

BW: They tried to get you to sign a . . .

CS: Yeah.

BW: . . . professional contract?

CS: Yeah. But you asked me—but I like to play baseball. I liked it—I like—I—it really—and I would play—I wanted to play it at—if—I was all set to play at the University of Arkansas. It just—there wasn't a question about that. I—'cause they have pretty good

football goin' up there—baseball goin' up there. Barney called me aside, and he says, "Scotty, I know how you feel, partner." He said, "But you're here on a football scholarship." And he says, "Football is what you gonna play. And I hate to not let you play baseball, but you can't do it. Not under your contract with us." And he said, "Now track is a different story, but not football." So he wouldn't let me play, and I wanted to so bad, *[laughs]* for . . .

BW: Now when you . . .

CS: . . . fun. Baseball was fun. You know, baseball was fun.

*[Scratching sound]*

[03:12:05] BW: Well, you were tellin' us about the nineteen homeruns. What—were you playin' against high school kids?

CS: Yeah. Well, no, at home these towns that we play, like the Camden, where the parks would be, they were allowed to pay *[crinkling sound]* some amount to three people. They could pay a catcher, pitcher, and usually they pay a catcher, pitcher and one other. And they—and—ask your question again. Old Scotty's sittin' over here thinkin' about hittin' a home run and playin' baseball, and you asked a question.

BW: Kay. What I'm wonderin' is who were you playing against? Was it boys your age or men or who were you playin'?

CS: No, it was men. More men. Most all of 'em were older than we were. Some high school played. Mr. Capehart—the only—the—that's all he had was high school. He had a few—maybe we—we might've had two, three on the team.

[03:13:16] BW: So how old were you when this was happenin'?

CS: Well, you see, now you catch me when I have to . . .

BW: Well, high school?

CS: . . . pull back. High school. Sixteen?

BW: So that . . .

CS: I just grabbed sixteen. That's about what I . . .

[03:13:31] BW: Is that where you got the idea that you could play?

CS: Beg your pardon?

BW: Is that where you got the idea that you were a good player, when you knocked those nineteen home runs . . .

CS: Yeah.

BW: . . . and playin' against adults?

CS: Yeah.

BW: You were sixteen?

CS: Yeah. Yeah.

[03:13:42] BW: And then—but then you get up to the university, and you wanna play, and Barnhill says, "No way."

CS: Wouldn't let me. No way, Jose. That's right.



BW: So you didn't play.

CS: I didn't play. No, no.

BW: You believe that you'd've—if you'd've not played football or run track and just done baseball, how do you think you would've done?

CS: I think I would've been a good baseball player.

BW: Played professionally, probably?

CS: And there was a real good chance I would've played pro baseball. Yeah.

BW: And were—you were offered a contract to do that.

CS: You're makin' a braggadocio outta me, and I'm not. I'm just . . .

BW: I'm—this is me talkin', not you.

CS: I'm just being factual. I think I would've been a pro baseball player. I'd sure give it a hell of a go if I'd've had a chance.

[03:14:28] BW: Now back to Razorback football. You were All-Conference every year that you played there.

CS: Yeah.

BW: And then you played against Bobby Layne, Doak Walker. Were they good ball players?

CS: Yeah, they were. Yeah.

BW: Tell me which—what about Doak Walker? What do you think about him?

CS: Doaker was—see, I—my last year was with [*clears throat*] Doak and Walker.

BW: In Detroit?

CS: Detroit. Doak was—he walked the straight and narrow. He was a nice guy type. He was a—just—there's no way to explain it except he was a nice guy. No dri—no drunkenness, no out of bounds, you know, off the field. And he walked the straight and narrow. He was the kinda guy that you'd like your kid to look up to, you know, and be around. [03:15:31] Now Bobby Layne was a different story. [*Laughs*] Bobby Layne was anything but what Doak Walker was. Old Bobby was—he was—he could drink more whiskey and play football than any—anybody. He—well, you just couldn't believe that he could drink as much as he did . . .

[03:15:58] BW: Well, did he drink . . .

CS: . . . and then still play football.

BW: . . . on game day would he drink?

CS: Oh hell, yes. It—he—if—one time we went to Pittsburgh, and he came down, and I—we checked in. He went down. Boy, he was frantic. And he said, "They forgot to"—the trainers, they were cooperatin' with him. They'd put whiskey in a bag, you know, and they'd hide it and carry it along. On this occasion they

didn't have it, and [*laughs*] Bobby was—well, he says, "I'm gonna go this way, and you go that way, and if you find a party, you come get me." And well, he found a party, and well, he just got a drink from the . . .

BW: Well, did he drink . . .

CS: He was almost in—to—for him to drink as much as he did and then . . .

BW: . . . well, was . . .

CS: . . . play ball was absolutely remarkable.

BW: . . . well, was . . .

CS: He was a good football player.

BW: Was he drinkin' durin' the game?

CS: Say again?

BW: Did he drink during the game?

CS: Before and after. Yeah. Yeah, he drank before games.

[03:17:16] BW: And y'all were world champions, too, weren't you?

CS: Yeah, they . . .

BW: Weren't y'all champions?

CS: Yeah, absolutely. Yeah.

BW: And you—y'all were champions when you played for the Eagles. Y'all were world champions, and then when you went to Detroit, you were world champion.

CS: That's exactly right.

BW: You played on two world championship teams.

CS: I did. And I'll be perfectly honest when I say I made very little contribution to the two team, very little, especially Detroit. I could just almost say I didn't make a contribution to that team. Just being there, if that had any—but I didn't do any good with them the year I played with 'em.

[03:17:53] BW: Now Bobby Layne, when he played, he played at—for Texas and—is that right?

CS: Right.

BW: And Doak Walker played for SMU, and you played for Arkansas, and they were all in the same conference . . .

CS: Yeah. Uh-huh.

BW: . . . the Southwest Conference.

CS: Yeah. Yeah.

[03:18:08] BW: Did you know that the players voted on who was the best football player that they played against that year, and seventy-somethin' of 'em said Clyde Scott and about fifty-two said Doak Walker? Did you know that?

CS: I didn't realize it was that . . .

BW: Did you . . .

CS: . . . ratio.

BW: . . . do you remember that?

CS: I remember people tellin' me that.

[03:18:34] BW: Well, how good was Doak Walker?

CS: Doak was good. Doak was—he was the—had the perfect build for a runnin' back. He had strong legs. He was about my height. He was bulky. His chest—you know, he—I bet he outweighed me twenty, thirty pounds or more, and he still had speed. He had—oh, I might brag and say, "Oh, I can outrun him," but shoot, not much. Not much if I did. And he had strong legs. He could make good moves on the field. He'd score a lotta touchdowns for you. He was a football player. He was a football player. [03:19:19] And incidentally, let me go back and say a word about Bobby Layne. I take back—I'm not being malicious. I'm not—when I say he drank so much, you know, it may—it might seem that I'm puttin' him in the ranks of a drunk, a no-good, down-and-out drunk. Bobby Layne was nothin' like that. He was a gentleman-type person. He was very successful in everything he did. He'd take a drink of whiskey—never drunk, and he wasn't—and I don't want to even come close to sayin' that he was the drunkard type. He wasn't. He was the type of guy that you'd like to have playin' with you and for you and . . .

BW: He was a party boy.

CS: Yeah, that's right. He was a party boy. Yeah, he'd go to a party after the game was over. He would—he'd go to the parties.

[03:20:23] BW: Now how did you end up—you played—you were a first-round draft choice. You were All-American at Arkansas.

CS: Yeah.

BW: And then you were first-round draft choice to go to Philadelphia. You go to Philadelphia. How many years are you there?

CS: Three.

BW: Three years. Kay. And you got hurt in Philadelphia. You got beat up pretty bad.

CS: I mean, like, real bad. Yeah. Yeah.

[03:20:44] BW: Did you think about quittin'?

CS: Yeah, bout time Doak and Bobby called me that day, I was—in my mind I was quittin' before they called and before I even had any idea they would call. But I had this shoulder [*pats and rubs right shoulder*] that back of it, that big clavicle back there, was broken in three places the year before. And this shoulder [*pats right shoulder*] you—it couldn't—it would come out of socket just—I could do it. I could take it; pull it out. Just like that, it'd come out. This one over here [*rubbs left shoulder*] was almost the same way. It'd been dislocated four or five times. So when Doak and Bobby called, I was on my way home, practically, in

my mind. [*Clears throat*] Scuse me. So yeah, I was at the end of my football career when that—so I went with them because they said this hospital that was patchin' up these soldier boys comin' back from the war, that they could make a new man outta me. They could fix my right knee. They could do—they could put a new shoulder up there that's better than the old one and do the same thing on the left side that they—and they talked me in—you know, and you—dadgum athletes sometime doesn't have good sense about it and thinks he can still do it, you know. He's just got it in his mind he can still do it. I had it in mind still, but I couldn't. I was too beat up too much. Couldn't—legs gone. Shoulders gone and [*unclear words*]*—*but they said, "Come on over—let—and I—we'll take you to the hospital." And I did. Went over to the hospital and . . .

[03:22:46] BW: Now you leave the—you're lea—you left the Eagles.

Went to Detroit.

CS: Yeah.

BW: Okay.

CS: [*Unclear words*]

BW: And then they're gonna take you to the hospital.

CS: Yeah, gave me a—they put me on contract, you know. I said, "Gee whiz. Boy. Okay. Let's have at it." So they took me to

the hospital. First thing, they worked on this. This [*pats right shoulder*] was the worst shoulder because I'd torn up that clavicle and scapula and just tore 'em all to hell. So they started on this one. They put a leather band around my chest, and they had it where it could buckle it right in front—tighten it, where you tighten it. And right under my arm and attached onto the doggone equipment was a chain right there and then it—I could put it in like that, [*holds elbow close to ribs*] and then I could bolt it—not bolt it, but snap it on a chain that was on that leather band around my chest. So I couldn't get it away from [*unclear word*]*—so here's what I had. [Moves right forearm away from his body]* Playin' professional ball, [*laughs*] and we were talkin' about winnin' a World Series. And here's a guy out there gonna play. Can't get his arm away from his chest—if he—if it—there's no way. He couldn't do it. The only—and same thing on this side. So here I [*laughs*]*—you think about it. Playin' professional ball, you're gonna catch a pass, and you can't get this [points to bicep] away from your chest. You can't get that away from your chest. You can't. You just can't do it. They have to hand you the ball. You couldn't catch [laughs]—can't get—couldn't raise it up. So—and I was stupid enough to let Bobby and Doaker talk me over, but the reason I did is I really thought I still had it*



down here [*pats knee*] with my leg. I really did. But I—a ligament was torn here [points to outside of right knee] and just the slightest—for instance, I went in—on—to—one—the first play I went in in the playoff game. Lean back to catch a punt. Went down like that, and just as I made the—just the slightest little fake, you know, that knee just caved in and over. Down I go, you know. I was out on the field and thousands of people, you know, and "this new guy's gonna save us" and do all that. Then, "look at him. He's layin' out there on the damn field hurt." And they drug me off the field, and when I got over—well, when goin' back to the hotel, I told the manager that I was through, that I'd be goin' home the next day. I was just through. So I regret having gone through all of that. I feel bad when I do. Just didn't perform at all. Didn't do anything but make a perfect ass outta myself.

[03:25:58] BW: How many games did you play in at Detroit, do you think?

CS: Before that playoff—before—I would say two or three. Didn't do—one time I had a chance to take a ball and had a pretty good openings, straight without havin' to fake and—or do anything and then—and I don't recall. I ran maybe fifteen, twenty yards, just straight. And one play and then on the bench for the rest of

the time. Just livin' in the past. And I regret that I did it. I—  
even though they wrote me a check after it was all over with.  
But I really regret having done that.

[03:26:49] BW: Well, when you were hurt at—when you were at  
Philadelphia, and you were hurt . . .

CS: Oh yeah.

BW: . . . they had—while you were off, they made you stay up there  
when you got hurt and couldn't play the rest of the season.

CS: Yeah.

BW: That right?

CS: Yeah.

[03:27:03] BW: And they had you modelin' on TV, didn't they?

CS: Yeah.

BW: Coach did?

CS: Yeah. That was when I hurt this—broke that scapula back there  
in three places in the hospital, and I was out for the season.

BW: But they had you modelin' . . .

CS: And . . .

BW: . . . suits and stuff like that on TV? Tell us about that.

[03:27:25] CS: . . . and my friend, I owe you a lot. Do you—I go  
up—I go to the manager of the Eagles, and I say, "Look. Lookie  
here. Lookie here. I've busted that knee [points to left knee].

I—in another game, I almost I tore my leg off. This knee [*pats right knee*] is gone. Both shoulders is gone, and now you're denying me a little old bonus that you're"—that they paid the players, you know, if they qualify for three years.

BW: Retirement.

CS: Retirement plan. Yeah. And shoot, they wouldn't even return my damn call. Got where I couldn't even get the coaches or anybody to return my call, and I kept on, kept on, kept on. Then I [*laughs*] went to my old buddy, Buddy. Bud wrote one ch—one letter. I don't know what the hell they had [*unclear words*]. He never did even show me the letter he wrote. The next day they called [*laughs*] me and put me on this pension that I'm still on. So I'm indebted to Bud. Gosh dang. And I don't know what he said. He threatened 'em some way. I don't know how the hell, but he [*laughs*] got it. And I'd been workin'. I'd—hell, I'd been workin' on the thing almost a year tryin' to get the thing 'cause I felt I deserved it. [*Laughs*] But . . .

[03:29:11] BW: Well, let me ask you about the—that year, though, that you were hurt. They—the coach made you stay up there and go around and . . .

CS: Yeah.

BW: . . . give speeches?

CS: That's right.

BW: And then—this is at the Philadelphia Eagles.

CS: That's right.

BW: And also the coach had you—they had you modeling on TV. TV was new, wasn't it?

CS: Yeah, they—that was—oh, I didn't think much of it. Didn't wanna do it, but they—new equipment, new something, they had me modelin'. It was just—I didn't—but they didn't pay me anything for it. They didn't pay me. But I don't know what you pointed out to 'em, but I'm on the damn team because they're usin' me. I'm goin' to games. I'm sittin' on the damn bench. I'm—the coach'll send me over here to do this and over here to do that. I'm workin' with the—I'm on the team. And I deserved a year's—all I needed was a year's credit to have my three years, and I was goin' to—every game, I was goin' to. And I was a member of the damn team. [*Laughs*] But they were gonna deny me this pension.

[03:30:34] BW: Now you told me one story about a—when you were out on a field, you've told me in the past, and somebody—about your shoulder comin' outta socket. Where was that, and when did that happen?

CS: Oh well, that hap—Bud, that could've been—the game you're

tal—that could've been a whole buncha game, but the one you're referring to is a preseason game played in Texas. And I was back on a punt and just as I caught the punt and cradled it, the Indians were comin' over the hill all the time. And just as I cradled the ball, and it left a—I snugged the ball here on my right side, and it left a little crea—a little opening right through here, [points to a space under right arm] and I don't reme—I can't remember the guy's name, but he was one goddamn—but damn near three hundred pound come lopin' down through there, and I'm fixin' to check and go over here. [Points to downfield left] He stick his arm under; as he goes by, he sticks his big old meaty arm under that. And he kept goin' and jerked me off of my feet. Jerked me way up in the air. And when he turned me loose, that bone had come so far out of that socket, it—when it tried to get back to the socket, it missed it, and it went all the way over here, and it was layin' up here on the—on my chest, and me out there, and they had to take three of the players out, and with the trainer, to put their feet on my chest and my legs and my head so he could pull it back to get it back in . . .

SL: Oh!

CS: . . . in the socket.

SL: Gosh!

CS: And once they got it in the socket, he just left it just like that, with my uniform on and everything. Tape. He taped me like—now I look like a mummy. He [*laughs*] had me taped up and that . . .

[03:32:51] BW: Now were you playin' for Philadelphia, you think then?

CS: I was playin' for Philadelphia then. Yeah.

BW: Did it hurt? [*SL laughs*]

CS: It hurt. [*Laughter*] It hurt. It hurt. It . . .

[03:33:02] BW: Let me ask you this. Nobody ever says Clyde Scott without saying Clyde "Smackover" Scott. Where'd you pick up—I know it has to do with your bein' from Smackover, but when . . .

CS: Well . . .

BW: . . . when [*CS pats leg*] did you pick that name up?

CS: Okay, I'll tell you. At the Naval Academy playin' Pennsylvania University. And [*pats leg*] we—oh, I don't know, first quarter, second quarter. I don't remember, but we were way back, way, way, way back. They had us backed up way back, and [*clears throat*] I quick-kicked. I quick-kicked. I just—I had chance to—and the wind caught the ball. [*Laughs*] It—that damn ball

sailed all the way down over the goal line, [*laughs*] other end of the field. Just looked like it went outta sight, you know. So—and I'm not a kicker. I'm not—that's not my job to [*laughs*] kick. [03:34:09] So in the dressing room, we're dressing, and I'm comin' out of the shower, and this reporter was there. And he hollered, "Mister, come over. Come over. Come over. Come over." And he said, "Do you realize that you set a record, that they've measured out there, and you've set a record for a punt in this stadium?" I said, "No, I didn't. [*Laughs*] I had no idea and didn't know that. No, I didn't know that, I guess." And I don't know whether I said I guess the wind was blowin'. I should've said the wind helped me, but I said, "Yeah, that's good." And [*clears throat*] reporter over on this side had a pad in his hand, and then he held up his hand and, "Mister? Mister?" He said, "Would you tell us where you're from?" And I said, "Yeah." And then I ?get up?, [*cups hands to amplify his words*] and I said, "Smackover." [*Laughs*] He kinda dropped his pad. He said, "What? [*Laughs*] Who? [*SL laughs*] What did you say?" [*Laughter*] And so I said, "Smackover," you know. And he said, "Name of a town?" And I said, "Yes, the name of a town." [*Laughter*] They were shocked. Literally. It wasn't—they wasn't playin' with me. They had—he was—they thought I

was playin' with them. They, you know, thought—yeah. Next day in the Philadelphia inquiry on the sport page from way over here to way over here [from left to right] was "'Smackover Scott," you know, [*laughter*] and they had a big [*pats leg*—and then they went on to talk about the record punt and all that kind—that was—yeah. So that . . .

BW: And from that day forward you were . . .

CS: From then on . . .

BW: . . . Clyde "Smackover" Scott.

CS: "Smackover" Scott. Yeah. That happened in Philadelphia, [*laughs*] Pennsylvania.

BW: That's a wonderful story.

CS: Oh gracious.

[03:36:12] BW: That's a wonderful story. [*Crinkling sound of papers*] Now they retired your jersey, number twelve, at the University of Arkansas.

CS: Yes, they did. Yes, they did.

BW: And that was the only time that'd ever been done?

CS: It had—that's the only it had been retired, and they—it's gone through a period of time now, but they just recently—with the new coaches up there, they retired it for good, not to be used anymore. Frank took it outta retirement for Steve Little, and he



talked to me about it before he did it. But the way he presented it to me, that—he called me from Oklahoma, and he said, "Scotty, I wanna ask you to do somethin' for our team, partner." I guess I said, "Go ahead, Frank." He says, "I'm recruiting the greatest kicker, place kicker, [*pats leg*] Scotty," he said, "in the world." He said, "Hell," he says, "this is the greatest. He is absolutely the greatest. [03:37:25] Name's Steve Little." He says, "He can do things with that ball." He said, "It just"—he said, "We'd never get a kicker like this again. Never, ever. There's only one little hitch to it. He said his number was twelve in high school, and he's had number twelve all these time, and he's not gonna go—wherever he goes to college, he's going have to wear number twelve." And I said, "Frank, wha"—I was in my office. And I said, "Frank, what are you askin', partner? I don't—they retired that number twelve, and I don't know what it—I don't know how to—physically, it retired. What are you askin' me? I can't take it—I don't think I could—somebody else put it there, or did whatever you do to retire a number. And I—you're askin' me to do somethin' I don't know whether I can or not." "Well," he says, "You can." And I said, "Well, Frank, hold it just a minute." I said, "You—you let me call you back." So I called Griffin Smith, my very close friend and attorney, and he

was in court. So I call Frank back, and "Frank," I said, "I'm not—I still don't understand and don't know that I can do what you're askin', whether I can take a number outta retirement and give it to another person or"—I thought maybe, you know, he'd have to earn it to ever have somethin' done like that and—oh, and I said that "The university would have to be"—he said, "I'm the university, Scotty." And he said, "Let me repeat." He said, "This is the greatest kicker, and if he can't have number twelve, we'll be denied the greatest kicker that we've ever had a chance to have up at university." I said, "Frank, if I can do it, if I can take a number out and give it to another person, if I can do what you're askin' me to do, you have my word to do it." And, "All right, yeah. Yep, all right. Yeah, that's good. Great. You're doin'—oh boy, I'll see to it that you get credit for—this is somethin' great that you're doin'." And that was fine. You know, I felt good about it. But it went on. [03:40:21] Nothin' was ever said in the press about the number, you know. Never. And the second year Steve was up there, they were havin' preseason press day up there.

SL: [*Unclear words*]

CS: And . . .

SL: Look at Bud now.

BW: I'm right here. Talk to me.

SL: Look at Bud.

BW: [*Unclear word*]

CS: Preseason press day, and they was talkin' to Steve Little, and this was in the press. And one of the reporters asked Steve how he felt about havin' Clyde Scott's number outta retirement, and his response was, it's in the press, "I don't know what you're—who is Clyde Scott? I don't know what you're talkin' about." And [*laughs*] from then on I was—I felt so bad about it, just so bad about it. But just recently they re-retired that number, and they wrote a letter and said it would not ever be used again, that it is now officially retired. And . . .

BW: Scotty, you need to look at me.

TL: I gotta change tapes.

[Tape stopped]

[03:41:49] BW: Scotty, when you went to Olympics, you went over on a ship, and you told me that your roommate was Bob Richardson. Who was he? And tell us about that.

CS: He was a pole-vaulter, and as it turned out, [*claps hands*] he—we got to be buddies over there, and when we started home, he says, "I've talked to my people in—with the Wheaty company and they want me to pick another person out on the team to join

you in—with ad—this advertisement." And . . .

[03:42:28] BW: Now you're talkin' bout Wheaties, the cereal?

CS: Wheaties.

BW: Yeah. Wheaties, the cereal.

CS: Wheaties.

BW: Okay, on the box.

CS: And he says, "Scotty, I want you to go home with me, and we're gonna go, and I want you to sign a contract with me for Wheaties." They want to—they wanted to—and he explained what they wanted with me because of my size and because some of the things that I did and—but anyway, he says, "I want you to sign a contract with me." And I said, "Okay, we'll do it." Well, we get [*laughs*] to Smackover, and he had—he was meetin' some folks here, and he got in, anyway, and I went out to the house. And he was gonna come by the next day and—but—make a long story short, I'm sick. I'm—got a high fever. Got the flu. Just [*laughs*]*—*to the extent that—but he came out to the house, and Les or somebody says, "Look, you know, you can't get—you can't go in there and talk to him. He's got the flu and we—you surely don't want that, and we'll have to do this another time or somethin'." And he, as I remember, he hesitated a long time out there, and then finally he left. And he,

for whatever reason, he didn't come back. But I wonder if I'd've been feelin' good and gone back to [*laughs*] California with him and been on the Wheaty box, you know, I could've probably created a little nest egg there for later life. That—it—I never—but . . .

BW: So he ended up bein' on a Wheaties box, and you didn't.

CS: And I didn't. That's right. Yeah.

[03:44:41] BW: Kay. Now the—obviously, you've played football.

You've run track. You were a baseball player, a boxer. You did all these things. What did you do to get muscled up and to get strong and to work out? Did you have weights? What did you do? What'd you do leg exercises? Did you do push-ups? What'd you do?

CS: I—a kid growin' up, goin' all the way—all—just all the way back to Dixie and followin' me to—I was always doing somethin' physical. Somethin' like, in Smackover, gee whiz, I was cuttin' firewood for the family, for our family; cuttin' firewood for a neighbor; cuttin' firewood to sign—to sell, fifty cents a cord and [*laughs*]—but I was always doin' somethin' physical all the time. Never did take any prescribed physical exercise. I was just doin' it all the time. Well, I was exercisin' all the time. Can't remember specifically one thing that helped the most.

BW: Did you have a set of weights?

CS: Beg your pardon?

BW: Did you have a set of weights, like weightlifting?

CS: No. No, I never did [*unclear words*].

BW: Did you ever do any leg exercises?

CS: Yeah, runnin' two miles home and [*laughs*] runnin' over a spooky bridge fast, real fast. I was just doin' somethin' physical all the time. Nothin' prescribed by . . .

[03:46:20] BW: And you didn't take any—course, you didn't—there wasn't any drugs to take or anything like that.

CS: No.

BW: No enhancement.

CS: No, didn't know what drugs meant. It didn't have a meaning to me. It . . .

[03:46:32] BW: I notice in some of your photographs, when you're puntin' a football, your foot is so high up over your head till it's just kind of unbelievable how high you could raise your leg. How could you do that?

CS: Well, it—actually, every once in a while I'd get off a pretty good punt that—and a punter, he—at least I had to—I could—when you go into your pointing—punting motion, you have that right leg back and you just—you almost toss the ball up in the air, and

then you've gotta put—from back, you've gotta put enough force from there up and if you—if it stops up around the ball, you haven't done any—what you've gotta do is kick through the ball then. You've really gotta kick from—look where your leg is—when it starts, you've gotta kick right through the ball, right on up and let your leg go as far back over. At least that's the way [laughs] I had to do it, and then I've noticed good kickers, and that's what they do. Just when you kick, you—you've got to let that leg—to get the full force of all your body weight and your mo—and the speed of the foot. You gotta kick through the ball, and then your leg has gotta go all the way back, almost, almost over your shoulder. So you see pictures of punters, and most of 'em, you'll see their foot way back over their head. It's just . . .

BW: Well, was it . . .

CS: . . . just a matter of gettin' the most power and force on that ball.

[03:48:22] BW: Well, did you stretch or do anything to where you could that?

CS: I'm sorry?

BW: Did you do any stretching or anything so you could raise your leg that high?

CS: Oh, I would—I'd—for whatever reason, I was proud of the fact

that I could bend over and spread my hand and put my hand flat on the floor without bending my knee. I could do that for a long, long—just almost a few months ago, I could still do it. So yes, I did stretch, and no question about that. Did that all the time. Just go down and touch the floor with the palm, two hands.

[03:49:04] BW: What was your style of running? What would you—how would you describe it? Were you quick, fast, shifty? What would you say about that?

CS: I don't—I wish I could break it down and it—there at the last, I developed a kind of a galloping motion in my running. And at first I was just as smooth as I could be as—pickin' up my feet up in rhythm. And later on, somewhere along the way, and it's probably due to bustin' that metatarsal arch up [*pats right leg*] on my right foot or maybe hurtin' the left. But anyway, I got to a point where I was kinda galloping, and it would be a motion that it carried me better over the hurdles rather than havin' just a smooth, rhythmic, churning, running stride. Kind of a loping stride. And it's hard to explain. You'd have to see it, but it—I could—with that, I could put a tremendous amount of force on one of my legs by—with this galloping motion. And so that's the best I can explain it, Bud. I'd say a galloping motion, and it served me well there at the last.



[03:50:43] BW: Did you mostly run north and south, or did you cut a lot, or how do—how would you describe that?

CS: I've—I could cut—with that motion, it didn't interfere with me cuttin' either way I wanted, when I wanted. And [*thumping sound*] . . .

[03:51:11] BW: Kay. Let me ask you about this. War Memorial Stadium here in Little Rock was built, I think, in 1948, which was the last year that you played? Correct?

CS: Yeah.

BW: Where did you play? Did you play in Little Rock before that?

CS: No, I played—the last game we played at the high school—Central—was it Central High School in those days?

BW: Little Rock Central?

CS: Yeah, Little Rock Central.

BW: That's where you played before you played . . .

CS: Central, yeah.

BW: Before War Memorial?

CS: Then—and then—yeah, before War Memorial we played Central and then we—then after that, all the games in Little Rock we played at War Memorial, yeah. First—I was tryin' to come up with the date of the first game we played out there, but I can't. It—but from then on we—all the games were played in War

Memorial, but we did play at Cent—in Central. Fact, one of the last games under Barnhill, beat Rice in Central and won the Southwest con—we won the Southwest Conference in—with a game played in Central. And then the next year the stadium was built, and then we played in the stadium the rest of the time.

[03:52:37] BW: Well, the crowds got somewhat larger when you were playin', didn't they?

CS: Oh yeah. Oh yeah.

BW: And . . .

CS: Oh, no question about that.

BW: And because of the state—the crowds got larger in Little Rock. It wouldn't fit Little Rock Central, and that's one of the reasons, and maybe the reason, they built War Memorial.

CS: Yeah, there's no question about that. My second year under Barney, I traveled with Barney the first summer off-season and listened to Barney make talk. And Barney was formin' what was—what has turned out to be the Razorback Club. And what he would tell those folks everywhere he'd go, "You help me. You help me with the Razorback Club, and I promise that I'll help you with a stadium here in Little Rock, so you'll be—it'd be more available to you from now on right here in Little Rock. You help

me, and I'll help you with a stadium."

[03:53:47] BW: Now when he said for them to help him, did he mean by comin' to the games?

CS: By—well, at that particular time, just joinin' what he was callin' the Razorback Club, and there was a starting fee—a fee that—it was a money-raisin' thing, what it was.

BW: And you went around with him?

CS: The Razorback Club has always been a money-raising club and that—and he started it. Barney's the one that started it.

BW: And . . .

CS: And he said, "You do this. You join this club, and I'll help build a stadium right here in Little Rock."

[03:54:24] BW: And did you go around with him when he did that?

CS: Yes, I did. Made speeches.

BW: You did?

CS: Yeah, [*laughs*] and I'm one of the worst speechmakers in the world. There was another guy that traveled with us. I can't come up with his name, [*laughs*] but he said, "Scott"—I had a little joke that I'd tell. And it was some joke that would get a laugh everywhere we went. Allan Berry was the other person that was with us. And Allan—we worked hard. We—at night we—from morning, noon, and night, we would catch 'em early

and at noon and then at night. And I would get up, and I had this little joke I'd tell. And *[laughs]* Allan finally says, "Scotty, don't you know—gee whiz, you're tellin' the same *[laughs]* joke every—don't you have another joke, partner? It"—you know, and then Barney said, "Hold it just a minute." He says, "Scotty"—he *[laughs]* says, "You keep runnin' that play just as long as you get results that you're gettin' now." He said, "You keep doin' it." Well, I wish I knew the joke. I can't—I'd be embarrassed to tell it. But I traveled with Barney. I did. We traveled the state back and forth, back and forth. I don't know of a town that we missed. *[Pats leg]* And the Razorback Club has proven to be very, very helpful to the University of Arkansas and to the program. Yeah, Barney did a lot.

[03:56:27] BW: One of the individuals that you ran with at Olympics was Harrison Dillard. Harrison Dillard. Do you remember him?

CS: Harrison Dillard. You're talkin' bout the hurdler?

BW: Yeah, right.

CS: Yeah.

BW: He was black.

CS: Yeah.

BW: And he—for some reason, when y'all were in Olympic trials, I think, he knocked over three hurdles, and you knocked over

three hurdles.

CS: We sure did.

BW: But he ended up hittin' 'em a little harder than you, and he didn't make it.

CS: That's right. That's exactly right.

BW: But he was one of the best hurdlers in the world.

CS: That's right. He had all the records at that time.

BW: And he was black.

CS: And he's black. And just a perfect gentleman. One of the nicest pers—people that I was around in—at the Olympics. Nice-type person. Yeah.

[03:57:16] BW: Now when you were—the Olympics, was that in London?

CS: Yeah.

BW: The blacks—were they—did you notice a difference when you went to London betwee—compared to the United States . . .

CS: Oh [*unclear words*] . . .

BW: . . . in the way the blacks were treated?

CS: Oh well, treated—the word treated might not be the right description, but it was—it wasn't uncommon to see mixed boy/girl. Black boy, white girl. It was very common for—to have black in the female ranks—the girls and boys—it was a—it

was very—well, I'll repeat myself. It was very common to see a group, half of 'em of boys and girls, half of 'em black, half of 'em white. And individually paired up, I—you could see a lot of black girls—I mean, black boys with white girls goin' to the movie or doin' whatever socially.

[03:58:29] BW: And in the United States that wasn't happenin'.

CS: It . . .

BW: That wasn't happenin' in the United States.

CS: It wasn't happenin' in some places. I mean, like, no, but heck, no. [*Laughs*] It—no, no, it wasn't common. Certainly wasn't common in the United States. No, indeed.

[03:58:46] BW: Did you notice when you went to the other countries when you left London and went to some other places?

CS: We went—we left London and went to Scotland—Glasgow. And in fact, the day after the Olympics closed, we went to Glasgow, Scotland, and had another track meet. Four or five different countries. I can't name 'em. And we had another track meet.

BW: Well . . .

CS: And I can't honestly say that it was different. This—the field that the track was on was a—what they call football—soccer field. They call it football over there. Big, big field. And I can't—I really can't relate to the question of whether it was

different, black and white and the social combination. I can't remember whether it was different. [04:00:01] The Scottish people—the thing that was just obvious with the Scottish people, they were so friendly, just so very, very friendly. And they wanted to know you. You're on the Olympic team and you—and they wanna know all about the—they want to be friends, and they have a unique way in—with dancing with their—they dance in circles, real wide circles, embracing just a tremendous space. And a girl would come over and take your arm, and they had a little Scottish tune that they kinda skip, kinda skip, you know. And here you'd go skippin' and 'dancin'?. And the girl would be doin' all the talkin' and wantin' to know all about you, you know, and just as friendly as they could possibly be. I enjoyed the brief time I was in Scotland. 'I was a?—and we had—and I won the hurdle race, and I think I have already stated the fact that the medal that I got was a setting of silver, prepared for serving fish. Quite a large—and very expensive. It was silver set and in a big box, big box—had pack—ribbon tied around it, and [laughs] that was my—that was the medal I won for winning the hurdles. But they treated me differently, obviously, because of my name, Clyde Scott. And it just—Clyde—the Clyde River was just—we went over the Clyde River right before we got there,

you know. And Clyde is a common name in Scotland and Scott—Scott is just—well, anyway, it just seemed—they just—with me, they—when they'd hear my name, they'd—all the attention would be focused my way, and I got a big kick out of it. And I tried to talk Scottish, but I [*laughs*] didn't do a good job of it. But they were nice people, and I enjoyed and appreciated being with 'em.

[04:02:47] BW: You signed how many autographs in your lifetime?

CS: [*Laughs*] I have signed a few, Bud. Bud, there's somethin' goin' on now that I'm still signing a lot of autographs. It just . . .

BW: Kay. I wanna ask you about that.

CS: . . . just a . . .

BW: You're still signin' autographs.

CS: In number, I—if I'd keep up with the years, kay, it would be way, way, way up. And I think what it is with the compute—in the computer world and the—they do thing—like, for instance, you can trace a family tree; trace your family from here to yonder. That you can punch a button and focus in on a listing of people that did a specific thing, you know, a hundred years ago. And the baseball players. And somewhere, and I believe this, and I think it, the professional teams, you can punch it in and find out that I played for the Eagles, for instance, or for some



other team. And I think it—they could punch a button and find out I was at the Olympics. I don't know how to use a computer or—and then all it affords, but I think . . .

BW: Well, you're still sign . . .

CS: . . . that. But on a daily basis, Bud, I get a lot of requests for autographs. And there for a long, long time, long, long time, I would get a request for pictures, an autographed picture. And I tried desperately to keep up with that, but it got completely outta hand. I just couldn't—I'd get so far behind on the pictures, you know, and it—I'd have to—I was gettin' 'em by the—goin' up and havin' 'em made. And so I finally just settled on autographs and it—the picture request has slowed down a little bit, but the autograph is there, and it's just a . . .

[04:05:10] BW: Well, have you been signin' pictures and autographs from the time . . .

CS: Yes.

BW: . . . that you retired all the way up until today?

CS: Yes. And it would . . .

BW: And still . . .

CS: . . . it would be in the thousands.

BW: And where are these requests comin' from? What places?

CS: All over the world. Japan. Japan used to be—there for a while,

Japan was just a—and then Germany. Japan and Germany would be two outsiders. Then, of course, the United States from, you know, every school, every—just stacks of 'em in the United States. And . . .

BW: Kay . . .

[04:05:48] CS: . . . and I've—in gettin'—and realizing my age and realizing that it—this is not gonna—I mean, it won't be able to do this thing very long, and these people are goin' to a lotta trouble to get a—just a signature, and that should be the simplest thing I could do and the least to me and maybe the most to them, so I've continued to do it. And I—Les [*laughs*] makes me do it. Sometime it gets to be a nuisance, oh boy, [*laughs*] especially since my accident. And my left eye is—it's gettin' worse all the time. And reading—I have trouble reading. And just reading their requests, you know, and then their return [*unclear words*].

BW: When they request it, do they request it in a letter form?

CS: In a letter form.

BW: Do they sometimes . . .

CS: And sometime . . .

BW: . . . ask you questions?

CS: . . . sometime they'll ask you, "What was your greatest thrill at

the Olympics?" or "What was your greatest thrill when you dub, dub, dub." I stopped doin' that 'cause that just almost required writin' a letter. And it was so much, and so much comin' in, I just can't do that anymore. But I still—the ones that I really appreciate, now, would be an envelope with a stamp on it. I was—there for a long time I was—spent about—I shouldn't—that's ridiculous for me to complain about puttin' a stamp on somebody wantin' my signature, but I was doin' an awful lot of it. I mean, just a whole bunch of it. And . . .

[04:07:39] BW: Were these requests daily?

CS: Yeah. Now I'll get one with a stamp on it, signed, have their address on it, and inside maybe have three, four, five, or six, or a whole bunch of just blank little cards, just signatures. What they're doin' obvi—is obvious, and I write to—and they're doin' it for somebody, their friends. They'll get six or eight of my signatures, and they'll probably give 'em all away but one. I don't think there's any doubt that certainly they don't want that many. But they want my signature but not that many. But then they like to be in a position to give 'em away. And I have [laughs] certain feeling they couldn't sell 'em for very much. But that's goin' on, Bud. That's an awful lotta requests for autographs, and I don't—I know I'm not alone in that respect. I

bet there's a lotta people that gets requests for . . .

[04:08:50] BW: Does it surprise you?

CS: Beg your pardon?

BW: Does it surprise you that they're still askin' for it?

CS: Well, yes, because it—at my age, yeah. Yeah.

[04:09:01] BW: Yeah, I wanna hand you this picture right here.

Would you just hold that up and look at it and then turn it around. Just hold it up and turn it around so we can look at the photograph. [CS holds up a photo of himself in his Razorback football uniform]

CS: Yeah.

BW: Now is that—that's one of the pictures that you . . .

CS: That I send.

BW: . . . send. Hold it up a little higher, please. M'kay.

SL: Yeah, that's good.

BW: Now . . .

CS: I've made hundreds and hundreds of the pi—with this picture.

[04:09:25] BW: Okay, now what—that picture's of you at the University of Arkansas?

CS: Yes.

BW: That's probably made in 1948?

CS: Yes. That . . .

BW: That was the year . . .

CS: . . . that is the picture.

BW: . . . the year you were All-American?

CS: Yes.

BW: Kay. That's probably the most famous picture of you at Fayetteville, isn't it?

CS: Probably. It probably is. It's got my number on it. It's got a change in the headgear. It's gone from the old leather to plastic, and can't say it's a—much improvement on [*laughs*] the guy there, his face, but . . .

BW: Okay, now that one's autographed.

CS: It's autographed. Yeah.

BW: Are you gonna let me keep it?

CS: Absolutely. [*SL laughs*]

BW: Okay.

CS: And you know, I'm not even . . .

BW: I . . .

CS: . . . gonna charge you anything, Bud.

[04:10:07] BW: All right. [*SL laughs*] Well, I need to get some pay here. I'm gonna hand you another one. Would you hold this one up also and tell us—look at it and tell us what that is.

CS: Oh, for goodness sakes. [*Holds up a photo of himself in a*

runner's starting position wearing a Razorback track uniform]

This is a picture taken . . .

SL: Up a little higher.

BW: Little higher.

SL: [*Unclear words*]

CS: . . . I think that could've been taken before a meet we had that I ran that I tied the world record. I'm not sure about that. But anyway, it's just a track picture that I—somebody took, probably. It mighta been somebody in my family. But it's just a track picture made on the Fayetteville track.

[04:10:47] BW: How much did you weigh then?

CS: And then I weighed about a hundred and sixty—bout a hundred—I got up to a hundred and seventy before it was all—that—when I would play pro ball, I think at a hundred and seventy. And—but you see, I'm muscled up pretty good there.

SL: Yeah.

CS: Not bad for . . .

BW: I'd say so.

CS: . . . for a little guy. But it . . .

BW: I'm gonna ask . . .

CS: . . . it was still at a hundred and sixty-somethin' pounds.

BW: I'm gonna ask you to take your shirt off and [*unclear word*] so

we can make a comparison of how you're holdin' up. [*Laughter*]

What do you think about that?

CS: Yeah, we won't need to do that right now. We [*laughs*] . . .

BW: Okay, we'll wait a little later on then.

CS: We'll wait till later on. [*Laughs*]

[04:11:30] BW: Okay, now here's another one that I'm handin' you.

What is that?

CS: Okay. This is the hurdles before—let me see. This—yeah, this is the hurdle before the last hurdle.

BW: At Olympics?

CS: In the Olympic.

BW: Okay, turn that around for us, please, and hold it up.

CS: Yeah.

BW: Okay. And you're on the far side.

CS: Yeah, I'm there.

BW: Okay.

[04:12:09] CS: I'm there. It was a close race. You could see my extension on that leg. There's his extension on that leg. Here's the same hurdle. And here's him goin' over there. This is Craig Dixon. And—well, you can see it's a close race. It's a very close race. I wish we had the finish picture, the finish of the race.

BW: Well, we'll . . .

CS: The breaking of the tape. It's a . . .

BW: We're gonna get that and add it to us—to this.

CS: You'll be amazed to see how close it really was because you'll see the winner breakin' the tape with his arm and not with his—not layin' back, breakin' it with his chest, or tryin' to break it with his chest. Where'd you—where ?do you? get these pictures?

[04:13:10] BW: Well, now are you gonna let me keep all three of these?

CS: Sure.

BW: Okay.

CS: ?Yeah, they're?—yeah. I—oh, if—now you probably got that at my house.

BW: I did.

CS: And those two—it and—why don't you let me do it? Why don't you let me make a copy of 'em, and I'll give you—without—what I'm wantin', Bud, I'm wantin' those leadin' up to the final one.

BW: Okay.

CS: And I wanna have it where I can put it out here, and here's the final. Here's the next one to that, next one, next, next. I wanna do that. So . . .

BW: Well, we can get that and let—and have that as part of this.



CS: Yeah.

BW: We can do that.

CS: Yeah.

BW: Okay?

CS: Yeah. So take care of those. Take care of those . . .

BW: I will.

CS: . . . so we'll have 'em.

[04:14:00] BW: I will. Is there anything that we have not talked about that you wanna talk about?

CS: Gee, I'm thinkin' that I'll be shocked when I—when we go over the things I've talked about and what I've said. And I'd like to [*scratching sound*] think that I'd be able to correct anything that I've said that I'd like to take back. I've done a lotta talkin' bout people in Smackover, my days back when I was a kid growin' up, the things—relation—whites' relation with blacks and the race—the—there's a lotta things that I might've said about Smackover that I'd like to take back, you know, because they—the—they were so good, so good to me. Smackover people were very good to me. I would've been must—much less than I am if it hadn't been for Smackover people. I'd've be—I'd be a lot less than I am, and I owe them a lot. And I might've said some things with strong emotion about treatment of blacks . . .

BW: I understand. Well, I think—I—we're talkin' . . .

CS: [*Unclear words*]

BW: . . . we're not talkin' about the people bein' bad. We're talkin' about the culture . . .

CS: Yeah.

BW: . . . and the times.

CS: Yeah.

BW: I don't think it was any different anyplace else. You know, I'm from El Dorado, twelve miles away, and it—I'm bout ten years younger or so than you, and it was a—pretty much the same way at that—when I was in school. So I—but there's still a lotta good people in El Dorado, so I think everybody'll take that right.

CS: Mh-hmm.

[04:15:49] BW: So I don't—I wouldn't be concerned about it. Let me—let—somethin' I did wanna ask you about. At some point in time when they had the Olympics, they had the Olympic torch.

CS: Yes.

BW: Kay. [*CS clears throat*] And is this the . . .

CS: [*Takes the torch from BW*] That's the torch.

BW: Okay. Now tell us about that, please.

CS: This—they—this goes back several years. I wish—I should know the year. If I had Les here to talk to us, she would know,

probably. Or it might be on here, and I can't read this fine print. But it—the torch started in—somewhere out on the West Coast—in California. And it was passed on. They would light the candle. This was the torch. And the torch would move from California, comin' on back this way, and I got in on it. When it got close to Smackover, they asked me if I would carry the torch across over from this side over to North Little Rock, across the river and from—and then deliver it to the other side. And I, of course, I told 'em I'd do that. So I carr—and I had a—my . . .

SL: You put on your . . .

CS: . . . track uniform on and all and . . .

BW: You had your Olympic uniform on.

CS: Yeah. So I took it across the bridge, and they gave me this.

They gave me these as—the original one, I think, they kept. But this is the torch. And this is a replica of a—of the torch that they used a hundred years ago. And way back, they carry their—all over Europe, they carried the torch way back there from Olympia, way out. I don't know the hist—real history of it, but it, the torch, it was started way, way back, way, way back in time.

SL: It's beautiful. It's beautiful.

[Tape stopped]

[04:18:10] BW: Scotty, I first had the privilege of meeting you in 1948, and I was six years old, and I came up to the hotel where you were stayin' before a football game, and you signed my helmet. And so that's when our journey first began.

CS: Oh my goodness.

BW: And I want you to know that it is such an honor for me to have an opportunity to visit with you and be a part of this. I know I've represented you on your—gettin' your NFL retirement, and I've—and I told you at the time that that's good enough reason for me to have ever been a lawyer, just for the—just to be able to have you as a client.

CS: Bud, that's . . .

BW: So . . .

CS: . . . that's very nice for you to say those things, and it was my good fortune to be in the hotel that time and sign that helmet [BW laughs] and hand it to the—one of the nicest guys that I've been around, before or since.

BW: Well, I appreciate you and—not just the fact that you are one of the greatest athletes that have ever lived, but the fact that you're—to have a hero—startin' off as a little boy, have a hero that continues to be your hero for sixty years is a—is quite an experience for me, and I wanna thank you for that. [04:19:38]

And I wanna tell you I've heard, I don't know if this is the truth or not, that you and Jim Thorpe were the only two people that were All-American football players that went to Olympics.

CS: [*Unclear word*].

BW: So that . . .

CS: I'm not—I don't think I had heard that . . .

BW: Well, let me . . .

CS: . . . but it—that's interesting.

[04:19:56] BW: Well, let me say this also. I have debated with people many times about who the greatest athlete in the world is, and I—I'll be glad to argue the case of Clyde Scott [*CS laughs*] anytime anybody wants to argue it.

CS: Well now, that is something nice that you say, and I appreciate it.

BW: Thank you so much . . .

SL: I . . .

BW: . . . for lettin' me do this.

CS: Okay, partner.

SL: Scotty, listen, thank you very much from the Pryor Center. I wonder if I could get you to do one thing for us. If you could look at the camera right over here and if you could just say, "I'm Clyde Scott, and I'm proud to be an Arkansan."

CS: Yeah. [*Laughs*] I'm Clyde Scott, and I'm proud to be an Arkansan.

SL: ?God?, that's perfect. Thank you very, very, very much. Thank you. Thank you again—this whole family. Thank you, guys.

LS: All right. [*Applause*]

SL: All right.

[04:20:50 End of interview]

[Transcribed and edited by Pryor Center staff]