

1968 U.S. Olympic Team Oral History Project: Transcript of Interview

Interviewer: Desiree Harguess

Narrator: Joe Dube, 1968 Olympic Medalist, Weightlifting

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Begin recording

DH: — since we're recording the phone conversation. So, today is Thursday, April 14, 2011, this is Desiree Harguess at the University of Texas at Austin and I'm interviewing Olympic weightlifter Joe Dube over the phone today in order to record his experiences and reflections of the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City.

Joe, can you begin with some basic biographical information such as where and when you were born and a little bit about where you grew up?

JD: Sure. I was born February 15, 1944, in a little town in Western Florida called Altha, that's A-l-t-h-a, Florida. And my parents, my parents' name, my father was Joseph Arthur Dube and actually pronounced it Du-Bay [Dubé], with that little accent over the "é", but most people called it Du-be, but my mother, she was, surname was Hardie, and maiden name, last name, maiden name was Pumphrey, P-u-m-p-h-r-e-y, and so we lived there in Altha. I was about twenty— my older brother and I were born there. When we moved from there to Jacksonville I was about 22 months old and grew up most of my life in Jacksonville, Florida.

And I guess some of my early, I guess early athletic or sporting experiences was with playing football in high school, high school football and participating in track and field meets and baseball and all that. And my early training, some of my early training, my brother and I began lifting weights in high school and coaches had built two barbells from galvanized pipe and concrete poured in large cans. One of them weighed a hundred and ten pounds and the other weighed a hundred and twenty. Soon I was lifting them easily shortly and with one arm pressing them overhead for reps. And that's kinda pretty much some of my early starts. Is there anything else?

DH: Why did you use the concrete instead of other traditional, more traditional barbells?

JD: Well they didn't have any in high school back then. The coaches had made these, that was my first involvement with lifting weight and they had made these in high school there at the high school I went to. Later on my brother and I, we saved up our lunch money and stuff and money we could save up, you know, and bought our first set of iron weights and started working out with them, body-building and everything before we ever even thought about doing, you know, Olympic style weight-lifting.

DH: Oh, okay. So why did you start weight training or what initially drew you into weight training?

JD: Well, I was at the grocery store one time with my mother, she took us, one time we were at the grocery store and I was there, the books down there at the store and I saw the *Strength and Health* magazine and I got it off the rack and started looking through it and they had a bunch of weight-lifting pictures in it and Olympic weight-lifting and I was just, I was just amazed at how these people could lift those weights over their head and I just was, I just got really enthused about it and I said wow, I want to do this, you know. So that's how I really got that started. My dad, my dad would, he had bought us some of these rubber chest expander things and so and some spring cables and stuff to exercise with and we started doing that you know, before we even tackled really weights. And I guess one thing led to the other.

DH: Okay. So what were some of your major successes leading up to the '68 Games. Can you tell me about the kind of Pan American, just a little bit about the '67 Pan American Games or any competitions before that? That—

JD: Yeah. Well, I was— I lifted my first weight at a meet in 1960, early 1960, and I won— It was a high school championship there in Duval County there, which is where Jacksonville is. And I won first place in that and a friend of ours that I went to school with placed second to me and we had started training together, you know, and then one thing led to the other. I won the State Teenage Championship and then, and this was back when I was a one hundred and eighty-one pound lifter. And I eventually went to the hundred and ninety-eight pound class, mid-heavy, then on up to the super-heavy, the heavy weight class. But one contest led to the other and I was able to qualify and compete in the Teenage National Championship and I competed in that and just kept on going up, you know, my lifting kept going up, bar pressing, and I won State Championship year-after-year and I was selected one year as sports, Outstanding Amateur Athlete. So the state, you know, they gave us a banquet in Tallahassee there and do you remember Robert, Bob Hayes?

DH: I—

JD: He was track and field. He was on the Olympic Team, he won the Gold Medal in the hundred meters back in '64 I think it was.

DH: Yes.

JD: Yeah, he's uh— He and I was the top sportsmen of the year there, one year. And we got, that's where I first met him. But one thing led to the other and I kept competing and everything and finally I— In '64 I had qualified to compete in the Olympic Trials in New York, at the World's Fair in '64. And I competed in it although and I had set a Junior World, two Junior World records prior to that. I had an entirely disappointing performance because I had, I had got hit by a car a few months, about three months before the competition and my body weight had dropped from 285 to 266 and that kind of shot my hopes of making the Olympic Team that year but I just kept on training and I didn't let that interfere with my progress and my goals that I had set when I was younger, you know, and I just kept competing and finally I went to the Nationals in '67 and I did very well. I placed second runner-up to one of America's greatest lifters, Bob Bednarski.

And they selected me on the Olympic Team, I mean on the Pan American Team. And that was my first international competition and unfortunately Bob dislocated his elbow in the Pan American Games and we were pretty, battling pretty much there for the gold, it was gonna be a close battle, but he had dislocated his elbow and that left me with the position of carrying on to win the Gold Medal, which I did. And I guess that was one of my greatest accomplishments up to, you know, to the Olympic Games in '68. But anyway that's some of the things that I'd done before the '68.

DH: Okay. I had read somewhere that you were the first teenage or first teenager, can you tell me, can you complete that sentence or tell me a little bit more about that first?

JD: I was the first teenager to have ever press 400 pounds.

DH: Oh, okay. Wow.

JD: Yeah. That was, it was before the Olympic Trials in '64 it was February the 9th. It was six days before my 20th birthday. I was 19 and I was lifting in the competition in Jacksonville Beach and I clean pressed four hundred and three-quarter pounds which began, actually it broke my own. I had set a Junior World Record before that, a few months before that with 389 and a half, these are pounds, not kilograms, and I pressed four hundred and three-quarter pounds to become the first teenager in the world to ever do that.

DH: That's pretty amazing.

JD: And anyway I went on eventually to break the world record, the senior world record for that lift too, later on.

DH: And what year was that?

JD: Well that was '68. It was a few months before the trials that I had pressed the world record at four hundred forty-nine and a half pounds. And then at the Olympic Trials that was in York, Pennsylvania, the one where I made the Olympic Team, I pressed the world record of four hundred sixty-two and three-quarter pounds. I made the Olympic Team.

DH: And how long did those records stand?

JD: They stayed, well for a while. You know records are made to be broken, you know, and they lasted probably close to a year I think.

DH: Oh, that's pretty good as far as record longevity goes from what I can tell.

JD: It was a few months. I'm not really sure exactly. My memory is not really all that good. It's not as good as it used to be.

DH: I don't think anybody's memory is as good as it used to be at any one time.

JD: Well I'm getting to be an old fogey, you know, and my memory's not quite as good as it used to be.

DH: Well you're doing great. So we're up to the Games. What were you doing and where were you living or working, or training, in the year prior to the games? Were you still in Florida then?

JD: I was living in Florida. I was living, I wasn't living in Jacksonville but I was living south of Jacksonville in Clay County, Doctor's Inlet. And I was training and I had a shed behind my place that I was living that I was living close to a lake, right off the lake and I had a shed in the back and there was a bunch of farming equipment in there that my wife at the time, her, her dad. He did a lot of farming out there and I moved some of it to the side and had concrete poured in there and I was training back there and having to fight the mosquitoes too, you know, but I was training back there and I was working, I was still working for the insurance company that I worked all those years with. And that's pretty much what I was doing at the time I was competing for, to make the Olympic Team.

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: Okay.

DH: So how was the team selection done? Were there any challenges or problems?

JD: No there wasn't any problems, they had the Olympic Trials, you had to be qualified, you had to qualify a total, two hands clean and press, and two hands snatch and then two hands clean and jerk and then you get three attempts on each lift and then your best attempt on each of those lifts adds up for a total, your total.

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: So you have to have a qualified total to be able to compete in the Trials.

DH: I see.

JD: Yeah. And they had, and what I had done, I had won my class and it was a 12 hundred 67 pound total in the trials. And they have a selection committee, USA Weightlifting Federation have a, at the trial they have this selection for the Olympic Team Committee, you know, and they select the team, you know, out of all the lifters. They have different weight classes, you know. And they select the team and I happened to be, well I won my class and I had a substantial total that would be right there with the best in the world you know.

DH: Definitely.

JD: Yeah.

DH: How did your family and friends react to you on making the Olympic Team?

JD: They were all thrilled and I got a lot of calls and everybody complimented me on it even the, you know, the city and all. They had it in the newspapers and on TV and they come out and interviewed me and all that, you know, and they'd have it on the news or something like that. I had people calling me and just congratulating me and all that. It was really a thrill, I mean really, really one of the biggest accomplishments of my life, you know, being able to make the Olympic Team.

JD: It was quite an honor too. It was an honor for me to be able to represent my country on a lifting platform.

DH: Definitely. Were there any very remarkable, or memorable, experiences right before the games?

JD: Yeah. Before the games I remember we flew to Denver, Denver, Colorado, for a couple of weeks' training, you know, high altitude training. And we were staying at Denver there at the Hilton Hotel and of course we trained and all that but we got a chance to go out and just kinda see the countryside and all that, you know, and I remember the Hilton Hotel that Kirk Douglas was one of the honorary members, they select, one of the honorary members of the Olympic Team.

JD: And he was there in the Hilton Hotel so we all got dressed up in our blazers and suit you know and all and we got to meet him in the lobby there at the Hilton Hotel. And some of the officials, John Terpak, he was the team, I think the team coach for the Olympic Team. And Bob Hoffman, I don't know if you ever heard of Bob Hoffman—

DH: York Barbell?

JD: York Barbell, yeah, he was there. Anyway, they talked me into lifting Kirk Douglas over my head.

DH: Oh, wow!

JD: Yeah. And so anyway, I took off my jacket and he took off his jacket, you know, and everything and I lifted him over my head in the lobby there in that, in the lobby there at the Hilton Hotel. And I can remember, I think I lifted Cathy Rigby up too, over my head, there in the lobby. But she, you know she ran down— after that we did that, we did that. They took pictures and I never got a picture of that. And that's something I regret that. I wish I could have gotten a picture of that. But after that he had down at the corner theater, a first showing, a preview of his movie or his new movie and we ran down the street to the theater and they had the street blocked off and we ran down the street. I've got a picture of running down the street with him.

JD: And me and Cathy Rigby and Bill Toomey and I think Al Oerter was in the picture, too, in the background. And John Pennel, the pole vaulter and Ernie Pickett and Russ, Russell Knipp, one of the other lifters on the team and we all ran down to meet, the Olympic Team gathered there to go with him to the movie and we sat there in the movie with him and watched it and that was a big thrill.

DH: Yeah. And that's, he's a pretty big-time movie star.

JD: Oh, yeah.

DH: Even now definitely. So I think I saw that picture that you're talking about. I was researching something else and I saw the picture. Maybe I can make a copy of it and mail it to you?

JD: Is that of us running down the street?

DH: No, it's the picture with Kirk Douglas and Cathy Rigby where you're holding them over head, or holding one of them over head.

JD: Oh, really? You've got that picture?

DH: I swear I saw it the other day in maybe *Strength and Health* or something like that?

JD: Wow. If you've got that I would most certainly be— I've never got that picture. If you have seen that picture, please send it to me.

DH: Okay. I'm gonna look for it again today and if I find it I'll mail it to you.

JD: I would be grateful. I would be so grateful, I couldn't explain in words how grateful I would be if you can do it, get that picture because I never was able to get the picture.

DH: Well I'll look for it today and hopefully I'll—

JD: Yeah. Okay.

DH: — I'm thinking of the right picture.

JD: Yeah. Now I've got a picture with him running down the street with us, you know.

JD: I've got that picture. I've got two of them. And one was a newspaper clipping. I have a newspaper and then I have a big picture. I can send those to you.

DH: Okay. Sure. We'll exchange addresses later on.

JD: Yeah, okay.

DH: So going back to experiences leading up to the games we'll talk more about the high altitude training but do you remember ever hearing anything or any rumors about an Olympic Project for Human Rights?

JD: No. I really can't remember that, how do you pronounce your name, pronounce that, Desiree?

DH: Yes.

JD: Desiree, okay. Desiree, I don't remember anything, getting anything about that in the mail and I really didn't, I really didn't dwell on stuff like that, you know. I mean I kept myself focused on what I was, my training, my competition. I didn't get caught up in anything like that and I don't remember really receiving anything like that in the mail or anything.

DH: Okay. So going back to the high altitude training to prepare for Mexico City, what were some of the challenges or problems you faced. Did you notice any difficulties?

JD: No. Desiree, I think the sports that require more stamina or endurance, you know like running or other things that required, uh— Hold on just a second please.

DH: Sure.

JD: I didn't notice anything interfering with my lifting or anything like that because Olympic lifting or weightlifting is really a quick. I mean you do a lift, it don't last that long, you know what I mean?

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: You didn't have to have all that much stamina like you would be in swimming or running in the track and field, long-distance stuff. I think those people would have a little more difficulty than people like the shot-put, the discus or the weightlifting, you know.

DH: Exactly. Were there any special or new training methods that you went through with the Olympic Team prior to arriving in Mexico?

JD: No, not really. Just basic, doing my basic Olympic lifts, different power movements, a lot of squats and stuff to develop my hip and leg power; I did a lot of those. I got the opportunity to train in York, Pennsylvania, the York Barbell gym for some time before we left to go to Denver and it was really a thrill to be able to train there as compared to back in my shed you know, back there by myself training, you know.

DH: Right.

JD: But I had a, my training was real good. I was in good shape. As a matter of fact I was, I had gained up from the Olympic Trials, my body weight went up about 10 pounds and my legs were a lot stronger going into Mexico City for the Olympic Games than I was at the Trials. My lift, my total at the Olympic Trials was more than what the Russian won with at the Olympics.

JD: And I was even in better shape but calamity hit. When I got to Mexico I made a bad mistake and they told us not to drink the water, you know, the tap water?

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: And I had the misfortunate, I made a mistake. This particular morning we were supposed to have breakfast, I think at the cafeteria with Kirk Douglas and Hugh O'Brian was there too. And I made a mistake by brushing my teeth because they had not brought our water yet. They would bring our water to the outside of the door where we were staying at, you know. And that particular morning we had not got out water yet and I said well I don't want to go over there and eat breakfast and not brush my teeth, you know, so I went ahead and brushed my teeth with the tap water and I thought I would be all right, but no, I got sick.

DH: Oh, no.

JD: Yeah. I lost 19 pounds in 10 days and it just weakened me and that was a terrible mistake I made, terrible. I should not have done that, you know.

DH: Can you tell me a little bit more about the accommodations in Mexico City Olympic Village, the food?

JD: I thought the food was pretty good. I enjoyed the food and the accommodations I thought was good. Our dorms, our rooms and all was, you know, spacious enough and I slept well. I didn't, I didn't think they were that bad. I think we were up on the fifth, I think the fifth floor.

DH: Okay. On the fifth floor and who did you room with there?

JD: You know I can't remember. I was this morning trying to remember. I know I roomed with Joe Puleo, he was one of the lifters. I think he was a 181 pound lifter. In Denver there at the hotel and I'm not sure if I roomed with him. It seemed like there was more than one to a room though. I can't remember. It's been so long ago, Desiree I can't quite remember. I was thinking maybe it could have been Pickett, Ernie Pickett, George Ernie Pickett, or Joe Puleo. I just can't remember about that.

DH: That's okay. I can't remember yesterday.

JD: Me either. Sometimes I can't remember what I did two hours ago.

DH: So Joe did you march in the opening ceremony?

JD: I sure did and I loved it.

DH: Oh wonderful can you tell me some more about that and where you were?

JD: Well I remember we met outside, all the nations met outside of the stadium, you know, they group— in groups?

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: And of course we had our parade uniform on the red sport coat with a big patch on it you know, and we had these white pants, pin-striped pants.

DH: Wow.

JD: Yeah, we had the pin-striped pants and we had a, I think it was kind of a blue, solid blue collar, it was like a turtleneck shirt. Anyway, I remember us meeting outside, I've got some pictures of us outside the stadium, some of us just standing around goofing around, you know.

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: And I can email a couple of those to you if you want me to. But we were outside the stadium and then we made our formation, you know, before we marched into the stadium, each country did, you know.

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: And of course we marched into the stadium. I've got some pictures of that. I was about, if you count from the front back I was about the 15th in the second row. As a matter of fact I took almost two rows there, my position, you know, as big as I was. But anyway, I'm about 14th or 15th back in the second row. You can see my big ole head turned around looking toward the crowd, you know, in the picture I've got.

JD: You could pick me out real clear, real easy, I had a big ole fat head, you know.

DH: I know Tommy, Tom Lough is interested in identifying people in some of those.

JD: Yeah. I read some of that, he knows where I'm at in the picture, you know, and he was getting all those together, you know, I guess each person identifying themselves and he knows just where I'm at, you know, in the picture.

DH: Wonderful. So what are some interesting experiences from the opening ceremony? Is there anything—

JD: Oh, wow. It was just, it was amazing. I remember we marched in and I turned my head, you know, towards the— I guess they had the, oh, I don't know, the Mexican President was up there and all and you turned your head and made sure that you acknowledged, you know, that they were there in the crowd and waved, you know, and I remember we circled or went around and then we put, we stood, each nation, in the infield, you know. And I remember the, waiting for the athlete to run in with the torch, you know, the lighting of the torch?

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: And I remember they came in and they ran around the track with the torch and they came back and then they went up the stairs. They had some stairs set up there to go all the way to the top to light the big flame you know. And while they were running up the steps a lot of the athletes would run to the, out to the stands there to get a better look or to get a picture, you know?

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: And I remember running up there and there was these cages around it, around the, where the seats were or just about maybe 10 or 15 feet from the seat around the stadium, all around the stadium these cages, well they had doves in them.

DH: Okay.

JD: They didn't have pigeons, they had doves, white doves. And I jumped up on one of them to get a better view and I didn't realize or didn't know that there were doves in those and those were actually cages. So I jumped up on one and as heavy as I am it crushed it.

DH: Oh, no.

JD: Yeah when I jumped up on it it crushed in and all these doves that were in that cage flew out. And that was and somebody, one of the Olympic Team members said they remembered some doves flying off before they let them loose, you know what I mean? They were gonna let them loose at one time.

DH: Oh, okay.

JD: And they, one of them remembered well that was what— I wondered what those doves were that flew early, you know, before they let them out, you know. That's what happened. I stepped up on one of those cages and luckily I didn't hurt any, luckily they didn't any of them get hurt or you know, killed or anything, but—

DH: That's good.

JD: —that was why I, I let some of them loose before the time they were supposed to let them loose, you know.

DH: Uh-huh. A little preview.

JD: Yeah. Exactly.

DH: So when did you get sick from the water? How long had you been then?

JD: I'd been there just a day or two and I, you know, of course I brushed my teeth with the water and got sick from it and had to keep going to the, I guess where they had the trainers' place they had some medicine we could take to keep, you know what I mean to help for dehydration and everything that was caused. I lost a lot of weight, you know. Nineteen pounds in 10 days is a lot of weight to lose. And I tried my best to eat as good as I could to keep my weight up because I have to keep my strength up and keep training, you know, I just couldn't just completely stop training.

JD: And I had to take some stuff to make me try to feel better to train which my training went okay but not like it was going, you know, before. And, but I just had to cope with it, you know, and do the best I could. It was really a challenge.

DH: It sounds like it would be. Did you spend any time before the games or after the games in Mexico City or interact with any of the locals? Did you notice any impact of the games in Mexico City?

JD: You mean while I was there?

DH: Yes.

JD: Well I knew there were a lot of signs, this or that around town, we got a chance to go downtown some you know, and just, I know there were a lot of people selling I guess memorabilia, stuff, you know, for the games and all, souvenirs and all kind of things. I remember downtown there was this meat stand. Have you ever heard of meat stands where they have meat hanging up—

DH: Yes.

JD: —to buy?

DH: Yes.

JD: I couldn't believe that. That's the first time I'd ever seen a sidewalk meat stand with flies all over them.

DH: Oh.

JD: Can you imagine? I walked by and I looked at this meat stand and I saw hundreds, thousands of flies on meat people would be buying.

DH: Oh, goodness.

JD: And I couldn't believe that.

DH: Sounds like that really stood out in your mind. Were there any other images or just things that you recollect that stand out in your mind from Mexico City?

JD: Yeah, the way they drove their vehicles, wow, they drove like crazy. I remember the bus that would pick us up to go training and back and forth and everything. I got so mad at the driver because, I mean they would weave in and out of traffic; there was no lanes. I didn't remember seeing any lanes anywhere and they would say, they would just weave in and out of each other, I'll get in front of you, I beat you, you know, what I mean? It was like a race, a stock car race or something and everybody trying to outrun each other on the street.

DH: Right.

JD: And I wasn't used to that, you know.

DH: Right.

JD: And that was one thing that stood out in my mind. Of course I think they had a bull fight that some of the people was going to and they wanted me to go and I said no I don't want to go see that, you know. I didn't want to go see that, I think that's cruelty myself, you know. But just, you know, just you know people selling souvenirs here and there and I bought a few things, you know, while I was there.

DH: Uh-huh. Do you remember anything about student protests or poverty—

JD: I sure do. I remember it was before we got there they had the, I don't know what that was called but I remember seeing it on the news and I think the students were protesting and I think they shot some of them from the air, didn't they? Did you read about that or hear about that?

DH: Yes. Some students were shot.

JD: Yeah they were shooting them from the air, the police told them to stop rioting and they, you know, the authorities and they put an end to it pretty quick.

DH: Hum. And how did you feel about that? What was the impact of that news on you or on the weightlifting team?

JD: Well I don't know. I just didn't, I just— Sometimes there's better ways to handle something instead of shooting and killing people, you know.

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: I think there could have been probably a better way to do it but that stopped it. I mean you hate to see people being shot down like that but I mean they should have never done that you know, but I just feel it's still kinda cruel, you know.

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: I feel like it was. But I saw the news and everything before we got down there, I just wondered I said well will we have any trouble when we get down there, you know?

DH: Uh-huh. Did you feel safe when you were down there?

JD: Yeah I sure did. I felt safe. I just had to be, you have to be careful when you're in a foreign country like that, you know, and I didn't, I kind of wondered sometime what the Mexican people thought about different people from a different country, you know what I mean?

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: And just kinda keep an eye behind you or something you know. And I didn't really let that bother me, I didn't really go out that much. You know, I wasn't like going out every day, I kinda stayed around the Village mostly but there was a time or two I went out, you know, that I'd be extremely careful, you know.

DH: Uh-huh. So what was your impression of the local people?

JD: Well they seemed to be pretty nice. I go, you know, I got compliments and stuff from people, you know, and they'd come up and want to feel my muscle or something you know. I guess they knew I'm a weightlifter and you know people come up and want to feel your arm, you know, growing up, you know.

DH: Right.

JD: But they seemed to be pretty nice. I didn't have any problems.

DH: Okay. And so who did you hang around with? Was there anybody that you became particularly close to on either the US Team in general or on the weightlifting team?

JD: I, uh, Ernie Pickett, one of the heavy weights, there was two heavy weights selected he placed second to me in the Olympic Trials. We kinda became pretty good friends, you know, there at the Olympic Games. As a matter of fact before we even went to, before we even went to Denver for the two weeks training I was in York, staying in York, Pennsylvania, training there and he would come by and pick me up and we went down, he was from Baltimore which is not too far from York, Pennsylvania, and we became pretty good friends and un, and even before we went to Mexico. He was there in Denver with me you know, and of course we flew to Mexico and we kinda hung around together. And there was this one guy from Australia, Ray Rigby, he was one of the heavyweights and he was gonna be lifting. He was quite a character and he would kinda hang around with us, you know, and buddy-buddy with us, you know, and we'd go out, we went out together and stuff like that and he was a character. He was a really jovial person, happy-go-lucky and he would have his comic books, and he was one of those people that uses bloody a lot, do you know what I mean?

DH: Yeah.

JD: English-talking, bloody this, bloody that. But he had his comic, he loved horror comic books and stuff, you know. And he'd have a stack of comic books and I'd look at them with him and he'd bring some over and let us look at them or he'd you know, he was really a nice, a very nice person and we became pretty good friends. Oh, yeah, I met the other lifters, athletes from different countries and we all got along, you know, there was no problem. We didn't talk about our country, our country's differences and policies and all that. We didn't talk about politics. I mean politics was probably the least thing that was probably talked about among the athletes. It was like one big happy family and that's the way it should be. And that's— We got along with a lot of people, you know, and laughed and some people we couldn't quite understand. We'd sometimes get an interpreter you know, that would be around you know, and communicate. But we

exchanged gifts and stuff like that, you know, and pins with, I took a lot of pins with us, you know, and give them out to people would give them to us, you know, pins from their country you know, weightlifting pin. Little pins that you tack onto your jacket or something, you know what I mean? Not like writing pens and stuff you know.

DH: Yes. Tom Lough showed me some of the pins that he collected.

JD: Yeah.

DH: So what are some of your memories of the athletes from the Soviet Bloc? Did you have interactions with these athletes?

JD: Yeah. Yeah. Zhabotinsky, the Russian that I lifted against. Leonid Zhabotinsky. I talked to him a little bit. I mean he couldn't talk English hardly and we'd get somebody to interpret you know, but he was real friendly. The other lifters Gaultz from Russia, Soviet Union back then.

JD: He was there and he was able to speak a little bit of English and yeah, I mean we got along and laughed and everything and there was no problem, you know, like everybody and respected each other and we was there as athletes not, you know, to talk about the countries, not to refer to the countries' differences and all that, you know.

DH: Uh-huh. And so did you notice or experience any of the effects of the Cold War?

JD: No, unh-uh, not at all.

DH: Okay.

JD: Not at all.

DH: What about drug testing? What can you tell me about testing for performance enhancing drugs? This was known as being the first games to deliberately test athletes for performance enhancing—

JD: Yeah, they did. They tested for I think it was amphetamines, stimulants, and I think they took a urine test. They took it the first three places, you know, if you were gold, silver and bronze?

DH: Okay.

JD: That's the ones they tested as far as I can remember. I know I was tested and everything was fine but I remember being tested right after the competition you'd have to go in this room and you know, use a, excuse my French, pee in a bottle, you know.

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: And I remember I kinda went behind a curtain I didn't what I wanted to do right there in front of a lady, you know what I mean?

DH: Yes.

JD: So I went behind the curtain and when I was doing it, I started cramping up. I was, my body was swelling, my arms, my legs and everything, from the competition and losing all that weight you know, you've heard of people getting cramps?

DH: Yes. Definitely.

JD: I started getting cramps, I mean terribly and I barely got a little bit in that bottle the rest went on the floor, you know, I was doing that cramping.

JD: And it was kind of an embarrassing moment, you know.

DH: (laughter) So how did you, besides feeling embarrassed, being embarrassed because of the circumstances there, how else did you feel about the testing?

JD: I thought it was all right. I thought it should be, I mean, you know?

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: They should test people, you know, which was no problem for me because I didn't take anything anyway.

DH: Uh-huh. Were there any rumors or speculation about any of the other athletes, especially in weightlifting, rumors about them taking any performance enhancing substances?

JD: Well you'd hear from time-to-time but I mean that's something that, I mean, we didn't talk about it, nobody ever talked about back then. I mean sure you'd get rumors here and there, you know, but, I mean I did hear some here and there but that is, my memory's, you know, like I say I can't remember a lot of it, you know.

DH: Uh-huh. The first disqualification for doping took place during these games. Do you remember—

JD: Who was it? I don't even know who it was, I mean you don't have to tell me, but what sport were they in? I don't even know or remember, I remember somebody being, I remember somebody getting caught or something but I can't remember what sport it was and I just can't remember.

DH: Okay. It was a pentathlete in the Pentathlon, it was a man from the Swedish team.

JD: Oh, okay. I couldn't remember, I can't remember.

DH: Did you remember hearing anything about disqualification at that time when you were there?

JD: You mean for somebody?

DH: Yes. Just in general hearing that somebody had been disqualified?

JD: Uh—

DH: Because of substances or performance enhancing drugs.

JD: It seems like I did. As far as I can remember, yeah, seemed like I did but like I say my memory, there's a lot of little detail things I can't remember, you know, I just can't, you know, a lot of things I remember that stuck out in my mind but some things that didn't really, I didn't really dwell on, I just can't remember.

DH: Well, you're doing great.

JD: I'm doing the best I can.

DH: So what do you remember about Smith and Carlos' black power salute on the Medal Podiums?

JD: Uh, hold on just one minute.

DH: Okay.

JD: I remember that happening and I just, uh, let me see— I think that was very inappropriate for that to happen, especially at Olympic Games.

JD: I didn't think it was the right place or right time to do something like that, not in an event where the other athletes have trained hard all the years to make a team like that and something to be garnished like that, do you know what I mean?

DH: Uh-huh. So is that what you—

JD: I think it, to me, I don't mind saying I think it was disrespectful.

DH: Uh-huh. And so those—

JD: To the other athletes.

DH: Those were your feelings then about their actions and you felt it was disrespectful to the other athletes?

JD: To the other athletes and as far as the Game's concerned. It was the wrong thing to do it wasn't the place to do something like that.

DH: And have your feelings or thoughts about that changed over the years or are—

JD: Not a bit. As a matter of fact, I think they sent them home right after it.

JD: As well as I can remember. I remember some people mentioning that they sent them home.

DH: Where were you when that happened? Were you watching it somewhere? Were you there at the track?

JD: No I wasn't there at the track. I remember being at the track for that. I remember going to the track one time and watching some of the athletic events. I remember seeing Bob Beamon's long jump record. I can't remember, I remember that I wasn't there to see that turmoil, you know, I wasn't there to see that. I mean we watched a lot of it, they had a TV there in the recreational room. And we could watch a lot of the events on TV there, they had it for the athletes, you know, there in the Village, Olympic Village and I think I saw that on TV and I think a lot of people kind of reacted to it, you know, while we were in there.

DH: And what was the reaction?

JD: I don't think a lot of people liked it.

DH: Do you remember any of the comments or—

JD: No, not really, just I know that some people just kind of, you know, you know how somebody you could see who disapprove or something, you know, and just, it just wasn't, it was a wrong thing to do. I mean there at the Olympic Games. Like I said, you've got athletes that's been training all these years to compete and something like this happens while you're there, you take the third place guy that won the bronze medal in that event?

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: For that to happen while he's on the podium up there with these, the two, you know, the two people that did that. That's not respectful, that's disrespectful to him, you know.

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: Can you understand what I mean?

DH: Yes. Yes. Certainly.

JD: Okay.

DH: Definitely. I understand what your feelings are on that. So we've already talked about Mexico City and your impressions there but during the games themselves what were some of your more remarkable things or events that you witnessed or were directly involved in? And what was your vantage point?

JD: Oh, what exactly do you mean Desiree?

DH: For example when you saw Bob Beamon set his record in the jump where were you sitting during that?

JD: I can't remember. I remember seeing him and I was sitting in the crowd, didn't want to sit up too high and walk, you know, do the extra walking you know, but I sat somewhere where I wouldn't have to walk up and down steps because you know lifting and training and all. But I remember watching it, I remember I sat low in the stands. I can't remember exactly where but I remember seeing him do that and that was quite an accomplishment.

DH: Uh-huh. Do you remember anything else like that?

JD: No. I remember watching a lot of different events on TV and during the, see when you're an athlete you don't try, a lot of the athletes didn't want to go around to the different events and you know it takes a lot of energy because you're training and you've got competition.

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: You try to keep a little steam, do you know what I mean?

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: You know watching something like that you get kinda fired up you know and get your adrenaline flowing and you try to stay calm because you've got your competition coming up you know?

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: And you don't want to waste a lot of energy. You want to save that for your actual competition and everything, you know. So a lot of the things I watched on TV there in the uh— And one of the greatest things, one of the greatest things I saw was the discus thrower Al Oerter.

JD: Making that, winning his fourth straight Olympic Gold Medal which was one of the greatest accomplishment, I think, in Olympic Games history.

JD: You know he won the '56, the '60 and '64 Olympic Gold and he came back and won the '68 Gold. I don't think anybody can, uh, can come close to that kind of an accomplishment by an Olympic athlete.

DH: That's pretty amazing.

JD: He sure is.

DH: Can you tell—

JD: He used to come and train with us sometime in the weight room, you know, work out a little bit, you know, and I met him back then, you know.

DH: That's neat. Can you tell me a little bit more about what happened during your event and about your receiving your Bronze Medal and what it was like to get the Medal?

JD: Well it was just a great accomplishment. Of course I had totaled more than what the Russian Zhabotinsky won with there at the Olympic Trials and I was really looking forward to winning the Gold Medal, you know, and because my strength had increased so much more than what it had been at the Trials. I was in the best shape of my life when I went to Mexico City and when I did what I did, brushing my teeth and losing all that weight, you know, with the tap water. Losing all that weight and lost a lot of strength. I had to really fight but I was able to come through and win the Bronze Medal because nobody on the team that year up to my weight class, mine was the last weight class that was lifted, had won a medal and so it was me and the— Ernie Pickett missed both of his presses in the competition so he was out, you know. Once you— If you miss all three attempts in one of the lifts you're out of the competition, you know. And he had missed all of his presses the first lift of the competition and it was up to me to stay in there and battle to win a medal and which I did. I won a Bronze Medal. I was really proud of it and everything and I congratulated Zhabotinsky and Serge Reding beat me out his last clean jerk to win the Silver, I was ahead of him but he went out and made a last clean jerk and he was lighter body weight than I was. We tied in the total, the total of 1223 pounds, but he had to make his last clean jerk to tie me and beat me out because he was lighter body weight.

JD: And so that's what pushed me down to the Bronze. But I'm very happy that I was able to win a medal and represent, represent my country. I was very proud of it.

DH: Uh-huh. Definitely. So the Gold Medalist was Russian and the Silver, or Soviet, from the Soviet Union, and the Silver Medalist was also Soviet?

JD: No, he was Belgium.

DH: Belgium.

JD: He was Serge Reding from Belgium.

DH: Okay. Thank you.

JD: Yeah.

DH: And did you feel that the Soviet Bloc athletes had a particularly strong presence or was that not very noticeable to you?

JD: Well, yeah. Do you mean the Soviet Bloc country? The Soviets?

DH: Yes.

JD: Yeah they were very strong. They was very strong in weightlifting. That was one sport they really excelled in a lot, you know, and back in the early years, back in the 50s,

40s, late 40s and 50s and early 60s, the United States was pretty dominate, most dominate country in weightlifting but, you know, the Soviet Union really came up with some good lifters and everything and they got more depth. They got more lifters in their country lifting than the weightlifters in the United States because see back then they were more or less government supported.

JD: You know, and there were, in the United States here it, we, uh, it was like Terry Todd that we was talking about earlier, you know, they were government subsidized and they got, you know, paid for and taken care of. Over here a person had to work.

JD: You had to go out and make your living and work and you didn't get the government support like they did, you know, those countries did. And they had some very good weightlifters, you know, and here I have, I mean I'm not complaining about it, I don't mind. I love to, I mean I was always a person to go out and work I wasn't a person to sit back on my rear end and not, you know, let somebody else support me. I went out and worked and everything and I'd come home and I'd have to train you know.

DH: Right.

JD: And but the satisfaction of being able to compete against those guys with the situation they were in and the situation that I am is very, I was very, you know, it was very uplifting to me to be able to compete with them. And then the differences between us, you know.

DH: Right. And you said there was no animosity there either, just—

JD: No. No, not at all. I didn't, I didn't, you know, well I didn't boo or anything or anything like that, you get government support and I don't, you know, I've got to go out and work and train too, you know. I didn't feel that way or say anything to that effect, you know.

DH: Do you remember anything about East and West Germany? Or interacting with any of those athletes?

JD: I remember them being around and all. We just communicated, you know, this different countries. I mean you know they were all real nice, we were all nice to each other and laughed and, you know, just had a good time. I mean there were no differences shown or anything or anything like that, you know. We all got along real well.

DH: Good. Well what about the closing ceremony? What can you tell me about the Closing Ceremony?

JD: I was not in too good a shape to go to the Closing Ceremonies, which I did not attend, and I regret it but at the time I was so sore, I was so sore and drained, I couldn't even hardly walk. It took so much out of me, the lifting because of the reason that I had lost so much weight and was weakened and I had those cramps, I had severe cramps. They had to give me some medication for the cramps, I don't remember what it was but it

helped. But I had cramps and my muscles were so sore I just could not get to the Closing Ceremonies and I regret it.

JD: I remember that I was too sore to get to go and march in the Closing Ceremonies that I kinda hate that I didn't, you know, but I just at the time if you felt like I did, you'd understand, you know.

DH: Definitely. Sounds like a pretty miserable experience being that sick.

JD: Yeah. I believe if I had not got sick and lost all that weight and everything and not had the cramps, you know when get a cramp you get a muscle that's sore. It makes a muscle sore. I don't know if you know that, but when you get a real bad cramp— Have you ever had a cramp in your calf muscle or something?

DH: I have had that before.

JD: And then what it does it contracts the muscle and it'll make it sore, you know. Do you ever get sore muscles?

DH: Yeah, I've definitely had sore muscles from working out and from cramps.

JD: Yeah. Okay, well I was having them all over. I was having them in my arms, my legs, my back, you know, just all over I was having cramps and it was bad and then the lifting too, you know, and lose all that dehydration, you know, it made it worse and I was so sore that I just could not go to the Closing Ceremonies and I wish I could have.

DH: Uh-huh. Do you remember anybody else getting sick from the food or water?

JD: Yeah. I think Ernie Pickett got a little sick from it too, he had lost some weight, one of the heavyweights that was on our team. He got, he got sick and lost weight too. I mean I wasn't the only one. And I think maybe one of the other lifters got sick but they didn't get as sick as much as I did.

JD: I think it hit me a little bit worse than it did other people. I mean on our team anyway.

DH: Right.

JD: But I remember hearing about some people getting sick, other athletes in other sports you know, and as a matter of fact one of them was, uh, Catie Ball, I don't know if you remember her. Catie Ball, the swimmer?

DH: Okay. Yes.

JD: Catie Ball was from Jacksonville, Florida, too and she was on the swimming team and she got real sick and hurt her performance. She did win a Gold Medal, I think, in one of the relays, swimming relays.

DH: Oh, okay.

JD: But she was, I think, favored to win in her event which I can't remember exactly what event it was in the swimming but she was not able to win the Gold Medal in that but she did win a Gold in one of the relays, like I said.

DH: Okay.

JD: But she was from Jacksonville, too, you know. We uh, there was another athlete from Jacksonville, Ken Walsh.

DH: Oh, yes. Swimmer?

JD: Swimmer too. So he was from Jacksonville. There was three of us from Jacksonville on the Olympic Team that year.

DH: Wow.

JD: Yeah. There was me, Catie Ball, and Ken Walsh.

DH: Hum. That's a good contingent from one city.

JD: Yeah.

DH: So what happened immediately after the Games? Did you go home immediately afterward or did you stay in Mexico and do any tourism there?

JD: No I didn't do too much. I wasn't there that long after the Games, after the Closing Ceremonies. As a matter of fact it may have been a day or two after the Games that we flew, I flew back and I went straight back to work.

DH: And where were you working at that time? Was it the same place prior?

JD: Yeah. Insurance company, yeah. I worked there from 1962 to 1966—

DH: Oh, okay.

JD: I mean 1996.

DH: '96 okay.

JD: Yeah 1962 to 1996 is those years I worked there and I went right back to work.

DH: Right back to work so you didn't have any down time?

JD: Well actually when I come back, I laid off my lifting for a while. I took a little lay-off from my lifting and just kinda relaxed, you know, and spent some time with my wife and stuff like that, you know. I think we went off on a vacation or something you know and so I just kinda laid back, laid off my training for a little while.

DH: Uh-huh. So did any of your family or your wife go down to Mexico City during the Games?

JD: My wife did. Yeah, she, as a matter of fact she went down to her father and step mother, her step mother's brother lived down in Mexico City.

DH: Okay.

JD: Her name was Carla, at the time my wife's name. Her step-mother's brother lived down there and she flew down with her grandmother and her step-mother and uh, to Mexico City and he picked them up at the airport and they stayed there at his place. He had a big nice, huge home there and as a matter of fact they came by to pick me up at the Village and I went over to his place and ate dinner one night.

DH: That sounds nice.

JD: Yeah, they picked me up. So I got to see her, she was there at the competition. She, uh they got tickets for her, you know.

DH: Oh that's wonderful.

JD: She was there at the competition out in the crowd.

DH: That's great that she got to see you compete and win the medal.

JD: Yeah. Yeah. She was there.

DH: So when you returned home what sort of reaction or reception did you receive from the community or from other family and friends?

JD: Oh, they were just, uh, I don't know, it was in the news and all that and they had me on some talk show or something, you know, on TV and they come interviewed me and all and it was in the newspapers and Jacksonville, the City, gave us a banquet, a special banquet for me, Catie Ball and Ken Walsh. They had a banquet. The Mayor of Jacksonville was there and they gave us a key to the City and all that, you know.

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: And I think they had a parade and they had us in the parade and all that, you know.

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: And they gave us a good reception. The community was really good about it and they gave us good media coverage and all that and of course my family and friends, they were, I got a lot of phone calls from people congratulating me and all that, you know, and especially at work, you know, people would come down and congratulate me and shake my hand and all that, you know, and they had a little, uh, the company newsletter and all

that they come out with each month, they had a lot of pictures in there and just I got a good reception for it, which I wasn't asking for, I don't usually get, back then I was this kinda to myself and you kinda, I'm not a person to boost, you know what I mean?

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: And just a little shy, you know, about, you know, things like, back then I was, you know.

DH: Uh-huh. So how did you feel back then about all of that attention?

JD: Well, I didn't know how to handle it. But it was nice of people to thank, remember and do things like that you know, I didn't want to say don't do this, don't do that, you know. I just kinda went along with it, you know.

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: And I was very apologetic, you know, appreciative of it, you know, that's what I was.

DH: Uh-huh. For you personally what was the most meaningful part of your participating in the '68 Games?

JD: The most meaningful part?

DH: Meaningful to you.

JD: Being able to represent my country on the platform in the greatest sporting event in the world.

DH: That's wonderful. That's a great way to put that. So how did your experience in the '68 Games change you and did it have an impact on your life? Were there positive benefits? Were there negative benefits? Or negative effects?

JD: I don't think I never had any negative effects from it. I think uh, I think in some ways it uh, it kinda really, it kinda just, it made a better person out of me, you know?

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: It gave me a meaningful thing to be able to see how other people, you know, around the world can react and come together and compete and the sportsmanship of, you know, fine sportsmanship that each person from different countries could be with each other and communicate and get along together, you know.

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: I think that had a big effect on me and to be able to experience like that and be with other people from other countries and you don't have to sit around and lie or discuss

politics and the differences between, you know, the countries' differences and all that, you know. It just— I learned a lot from it. It made me a better person.

DH: Uh-huh. Does this personal history of your medal and participating in the '68 Games, is it, how significant is that part of your life in your personal history?

JD: And what now? Excuse me?

DH: How significant was your participation or is your participation, and your Medal from the '68 Games, to you in your personal history? You said earlier that it was a big part of your life but if you were to frame it in reference to your whole life, how significant was your participation in the '68 Games to your overall personal history?

JD: Well uh, I think it's just, it's been really significant in my, you know, I've got uh, I've got something here that I'd like to read to you. You know a year after that I beat the Russian that won the Olympic Games, you know, Zhabotinsky, I won the World Championship.

JD: And it just, it made me more of a competitive athlete too, you know what I mean?

DH: Yes.

JD: It helped me with my training to be able to know that I could compete with the best and be the best. It just inspired me and gave me more enthusiasm to do better, you know?

DH: Yes. And what was it that you wanted to read to me?

JD: Yeah, this is something I wrote down here that I want to read that back when I, when I lifted against the Russian in the Olympics and lost to him. It inspired me to come back, like I said, and to be a better lifter and better athlete.

“Winning the world championship defeating the Russian World and Olympic champion in the 69 World Championship which I won in Warsaw, Poland, was a thrill beyond description. Standing on the victory podium I flashed back in time to the early days of my parents promoting me, the struggles in raising their four boys. I have three brothers. I knew I was someone's hero so proud to be standing before the American flag and hearing the American National Anthem, I knew that my experiences this day would influence many a child or person aspiring to be better human beings, athletes, in addition, I realized that in the future I would be a unique person to uphold goodness and health in body and mind to those seeking me as an example just as I had sought heroes in my youth especially Paul Anderson”— I don't know if you ever remember him—

DH: Unh-uh

JD: —an incredible person. He was sort of like the world's strongest man, an Olympic champion back in the 50s.

DH: Okay.

JD: —and still for the sport today I connect as much as possible to help fellow lifters promote the sport of Olympic weightlifting locally and nationally especially at the Joe Dube Classic held yearly at Jacksonville. We have a meet here in Jacksonville that they named in my honor every year and we've had it for 10 years already now.

DH: Wonderful.

JD: “My experience in cross culture boundaries is that the sport is practiced universally and I seek to influence, guide, and help anybody anywhere. Standing on the podium in 1969 in Warsaw marked a profound change in my life resulting from hard work and my aspiration to be as good as those I once and still idolize. Today I wish the same for young people of races, cultures, and age because I believe that wholesome ways and hard work in bettering oneself builds character and a better person within to reach out and share with others who might otherwise falter along the way. And goodness and understanding can be truly contagious and that should cross all culture boundaries.”

DH: That is a wonderful statement, Joe. Thank you so much for sharing that with me. That really puts into perspective and in wonderful language, you know, what your feelings are about your experiences competing.

JD: Yeah. That's the way I feel.

DH: That's wonderful. So you talked a little bit about this just now, but can you tell me a little bit more about any one piece of advice that you would give to today's Olympic hopefuls or the young people who are training?

JD: Yeah. I sure could. To keep your enthusiasm up, train hard, and set goals, and be a leader. Don't mess around with drugs, no drugs.

DH: Good.

JD: Live a clean, wholesome life, be respectful to others and your competitors. A true champion will live like a champion.

DH: Sounds like sage advice to me.

JD: Yeah. (laughter)

DH: So I understand that you're also an artist and can you tell me a little bit about your art and your role and your role in the Art of the Olympians?

JD: Yeah. I sure can. Yeah I met Al Oerter at the Olympics, you know, back years back when I was in the '68 Olympic. And a few years ago I was, I visited a friend of mine that was, as a matter of fact he was on the Olympic team with us, Joe Puelo, which I had mentioned earlier, but he lives down in Florida now. He used to live up in Detroit and he was an attorney for some big insurance firm up there for years. He retired and

moved to Florida. He lives in Fort Myers, so I went down and visited him one weekend. He had a condo down there, and we, he lived down there in Fort Myers, you know, with his wife. And we went and had lunch, Al Oerter came and met us for lunch and we were sitting there talking and we started talking about art. I didn't really, I really didn't know that much about him being in artwork, you know, an artist, but he was quite an artist, did you know that?

DH: No I did not know that about Al Oerter.

JD: Yeah. He was, you can go on the website there, Al Oerter and see some of his artwork. But anyway, I didn't realize that myself and we started talking about art work and everything and we just sat there and had a good time, you know, talking about artwork, you know, and we went to a seafood place and I told him that I did a lot artwork too, you know, and all and so when they started that Art of the Olympians, down there, Al Oerter?

DH: Yes.

JD: Al Oerter was the one that started it. They contacted me and I sent some stuff to them that I had done, you know, and they were amazed at what I could do in my artwork and everything so they started the Art of the Olympians and I was one of the original members that was there when they started it, you know. I think there was about 11, 10 or 11 athletes, or something like that.

JD: That, they've got a website on that. If you'll go on there and look at it.

DH: Okay.

JD: Art of the Olympians.

DH: Okay.

JD: And you'll see some of my artwork on there, I have it on there.

DH: Okay. I'll have to check that out.

JD: Yeah.

DH: And what is the mission of this, of the organization? What do they—

JD: Well, I think they're really trying to grow. They're try, as a matter of fact, the pictures and stuff that each one of these artists, if you go on that website you'll see some of the artwork of some of the athletes that's on there, you know, and I'm not sure exactly all what they do because I haven't really been active with them like some of the other ones might be. I have a problem getting around and traveling, you know.

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: And I wish I could have been more active in it, I sent, they have art shows and stuff and I think they, they might do stuff to promote maybe some charity or stuff like that, you know, and promote artwork. Do you know what I mean?

DH: Yes.

JD: And so I sent some of my artwork— excuse me— I sent some artwork down there, I mailed it and they had it on display down there at the art show and I was not able to go to it but I mailed it down there and people was really amazed at the artwork I did and these pictures that I had, they, as a matter of fact they took this artwork, you know, not the original work, but the pictures and they've gone all over the world, you know, at showing at art shows and stuff.

DH: Uh-huh.

JD: And as a matter of fact there were on, at Times Square on the screen up there, the pictures they had a day that they had, I think it was two days there, they had the Art of Olympians, the artwork up on the screen there at Times Square and my picture was on there too, you know.

DH: Oh, well so you guys are multi-talented individuals.

JD: It was, it's really nice, I wish I could participate in it more, you know, but I just can't do the traveling, you know, and go places here and there like I used to be able to. I have a lot of problems, health problems with my joints and stuff, you know. Like I said I had hip replacement years ago and all that and I have a lot of trouble in my back with arthritis and stuff like that.

JD: And I just can't be as, I'm not as active as I used to be able to and be able to travel and go here and there, you know.

DH: Yeah.

JD: Hard for me to do.

DH: Well Joe what does the creation and preservation of the 1968 US Olympic team legacy mean to you? For example where, you know, the first phase of this is this oral history project where we're trying to capture and preserve the Team's legacy. What does this mean to you?

JD: Oh, it means a great deal to me. I mean, what are you gonna do with that? I mean what are y'all, what have y'all got planned for the history of, you know, like what we're doing right now. I mean what are y'all gonna do with it?

DH: Well, as resources allow and when we get a few more people involved, we're gonna transcribe all of the interviews so type them out word-for-word so that people will be able to listen to them and to hear them if you choose to read them. If you choose to allow the audio file and the text of your transcript to be released. And we're working

with some other partners within the University to create a special, I guess, a website that's connected to our Center where researchers and students and young people and people interested in the Olympic movement and Olympism can go and learn more about the history dealing with the Olympics and the history of the '68 Team.

JD: Yeah. Well it all means so much to me. It was an important part of my life and I was just, I feel very fortunate, like you asked me, I feel very fortunate that I was able, like I said, to be able to have the physical, the mental and physical ability that God gave me to be able to accomplish and do what I did, you know. It means a lot to me.

DH: Definitely.

JD: Still does after all these years.

DH: Uh-huh. Definitely. And I read somewhere you said that if you had a chance to live your life all over again you would do it all over again.

JD: I would do it again. I loved it so much I just, I loved to be able to, I love weightlifting. I enjoyed the, being able to compete and meet new friends and communicate with people and not only in this country but other countries and it's just something I miss so much. I dream about it all the time.

JD: I do. I dream about it all the time and I miss it so much and yes, I would do it all over again. I might do it a little bit different in some ways, but I would do it all over again because I loved it so much, you know.

DH: Uh-huh. That's wonderful. Well, Joe your story was really interesting and inspiring and thank you so much for taking the time to share it with us today. I really appreciate your time.

JD: My pleasure. My pleasure, I appreciate you, I appreciate y'all thinking about me to do something like this, to give me the opportunity. That was very nice of y'all to think of me, you know. And I appreciate it too.

DH: Well is there anything, before we go is there anything else you'd like to tell me about?

JD: Yeah. I've had a good time talking to you. (laughter)

DH: Well thank you. I've had a great time talking to you too. I'm gonna—

JD: Now you've gotta give me your email now, am I off the air now?

DH: No, I'll go ahead and end the recording right now.

end of interview, end recording

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