

2013-17 PT. 1 SIDE B

Jim Loftus

May 31, 2013

Fairbanks, Alaska

Dan O'Neill, interviewer

Dan asked Jim about the high school track meets. Jim said he has been involved with the high school track meets since 1986. He has been the head timer, an official, the starter, and the organizer of all the officials of the track meets. He talked about the high school track meets. There's six total meets in the region and the state track meet. The Running Club North organization coordinates the meets. He started organizing the meets the last five years. Steve Bainbridge did it before he did. Bob Murphy also did them. He liked being the starter.

[section is difficult to hear because of wind]

He talked about his philosophy for the high school meets and why he did it.

Jim said he never trained for running longer distances. He tended to win his age group for 5 and 10 Ks. He did it for enjoyment. He still liked to go down and do intervals training. In the year 2000 he went to the national championships. When he turned 50 he went down to the University of Oregon and entered the 50-54 year olds 800 meters. These were the national championships (USTAF). He took second place behind someone from New York. He talked about losing time as he gets older. He did attend an international meet in Spain in 2005 and he talked about his experience. The meet was called the Master's Federation of International Track and Field Association. They meet every two years in a different country. They have age groups from 50 up. He made it to the finals in Spain. He talked about his competition. He ended up coming in fifth in the race and was 55 years old. The next year he attended a meet in St. George, Utah and won that meet for his age group and set a new record. In 2010 he went back to the USTAF national championships in Sacramento, California. He was competing just to see how he was doing. He took second again. He talked about some his competitors. He decided after his last meet he wouldn't compete anymore. He talked about his last competition in Sacramento and his main rival. He said he had a pretty good competition on the track. They discussed his father videotaping his last competition.

Dan asked about his education. Jim said he was put into an intermediate track at high school. His mother was influential. She got him to change and thought he was an underachiever. He moved up to the advanced classes in high school in his senior year. He struggled but he was able to do it. He found that he really like physics. He didn't have an option to go away to college. He didn't have big plans for college. His parents had another child that year and they didn't have a lot of money in the family. City College was free and he said classes were full. His mother influenced him into going into engineering. He didn't mind the science and the math. He liked English and history. [wind interference] After City College he got a state scholarship for the University of Santa Clara. He said engineering was not easy, but he

didn't mind the work. He was determined to finish a tough program. He said so much of engineering is learning on the job. Jim talked about Dan's influence in college. He said he made some life friends at Santa Clara.

Dan asked about Jim's older sister. Jim said she attended a good safe school. [wind interference] She attended Long Mountain which eventually combined with USF. He said he got a good education at the City College of San Francisco. He would visit Dan at St. Mary's College. He talked about maturing at City College. Attending Santa Clara changed his socialization skills. It matured him. He started thinking about the world in general and the possibilities. He started challenging himself. [wind interference]

Dan explains that they moved into the van because of the wind.