

Joe Floyd  
on  
SPORTS IN KODIAK  
1955-1995

Oral History Project

Presented to  
Dr. Gary Stevens  
for  
History 341, History of Alaska  
Kodiak Community College

by  
Sarah Babbitt  
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The following autobiographical interview was held on March 31, 1995 at Kodiak Middle School, Kodiak, Alaska. The interviewer is Sarah Babbitt, Physical Education teacher at Kodiak Middle School.

SB: I am Sarah Babbitt and I am doing this interview for Dr. Gary Stevens for his class in Alaskan History. I am interviewing Joe Floyd, former High School teacher, coach, athletic director, and well known sports and activities promoter in Kodiak. First of all, Joe, thanks for doing this. Tell us why and when you came to Kodiak.

JF: Well, that's pretty easy because I was looking for a job and in 1955 I graduated from the University of Mississippi and the previous year I had joined two or three teacher placement bureaus. There were lots of openings around but they were pretty low paying and I kept waiting for something else to happen. There were new schools in Jackson, Mississippi and then there was also some place in New Mexico that was building up because of the atomic weaponry that was big there, something like an Oakridge, Tennessee development. They were interviewing for teachers and it sounded like western high pay and, of course, being a Mississippian, three thousand dollars at that time would have been a premium type job. And this vacancy came from Kodiak, Alaska. Of course, I filled it out because the starting pay was forty nine twenty. This was 1955 remember. So I didn't think too much about it because I sent off several like that and at that time I was getting my degree and I was taking 12 hours of graduate school and I was really wanting to get into coaching and so forth. Sports, but the main thing that I was interested in was football but getting a football job at that time meant that you had to have a pretty good resume because the University of Mississippi was at the top of their football game and a lot of those kids were getting the good jobs. I had played community college, which we called at that time junior college, for two years and then I went down to a teacher's college which was Delta State Teachers College. Then I went into the service and I happened to be lucky enough to have played two years of football with a couple of Oklahoman all Americans but I never was much of a player anyway. I just loved to participate and I didn't really concentrate on any one sport whether it was football, basketball or baseball. Those were the three things I enjoyed the most and so I was a participator more than a player. I often tell people that the Little Leaguers I had were actually better than any level that I had ever played and I don't hedge too much off of that. My game didn't get better with age. I'm still aware enough to put my game at the level where it deserves to be.

But getting back to the Kodiak job, there was also a job out of St. Lewis at a new three grade school. At that time my fiance, who later became my wife, Carolyn Lewis, who I had met

in the Air Force and we had maintained communications and so forth was living in Portland, Oregon and working. I was trying to get a degree and I called and told her about the Kodiak, Alaska job. She said "Wherever you want to go is fine, let's give it a try." So I signed a nine month contract and when it did come back it came back as I said at forty nine two zero. I took it over to my P.E. professor and advisor who was head of the department and he said "That's as much as I make." That made me feel a little better. But they didn't have football. There was a basketball coaching job and that was all.

I drove up the highway and had no flats and then moved to Kodiak. They had us two or three choices of apartments and we moved into Kodiak, Alaska in 1955 which had a population of probably about fifteen hundred or two thousand. For P.E., they had an outdoor basketball court and a quonset hut where we met for rainy day games.

SB: Where was that?

JF: It's actually where the, well, since the tidal wave and the reconstruction and everything, it was almost in sight of downtown. Right in that area where Bob Johnson's clinic use to be. I think they've got a mental health place there now. It was right back in that area in there. There was a school there, an old school that with the reconstruction and urban renewal was torn down and they had a library in a quonset hut. They had a P.E. room and so forth and then they had a kind of a brown reddish tinged building with a hundred kids in high school.

SB: That was just high school or K through 12?

JF: That was just high school. This part of the building that we are sitting in now use to be called the Main Elementary School. At that time, the elementary had moved but the high school phase wasn't due for completion until 1956. So I came and they gave me one U.S. History class and three P.E. classes and then I think I had a study hall. Of course, I was pretty much turned alone as small schools tend to let you sort of develop your own program. The first thing that I did, being a strong advocate of intramurals, was that I started intramurals. First we started out with softball and I couldn't believe the talent of the kids. They really took to games and sports and so it made it easy.

SB: What were the kids then? Did you have a lot of Native kids or Navy kids?

JF: We had a lot of Native kids. We had 120 kids in high school and I'd say probably 50 percent plus were Native kids. And

then the Navy, see, had there own high school at that time. The Navy combined with the town school the next year when we moved into this school right here, the physical, which has been remodeled many, many times since then. So I started intramurals and I had so many kids out for basketball and everything that when we did start, which was probably immediately when I got here, the kids wanted to start practice. I chartered a bus to take us to what at that time was the Naval station which you know as the Coast Guard. So we would go out there two or three times a week and I didn't cut anybody. I just made a J.V. team and I kept that aspect. They had two leagues of basketball on the base. It was a big base, I'd say six thousand people. So they had two leagues of basketball because everything was focused indoors and I believe there were 16 teams, two 8 team leagues. The Navy base high school was about the some size as we were, maybe a little smaller. We had 120 , maybe they had 100 but they were in a different classification as far as class A and class B schools at that time. Now we are a little differently classified. We played them about four games or five games during the year and I think they beat us four out of the five. We played against the military teams. Actually I couldn't believe the talent of the kids that I had. You'd think that when you move here in Kodiak, Alaska, you're a million miles from anywhere and at that time it was pretty hard for me to readjust to the fact that, hey, these kids are really pretty good athletes. I had a boy by the name of Squartsoff that made the all tournament team and I had Mike Fitsgerald. I had a Brad Poland. I had a Jay Malette. I had an Olie Mollie and the Johnson twins. We went to the tournament and they only had two leagues and we were in the A league with Anchorage at that time, 1955, and Fairbanks, Palmer, Wasilla and Seward. We were the big schools in the state of Alaska. We didn't have any communication with Southeastern because they ran their own program down there. The winners of this league at that time was Anchorage. We won our first ball game against Seward, beat them 3 or 4 points, and then lost the next one or two, I can't remember, seems like it was just one and then we were out and Anchorage went on and won it. They went on and played the winners of Southeastern, Alaska, and it stayed in that format for about ten or twelve years. The Anchorage school at that time had about two thousand kids. Getting back to our seasons, we played the military teams and we played the base schools and then I made a trip. The Anchorage coach called me and guaranteed me a thousand dollars, or something like that, so we took a J.V. team and a varsity team and we went to Anchorage High School. We had to introduce our kids in front of two thousand kids. At that time it was the only school in Anchorage. Anchorage had maybe one hundred thousand people and all the kids were in one school. I never will forget, West High is the same as it was then, and I went out to introduce my kids and I didn't have notes, as I usually didn't, and I

forgot three or four of the kids. I never will forget that. I was so nervous. That was my first coaching job.

SB: What was traveling like in those days?

JF: Traveling then, it seems like, was about eighteen to twenty dollars a kid and I'd say about half or three quarters of the kids had never left the island. I had a lot of Native kids. There were a lot of Andersons on the J.V. and kids that didn't make the team and kids who had played the year before. PNA came in here three or four times a week and we would stop in Homer and we would stop in Kenai and then we would go on into Anchorage. I think the round trip fare was probably less than twenty five or twenty six dollars.

SB: Did you bus from Homer then?

JF: No, we flew right into Anchorage. Later on the bussing aspect of the traveling took place. Then we went on in the basketball season. We played about forty ball games, maybe even more than that. Sometimes when we'd play the military schools we'd only take one bus, you know, forty or fifty kids. But when we'd play the base school we'd take two busses. We'd take every kid in the high school. You couldn't believe it. Of course, basketball wasn't my strongest sport but I always really enjoyed it. That was the only sport, really that I had as a kid. Others I took up individually like baseball and things of that nature. I'd play in the yard, you know, but you didn't get into organized sports until you got into your high school years. But basketball I played from the time when I was in about the forth grade so I really loved it.

We went on and I continued on with my teaching and the basketball season. Our tournaments were in March so you're looking at October to March and that was a long season. It was a sport that was accepted all over Alaska as the sport and the rest of them come later. Well, we moved into the high school in the next year, 1956-57 season and I found out that cross-country was starting and so we had a cross-country team. I found out also that track was starting and so we had a track team. I never will forget the first track team, I think I had about 6 kids come out. The way that I would try to bribe them is that I would have spring basketball and if you didn't come out for track you couldn't play in spring basketball. So there were all kind of little gimmicks there. The intramurals continued. I really enjoyed the intramurals because I had two leagues, the A and the B, and sometimes I would have morning sessions if the sport was big, trying to keep things going every day. Any kind of interruptions I really resented. I didn't like to be interrupted.

SB: I think the whole time you taught, you missed how many days of school in 30 years?

JF: About 4. I couldn't stand for anyone to know what a poor job I was doing.

SB: When you started track, what did you use for a track?

JF: We used the road. We used the halls and we used the gym. I had to lock the balls up after basketball season because if you didn't you wouldn't have another sport. I don't think people really realize how dominant basketball was back in those days. You know, everything was new to the school. But I was lucky. I had a superintendent that had a lot of confidence in me and principals that wanted to see things happen and I was allowed to do things without really worrying about the consequences and I did them with a public that wanted to see activities happen. By the way, when I first got here the school board gave every teacher a hundred dollar raise so I ended up fifty point two zero and I got a hundred dollars for coaching. Don't you think that the hours that I put in worked out to a little bit an hour?

SB: So that was five thousand a year?

JF: Yea. Fifty one, twenty one my first year. I went on and coached basketball for seven years and, of course, I started the J.V. team and continued on with the J.V. team. I was the only coach. I continued on with cross-country and continued on with track. One year I took two kids to the track meet. That was about 1962. But again we kept everything away because we didn't have any facilities. We ran on the roads and we had what we use to call the loop. Of course, having control of the gym, I used that as much as I could. I would have intramural track meets, intramural ping pong, intramural road climbs, and have everything I could to recognize the kids. In 1962, my last year of high school basketball coaching, I made a decision. It was obvious that the school district was not going to bring any new people in and I began to get really burned off because when we moved into the new school the school board wanted an evening recreation program started and I was selected to do that. And then I, of course, started city league basketball at that time too and that became pretty big. In the mean time I had started an eight grade program too so I gave up high school basketball.

I had a couple of Navy boys that came up to me when they found out that I had given up basketball in 1962, their names were Ian Fulp who remained here in Kodiak as a Parks and Recreation Director for the last 20 odd years, and a kid by the name of Bill Dobson. They were both sophomores in my gym class and

they loved the gym. And so, when they found out that I was retiring from the basketball job they came to me and said to me that "We want wrestling". Now they just had started wrestling in Alaska, this was 1962, so this next year would have been the second year that they had wrestling. I said "Bill and Ian, I have never even seen a wrestling mat", but those two kids would not let me say no and they said "We'll teach you." So when I came back to school the next year, I had been replaced by a boy named Terry McMullians as basketball coach. He was the coach of 62, 63, 64, that was the year of the earthquake. Those boys did not let me forget wrestling. They bought books and a young man in the Navy that was from Princeton University came up and helped me coach and they helped me and we had a team. We went to our first state meet in Anchorage and did not win a match to my recollection. We may have, I do not know, but those boys would have to tell you. So that was the beginning of the wrestling and I coached wrestling for seven years. I had some pretty good kids the next year when those two boys were seniors. I lost track of Bill but Ian Fulp, his dad was captain in the Navy here, he went on and won second in the state that year, his senior year, and then he went on to Willamette University and, of course, he finished up. Seven years later he finished up and he came back and needed a job and so I went up to Ivar Shott's office and, those of you who knew of or knew Ivar Shott knew that he wasn't the easiest man to talk to, and I said, "This young man I want you to hire as a wrestling coach." I think he'd taught a couple classes of PE but he's had some math classes and so forth and he was a wrestling coach. So starting, he had a three year tour and, boy, he had some great teams. In the beginning of that first year a young man by the name of Jack King came into the system and Jack became a referee and supporter of wrestling. Between him and Ian and myself, we used the kids that we had and we started Kid Wrestling. This was twenty six years ago. I figured it out because Max (Floyd) was ten years old. Jack had a sister-in-law that lived in one of the villages, I believe it was Port Lions. The next year Jack's brother-in-law and sister-in-law came in with their boys to wrestle in that kid wrestling tournament. This style of the high school kids being the coaches and the coaches sort of supervising and with me being a participant we started Kid Wrestling. That was how the Kid Wrestling program started. High school wrestling is thirty six years old and Kid Wrestling, I believe, is twenty six years old. Is that correct, Sarah?

SB: We came into town from Port Lions in 74 and it started that year. No, that's when Little Dribblers started. Wrestling was already going on because we brought our kids in from Port Lions. I remember the first group we brought in, we had a little kid who was pretty good but he kept getting pinned. I said "Travis, what's wrong?" and he said "Have you ever looked

at all these lights in here?" He was so fascinated by the gym and all the lights that we couldn't get him to concentrate. How about girls sports, Joe?

JF: O.K. now, the girl's sports. You know, Sarah, I went to a school about like Kodiak, I think we had about 26 kids who graduated when I was a senior, and our girl's basketball team was really a quality program. I was surprised when I came to Kodiak that Alaska had adopted the policy of non-participation. Our first girl's P.E. teacher in 1956 was a Navy wife and her name was Rita Hunter and Rita started the intramurals which at that time we called GAA. The boys would have the gym on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and the girls on Tuesday and Thursday. They had their programs too and that's the reason that I'd try to stay outside till November 1, that was my guideline. They would do their things inside while we were outside. We had the GAA and, of course, had some great girls who didn't get to participate. They had cheer leaders which was big and then the next P.E. teacher was Denise Swisher, a Navy wife, too, and she was really active with the girls. Really the beginning of the real push was Tootsie Alwert. Tootsie was a Texan and she came up here and stayed about ten or twelve years and organized the first interscholastic team. Of course, all the coaches at that time didn't want to share the gym space but she was pretty strong minded and she got a group of kids and they were great athletes. They went over to Homer and scored over 100 points a couple of times. We even hosted a regional tournament. This was happening about 1971 or 72 when Alaska started girl's athletics. Basketball was their first sport that we had. My time frame may be a little bit off but that was basically about the time.

But continuing on with my tenure here, the first thing that I gave up was basketball in 1962 and I continued on with the cross-country and track. Ian Fulp took the wrestling for three years. He and his wife decided that they needed to go back to school in Portland and he was going to get his masters. His wife, who was Judy Uri, was going to get her degree. When they came back, Jack King was the person who was really involved in wrestling. Jack took the wrestling team over for one year supposedly. But Jack had some great kids and had some great teams and became entrenched and when Ian came back there wasn't a job for him and he went to work for Parks and Recreation.

The first time that I remember that we went into the Kid Wrestling program, Sarah, was at your house at the urging and support of Pat Briggs who really became a supporter of the Junior High because Todd (Briggs) was a seventh or eighth grader. We had so little to offer the Junior High kids that the AAU type thing was a big part of our program. We would

always take the Junior High kids and the elementary kids to the tournaments on the mainland and hitchhike or do anything we could to get them there. In fact, the last trip I remember was the trip to Fairbanks when Dave Crow drove that bus from Homer to Anchorage to Fairbanks.

SB: We had those 87 little wrestlers in that bus and you had mattresses stacked in the back. We were going to drive all night and you said "No problem, these kids will sleep all the way." They jumped all over that bus, all over those seats and they never went to sleep!

JF: Not a one of them slept! But Dave Crowe and you and Donnell Rounsaville were parents and supportive people as far as any of the athletic programs but really took a stance as far as the Kid Wrestling program was concerned. Irene and Stu Ferris came in on your exodus and Virginia and Dave Crowe and Fagan Skafflestad and Judy Eads came in and helped out a lot. Then the Hikesuss came and Jim Hikesus in 1978 took the wrestling team because Jack took a leave of absence. Jack became real close to the coach at Cal Poly, Vaugh Hitchcock, quite a legend in college wrestling, and Jack said he learned a lot from him that year. Jim and Judy Hikesus came up and he coached the year our sons, Max (Floyd) and Clay (Rounsaville) were seniors. Joe Bold and Jim were the coaches and I was really impressed with Jim. The state tournament was in Sitka and we took the kids down there. Jack came back and coached until 1985. Then the Probascos took over the leading role in Kid Wrestling.

SB: What about housing and travel that is unique to Alaska, Joe. I know kids housed out with families. They traveled by train and then came the years of traveling by ferry.

JF: When I first started in athletics, nobody knew much about coaching pay. You pretty much did it because you thought that was your job and you ate out of your own pocket. The school board really didn't endorse the concept of extracurricular activities and as a result you tried to get the most people to the most activities at the very cheapest that you possibly could. We would charter a plane to Homer and then rent a bus just like we did on that Fairbanks trip in 1975. We chartered Kodiak Western, who had a Convair, that held 50 people. We chartered that to Homer and then rented a school bus. I, in my travels, had make friends with a bus company owner in Homer and I can't remember his name and I thought the world of him. I called him all the time. We rented that bus for three days and then we used it to get 50 people to Fairbanks and then back to Homer at very little cost. There wasn't any way at the prices that we would charge that families couldn't afford to send their kids and so we didn't have any dropouts along those lines. I can remember one time, in fact, that we went

when Clay and Max were 12 years old and we stopped in Homer and I rented a 15 passenger van and we put 21 people in it and drove to Anchorage. We came back with more medals and ribbons than any school that lived within walking distance. And we slept on the floor and in the libraries, anywhere. There was no such thing as a hotel room. We didn't even consider that because there was no budget. Money that was left over from our gates, usually basketball, went into track, cross-country and wrestling. Then in the Patt Briggs era, which came with Todd (Briggs), I'd say in 77 or 78 because Todd became a ninth grader in 1974. Patt ran two or three walkathons, we had spaghetti feeds, we sold ice cream and we put blazers on those wrestlers and we began to rent hotel rooms. Patt Briggs showed us a new style and I'd be remiss if I didn't mention a guy by the name of Gary Shepard who became Junior High athletic director and he also became wrestling coach. He coached all of our kids for about five years there and coached track. Then he and Linda left Kodiak and I ran into Linda about three years ago in Barrow with those twin boys who are about 12 years old. Gary had a massive heart attack and died.

SB: What about Robin Hervey? We have the Robin Hervey Wrestling Tournament each year?

JF: Robin Hervey came here about the time that the Kid Wrestling began about 21 or 22 years ago and became one of those guys that found the gym and when he found the mats out he stayed. He loved kids, loved to wrestle himself, he was still in tip top shape. He was a carpenter and became involved in diving and in a diving accident lost his life. Jack King and others involved in wrestling wanted something to rival the basketball Christmas Tournament which is going into it's 30th year. We wanted something to elevate wrestling in the community and the school system on the same level. We wanted something for the community and we chose to honor Robin Hervey with a tournament. At that time we invited about three teams and, since we were at the top of the heap as far as wrestling was concerned for about 10 years, we would always invite the very best teams. The first session would always be in front of the student body. Now they do it a little easier way but I'm going to be pushing hard to bring it back because those kids deserve to wrestle in front of a thousand people because it's a tough sport. Not being a wrestler, I appreciated the sacrifice of those kids and their families and the Robin Hervey Tournament should be dignified with a lot of effort and interest. It takes a lot of work and a lot of people to do that. I see Cheryl McNeill and her husband over there and I asked them if they had a bed there. We've been lucky like that. We've had people that grow out of a sport and others come in to take their place. It's as good as it's ever been, maybe even better.

SB: Tell about Devoe Friend and his fish feeds he always had for the teams.

JF: Devoe Friend came in because he was a close friend of Jacks with that Arkansas background and through their hunting and fishing stories everybody loved to be around Jack and Devoe. His daughter, Kathy was a part of the state basketball championship team in 1977 through 81. Every team that came in we really tried to take care of them and for part of the Christmas Tournament we would have a seafood dinner. The home economics class would take care of that and we wanted to do the same thing for the wrestling tournament. We started having fish-fries, and we'd have them at Devoe Friend's house or Dave Crowe's and various other houses. Devoe was a supporter. Of course, both his boys wrestled. Gerald was outstanding and Brian wasn't bad and Kathy was a superstar in basketball. Devoe and Ruth were just mainstays of community support along with Dick and Maryellen Petersen who came in about 1977 or 78 and became a big part of our program along with lots of others that I'm sure I have missed.

SB: Kodiak doesn't have all the sports that some schools have such as hockey and football and baseball. I know that's because of which ones you pushed and didn't but why not baseball?

JF: Probably the reason that high school baseball has been slow to evolve is because of the terrible springs that we have all over the state of Alaska. Very few schools had access to indoor facilities and where would you have played? You have your wrestling that goes up until April and then you have track that goes until school is out. The American Legend had stepped in about the early 50's and established a program and they would take them after school was out and start their actual competition in late May or June and continue on until late August with a state championship. It was organized all the way up to the National level and I don't think there was a whole lot of push and people didn't see a need for high school ball. Unless you have warehouse facilities it's really hard to run early baseball in Kodiak.

SB: Of all the sports, we've probably had more kids go higher in baseball than any other.

JF: Up until this year we have. The only ones really were Max (Floyd) and Clifford (Anderson) who both signed pro contracts. Clifford graduated in 1988 and went to Southwest Community College and did well and then to Chapman University and signed a pro contract with the Dodgers and played in every level of their organization. He started in Vero Beach, which is class A, and then they sent him to Yakima and then to Billings, Montana, and then last year in San Antonio which is AA. This year he

had signed a contract for triple A and that would have been a step away from the big league and then the strike came and now he's playing as a replacement player. Max, my son, was released after two years. He didn't make it. I think that everyone has to be prepared for not making it. You have to go on to plan B and he did graduate. We've had a lot of kids to go on and play at the college level.

I think the Kid Wrestling program laid the foundation and after 26 years we had our first NAIA All-American wrestler this year. Also we had a Pack 10 winner, really Division 1, which is at the top as far as college wrestling goes. Scott Norton and Dan Carstons. A lot of others could have done well but wrestling really tears you down and I think the college level is no longer fun. I don't think your boys, Steve and Clay, who were outstanding high school wrestlers, enjoyed college wrestling.

SB: You taught those kids too much to enjoy intramurals and when they got to college they couldn't wrestle and do intramurals too!

JF: Intramurals was big here, the kids loved intramurals. They couldn't wait to play.

SB: Except when you kept putting girls on their teams, Joe, and they'd get so mad. My kids would come home and say, "We were eating lunch and here's Coach Floyd telling us to get in the gym because we're on a basketball team and we're playing right now! We don't get to decide, Mom, Coach just puts us on a team." Of course, they loved it.

All these kids, Joe, now that they are grown up and they are coaching and teaching and you had such an influence on them, do you enjoy seeing the results of all your work? I know my own kids, their goal was to grow up and be just like Coach.

JF: Oh, absolutely. Just being around kids like that is a joy in itself. Getting to see them as adults, it's really great to be remembered once in a while. It was nice to see Solly Fulp here with a team and Patrick (Floyd) brought a team here this year. Steve (Rounsaville) really has a reputation in his area. The gym has been fun.

SB: Tell me about the Joe Floyd Scholarship Fund.

JF: In 1981 when I retired I was lucky enough to have a wife with a good job and we wanted to do something for the community in an area that I felt like had done so much for me personally and our family. I wrote a letter to Harry Michelson and outlined what I wanted to see happen and so starting in 1982

we've had a thousand dollars, a little bit of a help, not as much as it was 15 years ago, but close to being a little help. Of the 14 that have gotten it I think 6 or 8 have continued on in the areas that they suggested that they might. The requirements for it was, I didn't put a stipulation on it for grades, I didn't put a stipulation for anything, the only thing was wanting to pursue a career in physical education, intramurals or coaching. Of course, that would include health and recreation. As it is, Robby (Rounsaville) received one. He is teaching physical education. Solly Fulp received one. Sheryl Wasbrokoff was another and, maybe, Kristi Klinnert who is now a physical education teacher. Last year was Steve Andresen's boy and I'm sure he will continue. One of the things that I wanted to see happen was that the committee that selected from the applicants would be the Junior High P.E. people and also the high school staff and that would be normally four people.

SB: Looking back, Joe, what are you most proud of?

JF: I think first of all just making the move to Kodiak. Then I really don't know. I think I was always really proud of the intramurals. They are the kids that aren't recognized but are given the chance to come and play because they like playing. Don't you feel a little like that? I never allowed the varsity programs to take precedence and the minute I left Kodiak High School they took my intramural hour! I don't think I was out of the door before those coaches snapped that up. But, you know, the Christmas Tournament, naturally I love that because that's a showcase. The reason that it's a showcase to me is that is when the kids come home from college and they can't wait to get to that gym. Then of course the Robin Hervey Tournament because I love to see those teams come out there in order and do their exercises and everybody be zipped up and tightened up. But now when they don't wrestle they are up in the stands with their families and girlfriends and I can hardly stand that but maybe that's just the times. It's a great sport. Girl's athletics, I'm awfully proud to see that happen and, of course, the kid programs give me a lot of pride. The pride isn't in the fact that I did it but I've been lucky enough that there were so many people that I was able to turn to that maybe I've gotten credit and I shouldn't have really.

SB: You never let us say no, Joe. You called up and said, "We're starting kid wrestling." I said, "Great, Joe," and you said, "And we're starting it tonight and we're starting it at your house at 7:00 and you better have something to eat!"  
Thank you, Joe.

JF: It was my pleasure.

This file is part of the Kodiak History Project.

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