

An Olympian's Oral History

MAXINE MITCHELL

1952 Olympic Games – Helsinki

1956 Olympic Games – Melbourne

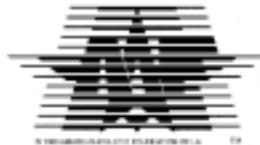
1960 Olympic Games – Rome

1968 Olympic Games – Mexico City



Interviewed by:
Dr. Margaret Costa

Edited by:
Carmen E. Rivera



Published by the
Amateur Athletic Foundation
of Los Angeles
2141 West Adams Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90018
www.aafa.org

MAXINE MITCHELL

Today is Friday, July 19, 1991. This is Dr. Margaret Costa interviewing Maxine Mitchell, who competed in four Olympic Games: 1952, '56, '60, and '68. Mrs. Mitchell participated in fencing.

Q: Tell me about your childhood.

A: I am a twin, and my brother and I were born in Leroy, Washington. It's a small town that doesn't even exist anymore. We were actually raised in Los Angeles, California. My dad was a linotype operator and worked on a newspaper. We were very close, the six kids: my older brother, my next older sister, and my brother was one side, even the twin, and my next oldest brother and my older sister and I, even when we chose up sides to fight. We were raised on 85th Street and Central, near Watts. My twin brother, Johnny, did nothing to disrupt things, and I did everything to disrupt things. As a result, I got my licking every day from my mom, whether I needed it or not. I was always very athletic. In our neighborhood there were five families with homes in the middle of the Japanese gardens. We were a mile away from any neighbors. The other four families in my neighborhood had five Jewish boys, two German boys, five Italian boys and an Indian boy. So, you see, I played with nothing but boys until I went into junior high school. I fought, boxed, wrestled, and played football with them, and was just as bad as any of them. We threw things at each other, and Johnny just stayed on the sideline.

Q: Were you both the same height and weight?

A: We were both the same height until we were 12 years old. I became a foot taller than he was, and he didn't get his height until he was 18. We sold papers on the corner for a penny a piece. We would be there for hours selling papers. One time two black kids came on the corner and were going to steal our money, so I had to fight them. Johnny kept saying, "Hit him, Maxine, hit him. Get our money back. Hit him." Then Johnny would go home and say, "Boy, you should have seen Maxine. She beat up these two guys, you know." At school, if somebody would disrupt him, he would have a fight. I always took over. He would say, "I got a fight for you at 2 o'clock behind the billboards," and he'd root me on. I'd be standing up there and fighting anybody he'd bring along. Johnny was never really athletic and I was into everything.

Q: What were the first games that you remember playing?

A: Kick the can and run sheep, and we used to dig caves. Our caves would be 10-feet wide, and we'd put a fireplace in the corner and dirt over them so we'd have to crawl down this tunnel to get to them. If one of us got mad at the other, we'd say, "You can't come in the cave today." We'd start a little fire in the fireplace and sit there. Some kids would come along, put a board over it, and smoke us out. So, it was a really nice childhood to the extent that Johnny and I were the youngest. I never actually played with girls or with dolls. I used to tease my sister because she was still playing with dolls.

Q: Was your mother athletic?

A: No. My other two brothers, Med and Bill, were very athletic, and when they went to college, they received scholarships as gymnasts in Indianapolis, Indiana. My mother was a big, buxom woman who was very motherly. My dad worked nights. We never got a licking from my dad. We could pick fresh fruit and vegetables from the Japanese gardens and eat them. Lettuces, cabbages and carrots. The whole group would stay together. There were no toys then, so we made little airplanes and BB guns. We used sticks and bamboo and carved out things. We would get on the garage and shoot at the chickens and later we'd have them for dinner. My mother would find a BB and say, "Who's been shooting at the chickens again?" I remember when we were about seven years old, and my mother bought some chewing gum. She put all the groceries away and put the chewing gum on the table. When Johnny and I came home, we took the chewing gum and chewed it all. I told Johnny not to tell, as she would never know who did it, and he agreed. So, mom came home and said, "I want to talk to you guys. Maxine, did you take the chewing gum off the table?" I said, "Nope." She turned to Johnny, "Did you take the chewing gum off the table?" He said, "AAAAHHHHH, we took it and we ate it all." I got the licking for lying and stealing.

Q: Did you have organized sports in elementary school?

A: No, not really. I couldn't wait for that bell to ring. Most times I ate my lunch on the run to get to the ball game; to play baseball or soccer. I wore this old, red heavy sweater, and I would go play baseball, and sometimes slide in to a base. I would have dust all over me and would have to dust off before I went into class. But it never occurred to me that I may have been grubby. I wore that sweater for a week until mom washed it. We only bathed on Saturday night, so we all lined up to take our baths. I don't remember smelling bad, but I'm sure I did, playing baseball with that old red sweater and sweating like I did. I played with the boys, so it didn't matter. If they were playing football, they would have to let me play, or I'd hit them, bust them up. All I really knew was sports.

Q: How did you learn to play baseball?

A: We all played baseball on the streets, or cleared out an empty lot. We played football and wrestled on the lawn because ours was the best lawn in the neighborhood. We would try and stay within what rules we knew.

Q: What position did you play in baseball?

A: I was always the pitcher. In class, I was the sweetest little thing, but on the field I was sometimes unwieldy. One day, we were playing a baseball game and this girl, all fancied up, walked right through the game, and we had to stop. Everybody hollered, "Hit her, Maxine, hit her." I threw the ball at her and hit her right in the stomach, and she just folded up. Of course, the teacher came out and had to carry her inside. She wasn't really hurt, but the teachers all lined up and told me that I was expelled from school. I always got along with P.E. teachers, even though they thought I was a devil. They told me to

bring my mother to school the next day or I would not be able to return. I thought that was a stupid idea, but I went home and returned the next day without my mother. I remember the teacher saying, "I told you that you couldn't come back to school unless you brought your mother." I said, "Look, my mother didn't throw that ball, why should she be punished? Now, if you want to punish somebody, go ahead and punish me. But my mother has nothing to do with it." They didn't know what to do with me.

Q: Tell me about wrestling.

A: Well, we marked a square on our lawn. If you went over, you had to start in the middle again. We would do overhead lifts, jarring, slugging, but scissors kicks were against the rules. I always wrestled with the other kids. You had to have two shoulders down to win. There was a lot of arguing, a lot of fighting. I still wonder how I turned out to be a nice person. I would get up in our large tree and call the German boys next door a bunch of sissies. I'd get a licking for teasing or hurting them, but I didn't cheat. We were very fair in all sports, and it was a good foundation for life. I wasn't really very intelligent because I did everything with my hands. My writing was pretty because I had to make it look nice as an artist. I hated school so much, that if I couldn't draw or play ball, there would be no reason to go to school. I kept that attitude through all of my schooling. I made friends with a girl who was as cantankerous as I was. We used to play hooky, but we were not very smart. I remember one time she got me out of class, and we went and played ball right next to the window where the teacher was. The next time I came to class he said, "Don't you ever try that again." This was not good at the time because she was running for president of the class, and I was going to be her campaign manager. Finally, we got caught signing each other's pass slips. All we wanted to do was to go to the auditorium to practice our speeches. It all started when she got me out of a class that I didn't know she was going to.

Q: How did you get the pass slip?

A: We would steal them out of the vice principal's office. The teacher realized that I was surprised and then he looked into it. They found out that I was not summoned down to the office. We both got caught, and she was not allowed to run for president of the class. I later went to Fremont High School where I lived for the gym and art classes. While in my other classes I was just quiet and never said a word. I used to do real ornery tricks on the P.E. teachers. For example, they had their offices on the second floor, and next to them there was a room where they kept all the equipment. There was a balcony outside of the office where I could crawl in the window and get a basketball, and then go out the door and close it. Every day between classes, they would be busy, and I would be out there shooting baskets. When they asked where the ball came from, I would tell them that it must have been left out. They could not get mad at me because I was practicing and not hurting anything. One day when I was banned from a P.E. class, there was a gym assembly. We distributed black armbands to the 200 students going into the assembly. I was upstairs looking down. When the teacher went up on the platform to lead the exercises, she saw all of the black armbands and asked one of the dumbest kids in the

class why she was wearing the black armband. The kid told her that it was because Maxine was gone. She was furious.

Q: You must have had leadership ability because all the kids followed what you told them to do.

A: Yes. Even the teachers liked me.

Q: Tell me about your high school competition.

A: We had a volleyball, basketball and field hockey team. I loved the competition. We played other schools in volleyball. We would have a GAA meeting with three schools playing three different sports. I was playing volleyball while my friends were playing hockey. We played all positions on all the teams. I would throw myself in the dirt to get the ball so we could win the game. We had GAA competition about twice each semester. I was the highest point earner at the school graduation. Even though I got kicked out of class, they wouldn't dare not give me an A. My senior year, I had four A's and a D. So, I had P.E., three periods of art and one of history. The report card looked real good.

Q: After high school, where did you play?

A: I went to Frank Wiggins Art School where we played sports, like badminton, at noon on the roof of a six-story building.

Q: Did you get a scholarship?

A: Well, it was very cheap, and with my allowance of 50 cents a week, I had to pay for materials and my carfare. I actually saved my 50 cents and bought a very good sable brush, a Grumbacher, I could get one. It was good for me to the extent that I got a little bit away from sports. I did play on night basketball and baseball teams. My older sister and I started taking up roller skating. We danced, did waltzes and the rags on roller skates. She had a car by then, so we would roller skate twice a week, and I probably had basketball once a week. I was still involved at the art school. Then the war came and I had to learn drafting, which I'd never done. I went back and told the drafting teacher, who happened to be my high school teacher, that I needed to know drafting. He would put up blocks that were cut off at an angle and told me, "This is the side view and top view, and this is how to make these blocks." I went to North American Rockwell, where draftsmen were needed, so they hired me. Fortunately, they spent a month teaching me their method because I didn't know any other method. I then heard about a perspective drafting group and I joined the group. First I had to be a draftsman on the board. Once they brought the whole plans for the Mustang and put them on my desk and said, "Draw it." I didn't even know how to read a blueprint.

Q: But you did it anyway?

A: There was this boy who came in without an art background, but he had taken drafting in high school. He was a lot younger than I was and we made a deal, he said, "If you'll teach me how to do the shading and art part, I will teach you how to read the blueprints." For the three years that I worked at Rockwell we helped each other out.

Q: Did you get to play any industrial league sports?

A: I know they had, like, a bowling league, but I didn't bowl. My brothers had gone away to Indiana to learn gymnastics in the Turnverein, and on their return they went to Occidental College. When they were finished at Occidental, they obtained jobs through the city from Carl and Martin Trieb, and were the head coaches. All of them worked for our city in different schools. Because I used to tease them, they suggested to my mother that they try and make a fencer out of me. My brother, Bill, took me down to Occidental and put me in a fencing class. I began fencing, and from the start I loved it. Even after I was married and had children. Some days I would be so tired I could just hardly drag my feet, but if you put a fencing foil in my hand, I had all the energy that was there. I was 21 years old when I started there, and the teacher didn't like me because I was kind of like an odd ball. I never had fencing clothes that fit me. I always had to wear somebody's clothes and a big, black skirt that my mother had made. The coach picked on me by making me do things that he didn't make the others in the class do. He would say, "Go over in the corner and lunge 100 times." I would lunge and lunge and lunge and lunge. He would forget me. Sometimes he would tell me to get into a perfect lunge and leave me there. My muscles would start shaking, especially my legs, and I used to believe that if I could only just faint, maybe he would feel sorry for me. But I never did, I just stayed there. I learned faster because he used me as a dummy sometimes. For example, he would let everybody come and hit me while I stood up against a wall and I couldn't move. Pretty soon I learned to parry twice as well as anyone else, and I was determined to learn to fence.

Q: What kind of competitions did you have?

A: At that time the fencing organization was the Amateur Fencing League of America. In my first tournament I lost, and my teacher said that I should have won because I was better than everyone else. He would never allow me to stand and talk to anybody. He taught me so much, even though he really did not want me in his class. After about two or three years he realized that I had advanced. I fenced for him for about 15 years, and he used to do real funny things. He was just a real oddball who loved to run people's lives. He is a psychologist, and he could manipulate people all around. He made me fence, and I went up twice as fast as other people would go. If I beat his star, Maureen Fitz, the team would not speak to me for weeks after I beat her. She was a nice person; even her family wouldn't talk to me. None of the other fencers would talk to me afterwards, and Mike really didn't want me to beat her because she was supposed to be the star. In the past I couldn't afford to go to the nationals, but finally, after I was married in 1944, I could afford it. I first went to the nationals in 1947. I placed fifth, which was an unheard

of accomplishment for a first-time entry into the nationals. He was very pleased with what I had done. The following year I didn't have enough money to go. At the 1952 nationals I took first place and I made the Olympic team for the first time.

Q: Were you excited?

A: Oh, I was very excited. I was married at this time, and had a little boy and three girls. I came back from winning the nationals and my teacher kicked me out of the class because Dorcie, my husband, had started another little fencing group. I told him that I had always done what he had asked me to, so I would leave. He was hurt and flabbergasted because he really was just trying to manipulate me one more time.

Q: Did you train on your own for the Olympic Games?

A: I belonged to the Hollywood Athletic Club and then joined the Los Angeles Athletic Club under Duris de Jong.

Q: Tell me about '52?

A: I think your first Games are the most exciting because it is the first time to travel to another country for many athletes. Everything such as luggage and transportation is taken care of for you. We were given one blue skirt, a blue blazer, two little white blouses, and we had to wear our own shoes. It was hard living a month in those clothes, you know. The first time there were just three women on the team. The boys were in another village.

Q: Who were the other two fencers?

A: Polly Craus and Jan Romary. We arrived at the former nursing home, at 4 o'clock in the morning. Even though they did not speak English, the Finnish people at the dorm were very polite. They think you are hungry all the time. They are always feeding us and taking good care of us. When we arrived in Helsinki, at the dorm, they brought out some hard-boiled eggs, sliced tomatoes and raw fish, which are a delicacy. We did not want to eat the raw fish. I wanted to communicate and thank the lady, and to tell her that we liked the hard-boiled eggs, but not the fish. "Good, yummmmmm," I said. So, she went out and she procured another half dozen of them and put them in front of me. I said, "No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. Eggs are goooood, goooooood." She went out and obtained another half dozen. Jan Romary, my teammate said, "Maxine, will you keep your mouth shut? Look at all these eggs we have to eat." It was so much fun trying to make people understand me. I would go through all kinds of motions and have a dozen people around helping me. Before the Olympic Games, while we were in Copenhagen, we had been to so many smorgasbords that all we wanted was some plain food. I looked on the menu and saw "banana split," so I ordered it. When it arrived, it was a banana still in the peel, and split down the middle. I was very disappointed. I asked if they had ice cream, nuts, chocolate sauce. I ended up showing them how to make a banana split. Our team was in hysterics as I went around the restaurant and showed it to everyone.

Q: Tell me about the Opening Ceremonies in Helsinki.

A: It was great. They take two or three days ahead of time to teach a bunch of kids that never marched in their life, how to stand in line and to march. When you come through the tunnel and hear the band playing, and everyone starts clapping, you do not mind marching in the rain. You cannot imagine the goose bumps.

Q: Tell me about the competition? Was it near the beginning or the end of the Olympic Games?

A: The competition was right at the very end. We practiced twice a day. We had to get up in the morning and practice, eat lunch, and relax until 2:00 p.m., and then fence again until 5:00 p.m. So, we had time to wander around. The fellows were in a place where they had built all these apartment houses which were brand new. Women could go in the men's village, but the men could never go to the women's village. We would do anything we wanted, and we ate there sometimes. Or we would go back to the women's village. We had only 15 fellows and three women, and we became very close as a team.

Q: How did your team fare the first time up?

A: Jan and I made the finals in the Olympic Games. We fenced for two days constantly, and then the next day we had finals of 12 people. At the conclusion, there was a four-way tie for first place. Never before in fencing history, or Olympic history, has there ever been a four-way fence-off. You only fence-off for first and second. When there are four people, you count touches. The fencers with the least amount of touches would get to be in the finals and they would have to fence-off. All of a sudden the fencing stopped, and Jan and I knew we were in the finals. The judges were gone a whole hour. It is really hard for athletes to have to sit around. It was particularly difficult when there was an Olympic medal at stake. The judges decided that they were going to fence it off. I would have taken third on touches, but took fourth in the fence-off. There was a round for first and second, and I had to fence the world champion, Ilona Elek, who had won an Olympic championship and a couple of world championships. I caused her to come in second place, and that was the best we had done in the Olympic Games. After the Games, we caught a boat to Sweden. They didn't have a room for us on this luxurious ferry, so we slept on the deck. We had not brought sweaters, so we froze. I came home and kept practicing in preparation for the next Games. Once you make the Games, you want to do it again. At the Games in Melbourne in '56, mostly the same group of people competed. We had a women's village and a men's village right next to each other, and we ate in the big dining rooms in the men's village. The men of course, were just dying to get into the women's village, just to say they did it. In Melbourne, everything was done by the sailors, the Navy and the Army. It was the Army that was taking care of us. We had to pass through their gate to go to eat. Between '52 and '56 the electric foil was introduced. We obtained it about a month before the '56 Games. I tore the ligaments in my arm. I thought it was bursitis, so the medical people did ultrasonic sound on it, and they wouldn't allow me to practice that much because they didn't want me to hurt it again.

I went into the Games, and in my first round my ligaments just tore loose. One of our fencers was a doctor, so he got a Hungarian doctor to shoot me in the arm with cortisone to deaden my arm so I wouldn't feel the pain and I could go on fencing. Well, he shot it and hit a main nerve, and my hand was completely numb. I had no feeling and it just flopped around out of control. I tried to fence my first bout, and they put this foil in my hand and sent me out to fence. I actually went through my first round, but it was in my second round before I had problems. When you come *en garde*, you come *en garde* and salute your opponent. The first time I came *en garde* after the shot, I had a foil in my hand and I wasn't saluting my opponent because my arm would fly around as soon as I let it go. At this point, I am holding my arm and I salute my opponent by pushing it straight with my mask under it. Then I had to fence, so I came *en garde* and I began to fence and my hand was flying everywhere. I had no control over where my hand starts, it just keeps flailing, and I keep pulling it back. I felt just like a stupid idiot in this bout. I was then told that I could not compete like that and there was nothing they could do. They tried to put shots in my arm, all over, to get some of the deadness out, but I still had no control over it. So, I decided to fence left-handed and they turned my glove inside out to make a left-handed glove out of it. I put the glove on, I get out there again, I am standing there with my foil, and my right arm is still as dead as a doornail. They put my mask at my side under my arm, and they pin me in and everything is quiet. "*Si vous plaît*, all ready to fence, *toute suite*." I can't put my mask on and point. The guys on the side lines are saying, "What are you doing, you look like an idiot out there." I said, "I'm trying really hard to put my face down here to get this mask on." One of our guys runs out on the strip and says, "What's the matter with you?" I said, "I can't put my mask on and I don't have any feeling in my hand." He puts it on me runs behind me and says, "Now go out there and fence." I didn't do very well and I went out that round. It was a handicap all right, because I fenced a year left-handed after that. Later it was found that the ligaments in my arm were torn and they operated on it and pinned the ligaments back. I fenced left-handed and took sixth in the nationals. I was thrilled to death. It was like learning all over again. At first I would just be happy to get a touch. Here I am fencing as a left-hander but thinking right-handed. Soon, I am going in tournaments just like I usually do and fencing left-handed and winning a bout. Here I am a national champion and I'm happy just to win a bout. Even though my hands could work, my feet and my legs never got used to lunging the other way; they would cramp up all the time. I finally received an "A" ranking in both hands.

Q: What years were these?

A: That was after '56, and in 1957. That really was the highlight of my fencing.

Q: Did you keep fencing through '58, '59, '60?

A: I went to the 1960 Olympic Games. After 1957, though, I wasn't allowed to fence in the individual competition again. They never gave me a reason. The captain had the right to do what ever he wanted. One time I earned 100 points. You only obtain five points difference in each tournament. I was 100 points ahead to fence in the individuals, and they still wouldn't let me. I was never told until the day before competition that I

could not compete in the individuals. It would be so disappointing. I had the right to fence and they wouldn't let me. Everyone on the team knew it was wrong, but nobody would say anything about it.

Q: What was Rome like?

A: Rome was really nice. The Italian people themselves were just so outgoing and just couldn't do enough for us. I just kind of hooked up with a couple of the fellows who had just graduated from Annapolis. All of the other women were in individuals, including Jan. She was always the type of fencer who immediately made friends with the officials and the athletes. The other two girls had their own way to go and we started to lose our team cohesiveness. The separations started with the women first and then started spreading to the men. The saber men, epee men and the foil men, all thought they were better than the others. The foil men wouldn't talk to the saber men, and the saber wouldn't talk to anybody, as they thought they were so good. Joe Paletta, the national champion, won the foil, and Al Morales won the saber. They had just graduated from Annapolis, and were really thrilled to be on the team. We had more leisure time than at other Games.

Q: How was the Opening Ceremonies in Rome?

A: They were really nice. By this time we were getting all kinds of clothes and luggage. Companies began to donate clothes and other items. We could not put all of the clothes in the suitcases.

Q: After Rome, did you stay there or did you come straight back?

A: I usually came straight back because I still had my family at home.

Q: Tell me about '64.

A: I didn't make Tokyo. I lost by a couple of points.

Q: Tell me about '68?

A: In '68, we had a girl on our team who was difficult because she was always late and would abandon her teammates at the drop of a hat. Each one of us was assigned a nice little bed in a three-story apartment. We were told that we could take the bedspreads home. They had Mexico written on them and they were inexpensive. We could also take home the monogrammed towels as well. She stole everything. One day, when she was out, we looked in her suitcase and found all of our missing memorabilia.

Q: When you were going into Mexico City, had you any thoughts about the student riots that were going on there?

A: We were told to be careful wherever we went. We were able to meet a nice Mexican family who had us as guests in their home. Again, as in 1960, the U.S. team did not make the finals.

Q: Tell me about being chosen as the coach in 1984.

A: In 1984 there were eight athletes that were coming from Panama. Their best fencer, who lived in the USA and was a friend of mine, asked me to be their coach about three months before the Games. They offered to pay out expenses during the Games. I agreed to be her trainer, although she had little experience and was not highly trained.

Q: Did you march in the Opening Ceremonies with the Panamanians?

A: I had Panamanian clothes and went into the stadium behind the Panamanian flag. I had told the eight Panamanian athletes that when we came out from the tunnel we would hear a large roar. I had forgotten that I was with the little Panamanian team and not the U.S. team. When the Panamanian team came in, people clapped, but there was not a loud roar.

Q: How different was it being an official as compared to being an athlete?

A: It was not that different. It would have been different if everybody was speaking Spanish every time we were around them. Barbara spoke English to me at training. My only advantage was that I knew some of the European fencers and was able to ask them if they would mind fencing with Barbara. As a result, she had the advantage of fencing European fencers in practice. I wanted her to fence the Romanians. I knew a Russian girl and I went to her and requested that she ask the Romanians if they would practice with Barbara, and she loved it. China won the team event for the first time in 1984.

Q: Was there any politics in the officiating in '84?

A: I do not think so. The disappointing aspect of the current team is that the fencers are all individuals and don't act as a team, as we did.

Q: Do you have any philosophy for women, about your 40 years of fencing experience or for women who may be reading this manuscript?

A: I have a lot of theories. The first priority should be the enjoyment of the sport. The second priority is that you have to put a lot of hard work and focus into your training if you are to receive any satisfaction from it. I mean, you can't come to practice for three hours and then spend three hours talking to the neighbors. You must be fencing for three to five solid hours. Lately, the policy is that fencers have to be well-conditioned athletes. This is a change, as we could fence for five hours at a time, but we couldn't run around the track. Right now you go to a training center and you have two hours of exercise, one hour of lessons and a little fencing. You go home, you rest, have a nice meal, you come back for three hours of calisthenics and one hour of fencing. I don't agree with this

training method, because a fencer has to fence to gain the coordination and feeling in their hand. The Europeans fence so much; we can't compete with them. The Russian's fence six days a week and they fence two hours on Sunday. The 1992 Olympic results will be very interesting.

METHODOLOGY

Dr. Margaret Costa, of California State University, Long Beach, conducted this interview. The interview was recorded on audiocassette and then transcribed. The interview addresses the following major areas:

Family History

Date/place of birth; occupation of father/mother; siblings; family residence;

Education

Primary and secondary schools attended; college and post-collegiate education;

Sport-specific Biographical Data

Subject's introduction to sport—age, event and setting of first formal competition; coaches/trainers/ others who influenced athletic development; chronology of sports achievements; Olympic competition; post-Olympic involvement in sports;

General Biographical Data

Employment history; marital history; children; communities of residence; retirement;

General Observations

Reactions and reflections on Olympic experience; modernization of sport; attitudes on and involvement with the Olympic Movement; advice to youth and aspiring athletes.

Interview transcripts were edited and may include additional material based on subsequent conversations and/or subject's own editing.

The opinions and recollections expressed in this oral history are exclusively those of the Olympian interviewed. They do not necessarily reflect the positions, interpretations or policies of the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles.