

Guide to the Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports Interviews

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Contributor:	Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports
Contributor:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Oral History Research Center
Title:	Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports Interviews
ID:	OH-03922
Date:	2024
Physical Description:	121 Digital Files (2.498 GB) MP3, JPG
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Game On! Oral History of Sports in Las Vegas interviews (2024-) contain all oral history interviews conducted by UNLV University Libraries Oral History Research Center. This project centers on documenting the history of sports in Las Vegas, including interviews discussing the earliest teams to the most recent champions. Interviews cover a wide array of sports including hockey, football, baseball, softball, auto racing, tennis, basketball, poker, boxing, rodeo, golf, running, esports, and more. Digital audio available for all interviews; check collection inventory for individual narrators and more detailed information on specific interviews.

Preferred Citation

Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports interviews, 2024. OH-03922. [Cite format consulted: Audio recording or Transcript.] Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Game On! Oral History of Sports in Las Vegas interviews (2024-) contain all oral history interviews conducted by UNLV University Libraries Oral History Research Center. This project centers on documenting the history of sports in Las Vegas, including interviews discussing the earliest teams to the most recent champions. Interviews cover a wide array of sports including hockey, football, baseball, softball, auto racing, tennis, basketball, poker, boxing, rodeo, golf,

running, esports, and more. Digital audio available for all interviews; check collection inventory for individual narrators and more detailed information on specific interviews.

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Arrangement

Interviews are arranged in the order they were transferred to UNLV Special Collections and Archives Technical Services.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

This material is made available to facilitate private study, scholarship, or research. Copyright is owned by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Please see the UNLV Libraries Special Collections policies on reproduction and use or contact us at special.collections@unlv.edu. Some transcripts do not exist in final form, therefore any editing marks in a transcript (deletions, additions, corrections) are to be quoted as marked.

Acquisition Note

These interviews were conducted and transcribed by the Oral History Research Center (OHRC) which is part of the UNLV University Libraries Special Collections and Archives Division. In June 2024, Sarah Jones created the first accession of 5 interviews; accession number 2024-074.

Processing Note

Interview materials were processed by UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives beginning in June 2024. Sarah Jones wrote the initial collection description. Access copies were created for born-digital audio files. The audio has been minimally reviewed and all readily available information has been included in the description. This project is ongoing, and individual interviews are added to this collection periodically.

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Names and Subjects

- Oral histories (document genres)
- Sports
- Las Vegas (Nev.)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
<p>Xiaoyin Zhang oral history interview, 2024 April 17 (OH_03922_001)</p> <p>Creator: Zhang, Xiaoyin</p> <p>Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3)</p> <p>Scope and Contents Note: Oral history interview with Xiaoyin Zhang conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on April 17, 2024 for the Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Xiaoyin Zhang discusses her childhood in post-war China, learning to work as a blacksmith, and discovering table tennis as a recreational sport. Zhang graduated from Hangzhou University in 1982 and in 1987 came to the United States to pursue a degree in Library Science at University of Wisconsin, Madison. She discusses table tennis as a lifelong sport for the mind and body, for entertainment, and for social connections. She recalls the Huntsman World Senior Games, serving as captain of the UNLV Table Tennis Corporate Challenge team, and her wall full of bronze, silver, and gold medals. She also describes her work with the University of Maryland Baltimore County, Williams College, and UNLV. Digital audio available.</p> <p>Names and Subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guangzhou (China) • Table tennis • University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Libraries 	<p>digital file 00</p>
<p>Jeffrey Parhamovich oral history interview, 2024 April 29 (OH_03922_002)</p> <p>Creator: Parhamovich, Jeffery</p> <p>Physical Description: 7 Files (MP3, JPG)</p> <p>Scope and Contents Note: Oral history interview with Jeffery Parhamovich conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on April 29, 2024 for the Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Parhamovich describes his childhood near Cleveland, Ohio, and attending Kansas State University, where he majored in Bakery Science and Management. He talks about working for H. C. Brill Company, Inc., in Tucker, Georgia, moving to Kansas City, and joining Calvary Bible College, where he met his future wife. Parhamovich talks about his life-long love of cars that grew into a passion for motor sports from the National Association of Stock Car Racing (NASCAR) to Formula One racing. He discusses the growth of F1 racing in the United States following its purchase by Liberty Media; the Circuit of the Americas, a permanent F1 track in Austin, Texas; the Las Vegas Paddock, the only</p>	<p>digital file 00</p>

F1 paddock owned by Formula One Motor Sports (now Liberty Media), and attending the Las Vegas Grand Prix in 2023. Digital audio and photographs available.

Names and Subjects:

- Motorsports
- Bakeries
- NASCAR (Association)
- Formula One

Doris Watson oral history interview, 2024 May 07 (OH_03922_003)

digital
file 00

Creator: Watson, Doris, 1965-

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (MP3)

Scope and Contents Note: Oral history interview with Doris Watson conducted by Claytee D. White on May 7, 2024 for the Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Watson discusses her childhood in Colorado and moving to Las Vegas, Nevada in 2005. She recalls finding relief and success in both sports and education, excelling in math, science, basketball, and cross country. Watson discusses the importance of coaching, a skill that Watson still applies to her graduate students in the field of education at UNLV. With over 20 years of experience in sports pedagogy, Watson joined UNLV's Department of Educational Psychology, Leadership, and Higher Education in 2011. Digital audio available.

Names and Subjects:

- Coaching (Athletics)
- Basketball
- Long-distance running

Rick Arpin oral history interview, 2024 May 22 (OH_03922_004)

digital
file 00

Creator: Arpin, Rick

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (MP3)

Scope and Contents Note: Oral history interview with Rick Arpin conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on May 22, 2024 for the Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Las Vegas native Rick Arpin reflects on his East Las Vegas childhood, his career in accounting and finance, and his role with MGM Resorts in conceiving, building, and operating the T-Mobile Arena, home of the Vegas Golden Knights. Arpin mostly focuses on the idea of what would become T-Mobile arena, possible sites and designs for the arena, and putting everything on hold through the financial crisis (2008-2009) and the building of City Center (2008-2010). He talks about MGM Resorts realizing they had to manage all sports and entertainment venues across the company, including security, vendors, booking, and all operations. Arpin recalls the multiple people, institutions, and determination that helped chip away the "stigma" that professional and collegiate sports felt clouded Las Vegas as a location for professional or collegiate sports. Digital audio available.

Names and Subjects:

- Hockey
- Arenas (sports buildings)
- Vegas Golden Knights (Hockey team)
- MGM Resorts International

- CityCenter (Las Vegas, Nev.)

Dan Coronel oral history interview, 2024 May 23 (OH_03922_005)

digital
file 00

Creator: Coronel, Dan

Physical Description: 29 Digital Files (MP3, JPG)

Scope and Contents Note: Oral history interview with Dan Coronel conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on May 23, 2024 for the Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Coronel discusses when he began playing lacrosse in the sixth grade while living with his family in Baltimore, Maryland. When Coronel moved to California, he began to play on the Malibu lacrosse team whose home field was at Pepperdine University. He recalls later switching to the South Bay Club, and as the sport gained more popularity in Las Vegas, he found himself refereeing games in the city often. Eventually, he describes making connections with the two original clubs in Las Vegas: the Centennial Bull Dogs and Palo Verde Panthers. He talks about working across the 11 districts in the United States and in many foreign countries as a referee, and his excitement about seeing lacrosse in the 2028 Olympics. He discusses lacrosse not being sanctioned in Clark County School District, which means it is still a club sport. However, Coronel works to make sure anyone interested can play lacrosse, connecting equipment manufacturers and others who may have a surplus with those in need. Digital audio and photographs available.

Names and Subjects:

- Lacrosse
- California
- Sports officiating

Joshua Cohen, Eli M. Delgado Jr., and Evan Ranes oral history interview, 2024 June 15 (OH_03922_006)

digital
file 00

Creator: Cohen, Joshua

Creator: Delgado, Eli M., Jr.

Creator: Ranes, Evan

Physical Description: 38 Digital Files (MP3, JPG)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Joshua Cohen, Eli M. Delgado Jr., and Evan Ranes conducted by Stefani Evans and Claytee D. White on June 15, 2024 for Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, the three discuss how the local history of fencing and fencing clubs is woven into the national and international history of the sport. Cohen, at least a generation younger than Delgado and Ranes, arrived in Las Vegas in 2006 just before his senior year at Chaparral High School. His father was a "saberist" fencer, and Joshua took up foil fencing in middle school and early high school. He joined Battle Born Fencing Club as a post-lockdown activity in 2021. Eli M. Delgado Jr. is the second generation of his family to pursue an Air Force career. He began fencing at age 30 when he was stationed in Turkey and has fenced ever since. Evan Ranes took up fencing in high school under an excellent Olympic coach. A professional drummer, he and his wife moved to Las Vegas in 1985, where he made a living until the 1989 musicians strike, whereupon he went to UNLV to earn his MBA in Finance. He describes other fencers who came to Las Vegas to open clubs, and credits Sean and Cynthia Ameli for growing the youth fencing program in Southern Nevada. The three then go to the back wall of the club, decorated in

awards, to discuss the local youth who fence and matriculate into elite universities. Digital audio and photographs available.

Names and Subjects:

- Fencing
- United States Fencing Association

Daniel Allen oral history interview, 2024 June 21 (OH_03922_007)

digital
file 00

Creator: Allen, D. J., 1975-

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (MP3)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Daniel "D. J." Allen conducted by Stefani Evans and Claytee D. White on June 21, 2024 for Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, D. J. Allen describes growing up in Henderson, Nevada and playing baseball and basketball as a young person. He recalls listening to radio stations and learning to love the Los Angeles Dodgers and UNLV Runnin' Rebels. He volunteered to write about Little League for the *Henderson Home News* and was hired as the full-time sports journalist. He parlayed his "Crazy Dance Man" persona into an internship in media relations with the Las Vegas Thunder hockey team, and from there, at 21, became Director of Media Relations for the Las Vegas Stars, all while he was still an undergraduate UNLV student. In this wide-ranging interview, he talks about working with Jim Livengood to help erase Las Vegas's "gambling" stigma with the NCAA and professional sports, get the NCAA athletic directors to begin talking about Las Vegas as a sports city, and about how Cisco Aguilar and Andre Agassi helped make these conversations happen. Among other topics, he talks about the Vegas Golden Knights, the Raiders, the Thunder, and the Stars and using sports as a platform to do good in the community. Digital audio available.

Names and Subjects:

- Baseball
- Henderson (Nev.)
- Hockey
- Vegas Golden Knights (Hockey team)

Yves Auriol oral history interview, 2024 June 21 (OH_03922_008)

digital
file 00

Creator: Auriol, Yves

Physical Description: 5 Digital Files (MP3, JPG)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Yves Auriol conducted by Stefani Evans and Claytee D. White on June 21, 2024 for Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Auriol describes his childhood in Toulouse, France during World War II. The third oldest of seven children, Auriol learned the art of fencing from his brother. He graduated in 1955 from Lycee de Toulouse where he earned a master's degree as a fencing master from the Institute National du Sport in Paris. Eventually, he became a top fencing teacher in the sport, and in 1971 he followed his brother to the United States. Auriol served as head women's fencing coach at Notre Dame from 1985-95 and assumed head coaching responsibilities for the men's and women's programs in 1996. He developed into one of the most successful and respected coaches in the nation, and is a three-time Olympic coach. Digital audio and photographs available.

Names and Subjects:

- France

- Fencing

Laura Herlovich oral history interview, 2024 June 26 (OH_03922_009)

digital
file 00

Creator: Herlovich, Laura

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (MP3)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Laura Herlovich conducted by Stefani Evans and Claytee D. White on June 26, 2024 for Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Laura Herlovich describes first arriving in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1983 with the Utah Jazz NBA basketball team, when the team played in the newly built Thomas & Mack Center. Because the Jazz began winning that season, they also ended up selling more tickets to their Salt Lake City home games. After a lifetime on Florida's Gulf Coast, Herlovich attended Bradley University in Indiana, double majoring in Communications and Secondary Education and began her career focusing on sports information, later expanding to entertainment, public relations, and communications. Herlovich discusses being only the second woman to hold her position in male-dominated field and why she moved to Las Vegas permanently in 1984. She recalls the disastrous NBA All-Star Weekend in 2007, and credits Battistone, the Utah Jazz, NBA Summer League, and even the 2007 NBA All-Star Weekend with bringing professional sports to Las Vegas. Digital audio available.

Names and Subjects:

- Public relations
- Basketball
- Thomas & Mack Center
- National Basketball Association

Randall Cannon oral history interview, 2024 July 01 (OH_03922_010)

digital
file 00

Creator: Cannon, Randall

Physical Description: 3 Digital Files (MP3, JPG)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Randall Cannon conducted by Stefani Evans and Claytee D. White on July 1, 2024 for Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Randall Cannon describes growing up in Las Vegas, Nevada. His mother married Joe Cannon, and the family soon bought a house on Van Buren south of Owens, where they lived for fifteen years. Cannon remembers riding mini-cycles on various off-road or motocross tracks around the Valley on weekends. He remembers the early development of professional motorsports in Las Vegas through sanctioned drag races and the 1967-1969 construction of the Stardust International Raceway. Cannon discusses how he became involved in a project with Mike Gerry, and eventually collaborated with Gerry on his first book, "Stardust International Raceway: Motorsports Meets the Mob in Vegas, 1965-1971." He also discusses Las Vegas's first Formula One race in the early 1980s, and its connection to Caesars Palace and how it was the subject of his second book. Digital audio and photographs available.

Names and Subjects:

- Motorsports
- Stardust Resort and Casino (Las Vegas, Nev.)
- Dalitz, Morris
- Formula One

- Caesars Palace Las Vegas Hotel and Casino

Musiette McKinney oral history interview, 2024 July 02 (OH_03922_011)

digital
file 00

Creator: McKinney, Musiette

Physical Description: 14 Digital Files (MP3, JPG)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Musiette McKinney conducted by Stefani Evans and Claytee D. White on July 2, 2024 for Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Musiette KcKinney recalls a childhood in Illinois and Pomona, California. She describes being recruited out of high school to play at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona in 1975, and then being drafted to the San Francisco Pioneers, an expansion team in the first women's professional basketball league, the Women's Basketball League. Returning to Pomona, McKinney coached basketball part time for Mount San Antonio Community College (Mt. SAC) and earned her A.A. in Criminal Justice. In 1992, McKinney arrived in Las Vegas, Nevada as UNLV's Assistant Women's Basketball Coach for four years under Head Coach Jim Bolla. After two years at the Andre Agassi Academy, McKinney returned to UNLV to work with the Center for Academic Enrichment & Outreach. McKinney was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame with her former team, the San Francisco Pioneers, and the entire Women's Professional Basketball League as "Trailblazers of the Game." Digital audio and photographs available.

Names and Subjects:

- Basketball
- Coaching (Athletics)
- Women's Professional Basketball League

Tony Cordasco oral history interview, 2024 July 03 (OH_03922_012)

digital
file 00

Creator: Cordasco, Tony

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3, JPG)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Tony Cordasco conducted by Stefani Evans and Claytee D. White on July 3, 2024 for Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Tony Cordasco recalls his childhood in Newark, New Jersey, and eventually moving to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1979, where he became the first sports director of the new "KJON" radio station. In 1981, the station earned its FCC license as KUNV, and he was the first program director. After graduating with a degree in communications in 1982, he worked at news radio stations in Las Vegas and New Jersey until returning to Las Vegas permanently in 1987 to host a daily sports radio show and UNLV basketball play-by-play on a new station, KROL, co-owned by Sig Rogich and Mark Ratner. He also headed public relations for sports at The Showboat, which offered professional bowling, boxing, and wrestling. In 2000, he joined Red Bull as its marketing director and produced the company's first marketing plan. After fifteen years with the company, he opened his own consulting firm. He discusses his personal history with sports reporting and commentating and his work with Red Bull; the Professional Women's Volleyball team, Vegas Thrill; Jerry Tarkanian; and attending boxing matches at the Caesars Palace Sports Pavilion. Digital audio and photograph available.

Names and Subjects:

- Boxing matches
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Runnin' Rebels (Basketball team)

- Tarkanian, Jerry
- Vegas Golden Knights (Hockey team)

Michael Newcomb oral history interview, 2024 July 12 (OH_03922_013)

digital
file 00

Creator: Newcomb, Michael

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Michael Newcomb conducted by Stefani Evans and Claytee D. White on July 12, 2024 for the Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Michael Newcomb recalls his childhood in Connecticut and watching the UNLV Runnin' Rebels games on television. In 1990, Newcomb moved to Las Vegas, Nevada to attend UNLV. He worked as an usher at outdoor athletic events at Caesars Palace and The Mirage, and eventually became supervisor and then personnel director of the company. Newcomb talks about starting work at the Thomas & Mack Center in 1996 managing the parking lot and the events. He recalls the experiences and people who have shaped his nearly 30 years at the Center, as he became Executive Director in 2011. Newcomb discusses events at Sam Boyd Stadium and its eventual closure. He describes the community-wide effort required to host such major events as the National Finals Rodeo and Cowboy Christmas, the Super Bowl, the NBA AllStars Weekend in 2007, NBA Summer League since 2004, Team USA Basketball in 2006, and plans to host the Final Four in 2028. He closes the interview recalling how the T&M was a reunification center after the 1 October shooting in 2017 and again on December 6, 2023, as other buildings on the UNLV campus were evacuated. Digital audio available.

Names and Subjects:

- Thomas & Mack Center
- Sam Boyd Stadium
- National Finals Rodeo (Las Vegas, Nev.)
- National Basketball Association