

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 [inclusive]:	2024 to 2025
Physical Description:	131 Digital Files (4.933 GB) MP3, JPG
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Game On! Oral History of Sports in Las Vegas interviews (2024-2025) 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, 2024-2025. 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. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1kz1d>

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Scope and Contents Note

The Game On! Oral History of Sports in Las Vegas interviews (2024-2025) 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</p>	<p>digital file 00</p>

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 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

Leon Symanski oral history interview, 2024 July 23 (OH_03922_014)

digital
file 00

Creator: Symanski, Leon

Physical Description: 22 Digital Files (MP3, JPG)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Leon Symanski conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on July 23, 2024 for the Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Symanski, a three-time UNLV graduate, recalls his childhood in Southern California and his early relationship with sports. He recalls playing basketball in high school, college, and being recruited by UNLV coaches, who offered him a scholarship with a well-defined role as a backup player. He understood his role and played with the Runnin' Rebels two seasons (1984-87), including UNLV's second Final Four Team. In this interview, Symanski discusses the celebrity status the team enjoyed; coach Jerry Tarkanian's work ethic and method of teaching and preaching after every practice, coach Tim Grgurich's inspirational style, and the role a coach plays in a player's life. He talks about his ten years in hospitality that began with summer jobs at Paul-Son Gaming, working at the Tropicana and Luxor Hotels, before joining the first class at UNLV Boyd School of Law. Finally, he recalls the indoor basketball city leagues run by the Clark County Department of Parks and Recreation. Digital audio and photographs available; no transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Basketball
- Tarkanian, Jerry
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Runnin' Rebels (Basketball team)

Peter Bernhard oral history interview, 2024 August 13 (OH_03922_015)

digital
file 00

Creator: Bernhard, Peter C., 1949-

Physical Description: 12 Digital Files (MP3, JPG)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Peter Bernhard conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on August 13, 2024 for the Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Bernhard recalls his Las Vegas childhood and school years, and playing both baseball and football. He remembers playing baseball at Circle Park before the City of Las Vegas Recreation Department began to organize a City municipal baseball league. They played at Squires Park, at Casino Center near 4th Street; then Cragin Park at Charleston and Hinson; Lyons Park at East Washington and Bruce Street (the first park with a home run fence), and Hadland Park at Eastern and Stewart. Bernhard also describes how the Donna Kutzen Youth Foundation (DKYF), promoted by Marty Kutzen to honor his deceased wife, facilitated team sports in Las Vegas. Bernhard talks about playing for the winning state football champions Western High School (1966-67), playing football and baseball at Harvard University, and how sports connected him to people like Harry Reid and Roy Woofter. Digital audio and photographs available; no transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Baseball
- Football
- Western High School (Las Vegas, Nev.)
- Clark County (Nev.). Department of Parks and Recreation (1963-2001)

Mason Gordon oral history interview, 2024 September 04 (OH_03922_016)

digital
file 00

Creator: Gordon, Mason

Physical Description: 3 Digital Files (MP3, JPG)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Mason Gordon conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on September 4, 2024 for the Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Gordon recalls his childhood and early years in California playing basketball, later earning a B.A. in Philosophy and History from Claremont McKenna University. After graduation, he began writing for Tollin/Robbins Productions, co-founded by Mike Tollin, as the company's weekend basketball commentator. Tollin then co-founded Mandalay Sports Media, which became Mike Tollin Productions, a sports-focused media company. At Mandalay Sports Media, Gordon served as producer, executive producer, and eventually, president. Gordon describes later approaching Tollin about creating a new sport: SlamBall. The partners built a court in a warehouse in East Los Angeles, became certified to train, developed new equipment, and recruited athletes for their new sport. In 2023, Gordon moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in the hopes of riding the "new sports wave" in the city. To that end, Derek Stevens (Circa) is a founding partner in the first SlamBall league. Besides relaunching SlamBall at Cox Pavilion in 2023, Gordon also wants to help write a curriculum for sports business. Digital audio and photographs available; no transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Sports betting
- Basketball
- SlamBall
- Ultimate Fighting Championship (Organization)

Ron Futrell oral history interview, 2024 September 30 (OH_03922_017)

digital
file 00

Creator: Futrell, Ron

Physical Description: 3 Digital Files (MP3)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Ron Futrell conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on September 30, 2024 for the Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Futrell recalls arriving in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1984 from Washington state where he had worked as a sportscaster. Growing up, Futrell shares he had a love of baseball, football, and basketball. He recalls attending Mt. San Antonio College in California as a communications/broadcasting major, and worked in sports journalism ever since. Three days after he arrived in Las Vegas, he reported on the Jazz v. Lakers game at the Thomas & Mack and interviewed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar after the player broke the all-time scoring record. Futrell remembers having to learn about sports betting and about emceeding a 1984 Las Vegas Gold Swim Team fundraiser with Frank Rosenthal. He describes the years-long tension between UNLV Administration, Athletic Directors, and Jerry Tarkanian in a time when sports reporters had to "choose sides." He describes the salary scandal surrounding basketball coach Rollie Massimino and a "cam scam" in Tark's final year, when a camera was hidden in an air duct in UNLV's North Gym to film a conditioning class. Futrell's relations with UNLV temporarily soured when he broke the 1998 story about UNLV Athletic Director Charlie Cavagnaro using racist and sexist language in describing black and female athletes. However, he later taught for three years in the School of Communications. Digital audio available; no transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- College sports
- Television journalists
- Tarkanian, Jerry
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas -- History

John Saccenti oral history interview, 2024 September 20 (OH_03922_018)

digital
file 00

Creator: Saccenti, John

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (MP3)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with John Saccenti conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on September 20, 2024 for the Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Saccenti recalls his childhood in New York and attending Runnin' Rebels basketball games at the Thomas & Mack Center while visiting family in the city. He enrolled at UNLV in 1993 as a Communications major, and was recruited to work for the Las Vegas Thunder indoor hockey team. Saccenti shares that after graduating from UNLV, he worked in marketing and sponsorships for the Thunder and the Las Vegas Stars minor league baseball team, owned by Ken Stickney and operated by Don Logan. When the hockey league folded in 1999, Logan encouraged him to be Vice President of Business for Vince McMahon's new XFL football league. Saccenti recalls that while the XFL League lasted only one year, he

then was hired as the ESPN sports network employee representing UNLV, a position that grew to the Assistant Executive Director for Murphy and ESPN Events. In 2014, he became the Executive Director of the Las Vegas Bowl. He talks of Marc Badain, Don Logan, Rossi Ralenkotter, Dana White, and Marc Ratner and of the Las Vegas Bowl breaking Allegiant Stadium's attendance record. Digital audio available; no transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- College sports
- Tourism -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- XFL (Football league)
- Thomas & Mack Center

Randy Minagil oral history interview, 2024 September 17 (OH_03922_019)

digital
file 00

Creator: Minagil, Randy

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (MP3)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Randy "Coach" Minagil conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on September 17, 2024 for the Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Minagil recalls moving from Connecticut to Las Vegas, Nevada with his family at the age of nine. He remembers playing baseball and soccer in high school, and later playing soccer at UNLV, and helping coach local high school teams. He shares his extensive coaching history post-graduation, leading many local schools to championships. Coach Minagil shares his philosophy for coaching, talks about the psychology of coaching, and the team is more important than the individual. He recalls UNLV basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian, football coach Ron Myer, baseball coach Dallimore and soccer coach Al McDaniels, and many others. He is the only soccer coach to be inducted into the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) Hall of Fame (2019). Digital audio available; no transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Soccer
- Baseball
- Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association

Jaki Baskow oral history interview, 2024 October 14 (OH_03922_020)

digital
file 00

Creator: Baskow, Jaki, 1951-

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (MP3)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Jaki Baskow conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on October 14, 2024 for the Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Baskow recalls arriving in Las Vegas, Nevada from New Jersey in 1976. She shares her early years running her own talent agency, and how her first client was Suzanne Sommers. Baskin recalls various businesses, business associates, and clients over time; and shares her thoughts on brand building, representing clients, and serving on the Super Bowl Host Committee. Baskow remembers how the Vegas Golden Knights became closely integrated into the Las Vegas community after the 1 October 2017 shooting. Lastly, she credits Oscar and Carolyn Goodman for their envisioning of Las Vegas as a sports town. Digital audio available; no transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Boxing matches

- Event planners
- Caesars Palace Las Vegas Hotel and Casino
- Super Bowl

Nancy Lough oral history interview, 2024 September 16, 2024 October 14 (OH_03922_021)

digital
file 00

Creator: Lough, Nancy L.

Physical Description: 3 Digital Files (MP3)

Scope and Contents Note: Oral history interview with Nancy Lough conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on September 16 and October 14, 2024 for the Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Lough talks about women in sports, her personal athletic journey, her Sport Management Program and research at UNLV, and the impact of sports on the city of Las Vegas. She recalls her early life in Colorado, where she played many sports and eventually ran cross country for Adams State College in the 1980s. In 1988, she moved to Texas to work as a graduate assistant for Peggy V. Hill had the opportunity to coach the cross country team at the very beginning of their season. After that experience, Lough went on to coach various other teams and enjoyed tremendous success, but later shifted her focus and came to UNLV to start their Sports Management Program, which is still a successful program to this day. Digital audio available; no transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Long-distance running
- Coaching (Athletics)
- Sports administration

Daniel Rush oral history interview, 2024 October 28 (OH_03922_022)

digital
file 00

Creator: Rush, Daniel

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3, JPG)

Scope and Contents Note: Oral history interview with Daniel Rush conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on October 28, 2024 for the Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Rush recalls a childhood in Chicago, Illinois and Woodland Hills, California. He recalls visiting Las Vegas, Nevada while attending California State University, Northridge (CSUN). After graduating with a B.A. in Communications, the future Vice President of Global Sports and Events Sales for MGM Resorts International headed to UNLV, where he earned his B.S. in Hospitality Management in 1994. He then was hired into the hospitality industry, working as a travel sales manager, leisure sales, and eventually into sports-related sales. He discusses hosting the Downtown Las Vegas Soccer Club in 2013, the National Hockey League's (NHL) 2016 expansion franchise, MGM Resorts International building T-Mobile Arena, and the National Football League (NFL) allowing the Oakland Raiders to come to Las Vegas. He talks of the Supreme Court's 2018 overturning of PASPA (Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act of 1992), which then allowed states to determine whether they would allow sports betting. He addresses the Formula 1 Las Vegas Grand Prix, the Oakland Athletics future relocation to Las Vegas, and shares his goal to bring international sports federations to Las Vegas. Digital audio and photograph available; no transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Sports betting

- Tourism -- Marketing
- MGM Resorts International
- Formula One

Michael Bryant oral history interview, 2024 September 25 (OH_03922_023) digital
file 00

Creator: Bryant, Michael

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (MP3)

Scope and Contents Note: Oral history interview with Michael Bryant conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on September 25, 2024 for the Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Bryant describes his childhood in Massachusetts, playing high school baseball, hockey, and basketball. He describes being a highly touted ninth-round pick drafted by the Boston Red Sox in his third year at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell (1980), but cutting his sports career short at 24 years of age. He recalls moving with his wife to Las Vegas, Nevada, coaching his son's sports teams, and his rock band. Digital audio available; no transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Baseball
- Coaching (Athletics)
- Las Vegas (Nev.)

Rich Rose oral history interview, 2024 November 14 (OH_03922_024) digital
file 00

Creator: Rose, Rich

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3)

Scope and Contents Note: Oral history interview with Richard "Rich" Rose conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on November 14, 2024 for the Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Rose recalls his childhood in Chappaqua, New York, where he played soccer, football, and golf and performed in band and summer theater at Horace Greeley High School. He describes his own public relations and marketing firm focusing on sports, primarily boxing, at a time when Las Vegas, especially Caesars Palace, was the boxing capital of the world. In 1988 Henry Gluck and Terry Lanni recruited him to Caesars World in Los Angeles, California. In this role, he wanted to do new things: he brought the Formula 1 race to Las Vegas; he overcame the National Hockey League's prohibition against cities that allow sports betting and in 1990 signed the contract for Las Vegas's first outdoor NHL game in 1991 featuring Wayne Gretzky. He also discusses working with Vince McMahon to bring Wrestlemania IX (1993) to Caesars. He worked with Caesars World until a management change in 1998. Digital audio available; no transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Boxing matches
- Professional sports
- Casinos -- Marketing
- Caesars Palace Las Vegas Hotel and Casino
- Caesars Palace Grand Prix

Rick Darnold oral history interview, 2024 October 21 (OH_03922_025) digital
file 00

Creator: Darnold, Rick

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (0.159 GB) MP3

Scope and Contents Note: Oral history interview with Rick Darnold conducted by Claytee D. White October 21, 2024 for the Game On! The Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Darnold recalls growing up in Las Vegas, Nevada, playing little league baseball, soccer, football, and running track and field in high school. Darnold recalls eventually finding accounting, and becoming a CPA and working for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), where he worked in money laundering crimes and other finance-related cases. He shares his various experiences working with the IRS, in a private firm, and then with Boyd Group in Las Vegas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Atlantic City, and other locations in the United States. Darnold shares his love of sports as a child growing into an all-over appreciation for sports in Las Vegas. Digital audio available; no transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Accounting
- Sports
- Professional sports
- Boyd Gaming Corporation

Marc Ratner oral history interview, 2025 January 09 (OH_03922_026)

digital
file 00

Creator: Ratner, Marc, 1944-

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (0.184 GB) MP3

Scope and Contents Note: Oral history interview with Marc Ratner conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on January 9, 2025 for the Game On! The Oral History of Sports in Las Vegas Project. In this interview, Ratner recalls arriving to Las Vegas, Nevada as a teenager with his parents and attending John C. Fremont Junior High School and Las Vegas High School. It was in high school that he formed a lifetime friendship with Sig Rogich, which later helped shape his career. Following high school, he graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1966. In Reno, he joined the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and played baseball and ran track. Following his graduation from UNR, he returned to Las Vegas and in 1980, he joined Rogich at R&R Advertising until Rogich left in 1992 to become United States Ambassador to Iceland. In 1985, he joined the five-member Nevada Athletic Commission, becoming Executive Director in 1993. He recalls Lorenzo Fertitta approaching him in 2005 to join UFC; he resigned and eventually resigning from the Athletic Commission in 2006 to join UFC. Throughout the interview, he recounts presiding over iconic boxing matches over the years, tensions between owners of UFC and various unions, hall of fame inductions, and working as a shot clock operator for the UNLV Rebels. Digital audio available; no transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Boxing
- Mixed martial arts
- Ultimate Fighting Championship (Organization)
- Nevada Athletic Commission

Todd Olcott oral history interview, 2025 February 11 (OH_03922_027)

digital
file 00

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (MP3)

John Pellissier oral history interview, 2025 February 24, 2025 March 24 (OH_03922_028)

digital
file 00

Creator: Pellissier, John

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3)

Names and Subjects:

- Dune buggy racing
- Off-road racing
- The Mint (Las Vegas, Nev.)

Patti Chess oral history interview, 2025 March 12 (OH_03922_029)

digital
file 00

Creator: Chess, Patti

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (MP3)

Scope and Contents Note: Oral history interview with Patti Chess conducted by Stefani Evans on March 12, 2025 for the Game On! An Oral History of Sports project. In this interview Patti discusses being one of five children growing up in St. Louis, Missouri, and moving to Las Vegas to live with a local cousin, and attend UNLV on a scholarship. She graduated and spend twenty five years as an investigator with DCFS. During her time at UNLV, she first started playing soccer, then softball. After ten years of playing these sports, she transitioned to tennis, which she played consistently for thirty years. After an injury, she decided to move away from tennis and got involved in pickleball. She eventually became a US Pickleball Ambassador, and taught lessons to those wanting to learn. Pickleball continued to grow, and Patti discusses the tensions that came with this rapid growth between tennis and pickleball. Eventually the tensions lessened and pickleball has become a permanent fixture in Las Vegas. Las Vegas is one of the most rapidly expanding cities for pickleball, and that led Patti to helping grow the pickleball community within CCSD. She trained physical education teachers on how to instruct their students, and it was warmly received. CCSD grew to love pickleball, and eventually expanded to having a teacher league, and yearly tournaments amongst teachers and administrators. Patti has seen pickleball help a variety of people over the years. Those that have struggled with loss and need community, those with mental health issues who need an outlet, and those who want to be more physically active and improve their health. She is confident that pickleball will continue to grow, and Las Vegas will be one of the premiere destinations for pickleball players. Digital audio available; no transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Pickleball (Game)
- Tennis players
- Clark County School District (Nev.)

John Sloan oral history interview, 2025 April 07 (OH_03922_030)

digital
file 00

Creator: Sloan, John

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (MP3)

Names and Subjects:

- Pickleball (Game)
- Tennis players

Jose and Paco Alvarez oral history interview, 2025 April 08 (OH_03922_031)

digital
file 00

Creator: Alvarez, Jose F., 1941-

Creator: Alvarez, Paco, 1974-

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3)

Names and Subjects:

- Soccer
- Discrimination
- Las Vegas (Nev.)

Cedric Crear oral history interview, 2025 April 15 (OH_03922_032) digital
file 00

Creator: Crear, Cedric

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3)

Names and Subjects:

- Tennis players
- Boxing
- Westside (Las Vegas, Nev.)

Susan Mueller McCue oral history interview, 2025 May 07 (OH_03922_033) digital
file 00

Creator: McCue, Susan Mueller

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (MP3)

Names and Subjects:

- Baseball
- Television journalists
- Las Vegas (Nev.)

George Tarkanian oral history interview, 2025 May 27 (OH_03922_034) digital
file 00

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3)

Scope and Contents Note: Oral history interview with George Tarkanian conducted by Stefani Evans and Claytee D. White on May 27, 2025 for the Game On! An Oral History of Las Vegas Sports project. In this interview, Tarkanian first describes his childhood in Southern California, the youngest of four children to Lois and Jerry Tarkanian. In the fourth grade, he relocated to Las Vegas, Nevada with his family so his father, Jerry Tarkanian, could begin his career at UNLV coaching the Runnin' Rebels basketball team. He remembers having a hard time adjusting to the desert, but soon making friends playing basketball at Bishop Gorman High School, and first attending UNLV then Mt. San Antonio College. He recalls assisting his father off the court, and remembers all the work his father did to help mentor players. Tarkanian also talks about when his father was nearly recruited by the Lakers in 1977 and 1979, but later turned the offer down due to the tragic loss of his friend and agent, Vic Weiss.

Tarkanian then describes his own career, as both a political science professor and a basketball coach. He started coaching at JP Catholic University in 1983, and moved to different colleges in California to continue teaching and coaching. Eventually he began working at College of the Sequoias when he received an offer to come to College of Southern Nevada (CSN) and help start the men's basketball program. Unsure of whether he should take the leap of faith, he secured a contract as both a political science professor and basketball coach and he decided to take the opportunity. After dealing with back-to-back losses on the team, he decided to help his brother Danny create the Tarkanian Basketball Academy. He continued both teaching and coaching at CSN, but eventually decided to focus on being a professor. Digital audio available; no transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- College sports -- Coaching
- Coaching (Athletics)

- Tarkanian, Jerry
- College of Southern Nevada
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Runnin' Rebels (Basketball team)