

Bridgewater State University Oral History Project

Interview Subjects:

Paul Callahan
Betty Sawin Callahan
David Fee
David Morwick
Jim Tartari

Interviewed by Ellen Dubinsky

October 21, 2011

at the John Joseph Moakley Center for Technological Applications
Bridgewater State University
Bridgewater, Massachusetts

Interview Length: 1:11:53

Transcribed by Ellen Dubinsky, September 2012

Paul Callahan	- PC
Betty Sawin Callahan	- BC
David Fee	- DF
David Morwick	- DM
Jim Tartari	- JT
Ellen Dubinsky	- ED

ED: ... [cuts in mid-sentence] ... recording the history of many of the programs Bridgewater State and talking to alumni. So we'd like to welcome you all here. If you could go around the table and introduce yourself and the year you graduated. Then we could start discussing your experiences here in the football program in its reoccurrence in 1960 and how that program came to be and what it was like to be on that initial team.

PC: My name is Paul Callahan. Hometown Natick, Mass. and I graduated in '63 and started football on the original team in 1960.

ED: Betty ...

JT: Betty.

BC: My name is Betty Sawin Callahan and I did not play football! I was a cheerleader and I will add a few of the information about the cheering squad and how interesting it was and how exciting it was to be a cheerleader. And I'm from Leominster, Massachusetts.

JT: And you graduated ...

BC: I graduated in 1963.

JT: I'm Jim Tartari. I graduated in 1964, from Wellesley, Massachusetts. I played on the original team. I didn't play much, but I got a feel for the program.

DF: David Fee, originally from Chelsea, Mass. I graduated in 1962 and like the others, I was on the original team.

DM: I'm David Morwick. I graduated from Scituate High School in 1960 and then came to Bridgewater and was on the first football team and graduated from Bridgewater in '64.

ED: Can we start by just asking you about the start of the [football] program here. How did you get involved in football?

PC: Freshman year, when I was here in '59, Coach Swenson was coaching soccer. And I happened to have Coach Swenson for Physical Education as well. And I got friendly with a number of people that happened to be athletes and they said, "Why don't you just come on out for the soccer team? We need new blood." So I went out for soccer and that's how I was introduced to Ed Swenson as the coach. We won the championship that year and then all of a sudden, sophomore year the soccer program was canned and he was bringing in football. And to the astonishment of many -- they said, "Wow." I had never played football, but I had associated with people like Dave [Fee] in the other sports -- baseball as well -- and they said, "Well, why don't you come out and try out. See what it's like." So I tried out for football and made it and that was the beginning.

DF: My introduction came earlier, because I was a year ahead of you. And I actually knew about Swenson's vision when I was in high school. As a senior in high school -- I wasn't sure where I was going to go -- and in fact it was my junior high principal who called me in, took me to dinner, with my brother. My brother was going to West Point, and I didn't want to go in the military, so I said, "I'm not sure what I want to do. West Point -- I don't want to go to -- there's no women, no fraternities" and that sort of thing. [Laughter] He said, "Why don't you go to Bridgewater?" and I said, "Bridgewater what?" He said, "Bridgewater Teachers College", [the name] at that time. He said, "You'd make a great teacher. You go there and teach. You graduate and you can work in my school." And I said, "I don't know about that." And he said, "By the way, go talk to your high school football coach, Coach McCarthy. Talk to him about Bridgewater because they're thinking about football."

So I talked to him, Henry McCarthy. He was a great football coach and a great college athlete himself; he was an All-American at Niagara University as a center and he knew Swa [*editor's note: "Swa" was Ed Swenson's nickname*] when he played for BC. He said, "Swenson has a vision to build football and that might be a good place for you." So, I visited the campus and applied, got accepted, and ran into Swenson. [I] joined the soccer team. [I] didn't know anything about soccer, but I played for a year. I whispered to him, I said, "Is it true you're thinking about football." And he said, "Darn right." He said, "We're going to convert into football." And he did. He was kind of a master at positioning it because it was difficult under the circumstances. The

college then had a very strong women's Phys Ed program. And I think... he knew that it was strong and probably the women Phys Ed program ... Betty, you were a Phys Ed major.

BC: I was a Physical Education major. Yes, and we were strong. [Laughs]

DF: You were. Women were trying out for the Olympics and everything. If football came in, it might cause a back step for women's Phys Ed program, in terms of resources and that sort of thing. So I think there was some opposition from that side, not just the administration. We noticed some from the administration when he brought it up because we saw that as athletes.

PC: Also you saw it as the financial aspect of funding the program, trying to get things going and trying to get coaches. Initially it was just Coach Swenson and Charley Varney. And then the first year was Frank Jardin ...

DF: Frank Jardin came in.

PC: ... and Frank Jardin was paid for out of the MAA, the Men's Athletic Association. It wasn't even paid for by the school.

DF: We had a fellow student. What's his name?

DM: Manny Costa.

DF: Manny Costa.

PC: Manny.

DF: Manny was much older than we were, probably in his forties.

PC: Yeah.

DF: [He] was a student, though.

DM: He was our cheerleader.

PC: Our male cheerleader.

DF: He volunteered to help coach.

PC: Running around the field, "We going to marianate 'em." [Laughter]

DF: That's right. Remember that?

JT: I remember that. [Laughter]

DF: But short of our resources, though. How do you bring that together and the equipment ... Who are we going to play? It was kind of wild.

I never felt intimidated by who we played. You asked that question. We played that second game against Newport [*editor's note: Newport Naval Air Station*].

PC: Well, that was ...

DF: We played some athletes that were, I think, in many cases -- they had more probably depth than we had. But I think we had enough talent to ... We demonstrated that. We held our own.

PC, JT: Um-hmm.

DM: We were the forerunners of the present-day program, which has been quite successful. In the beginning there was a lot of opposition -- before I came in 1960, and Dave and Paul were here, and Betty was here. There was a lot of student initiative that got the program going as well, along with Ed Swenson who had the vision of having a football program. Many in the faculty were opposed to it and felt that they didn't want to turn us into a jock culture at Bridgewater. But yet Ed Swenson felt very strongly that football was needed, that the college was expanding. We were at one point -- actually in 1959 we were Bridgewater State Teachers College and in 1960 we became the State College at Bridgewater. The curriculum was expanding and Ed felt that the athletic program -- the men's athletic program -- needed to expand. And he pushed for it. But we started off under some very difficult circumstances. You talk about uniforms. The uniforms we had, Ed bought from the old Abington town team -- OK, a defunct town team. And it was assorted colors, mostly white, but they had white helmets that they [had] painted red, as I recall. They had gold stripes coming down the side. Some of the numerals were in green.

PC: Green, yeah.

DM: It was just a hodge-podge of things that we started with. And with no home field as well. We played at the Brockton Fairgrounds one game. We played at Legion Field in Bridgewater for...

DF: [At the] High School.

PC: We went to a high school.

DM: Yeah.

JT: North Attleboro.

DM: North Attleboro.

PC: North Attleboro, one time.

JT: North Attleboro -- we played Quonset [*editor's note: Quonset Naval Air Station, game played in October 1962*].

DF: We bounced around pretty good.

PC: We played on the road. Established ...

DF: But I'd like to get back to... My junior high principal, who took me to dinner that night, said that Bridgewater was special, that they were the leading teachers college in the state. But they were kind of pace-setters for change. All the changes made in education, or in the state systems, he said (outside of the University of Mass) were -- Bridgewater was always first. And it always seemed that way. We were the first one to become a state college, and now [it's] a university here. And the football team. Now you see all the other state colleges have football teams and they are going to university [status].

Well, one other thing. The commissioner of education's daughter was a classmate of yours [*to Betty*].

BC: Yes. Joan Kiernan.

DF: Joan.

BC: It was Owen Kiernan [*editor's note: Owen Kiernan was also a Bridgewater alum, class of 1935*].

PC: We always thought that was kind of nice. We had that political connection. You know, "Hey, Dad. Our school needs this or that." [Laughter]

PC: I don't know if it worked out that way, but it was good to know.

BC: Joan was with us for four years.

PC: She was a hot ticket. She didn't mind calling her dad on anything.

BC: Oh, yeah.

JT: I think if Meaney [*editor's note: Edward Meaney, class of 1963*] were here, he'd be able to fill in, because he knew more about the MAA funding. From what I read in the Campus Comment, and put into that little project that we're working on, that they actually had a faculty meeting. They had a student body meeting. They brought in Mike Holovak.

DF: Mike Holovak came in.

JT: They brought in several other local high school coaches from Weymouth and what-have-you, and they had to convince the student body to fund it. And with a ratio of four women to every male, and half of the student body were commuters, a lot of them picked up and left for the

weekend anyway. It's a wonder that they voted it in. They voted funds for it -- from student funds that went to the MAA. I think Coach's first budget was under a thousand dollars.

DF: That was a significant event. We brought in Mike Holovak, his classmate from the Boston College and the Sugar Bowl team. And Mike became the coach of the Boston Patriots at that time [*editor's note: Holovak was head coach of the Boston Patriots from 1961-1968*]. And the other coaches that came -- we created a recruiting base, too, for the future. We were lucky to bring in Dave [Morwick], too, as a freshman. We were hurting, "Who's going to play quarterback?"

PC: He was a great addition.

DF: We didn't really have one. And this freshman walks in with an arm.

JT: It was a real gun.

PC: It's interesting. We were talking about the scheduling. I found out early on that Ed Swenson was a reserve Navy Commander and we kind of think, or I think, that our schedule revolved around military. Two of our regulars were Mass Maritime and Maine Maritime. And then we had Quonset, we had Newport. I don't know if there was another one, another military-related ...

DM: I don't think so.

DF: Must have had some connections with the prisons too. We played them. [Laughter]

JT: Oh, yeah. We scrimmaged with Norfolk County jail.

PC: We had Norfolk State Prison on our schedule.

DM: And it was a scrimmage.

PC: And it wasn't an away game for them. It was a home game.

JT: We had that three years in a row.

DF: And that was weird ...

BC: And the cheerleaders were not even invited.

PC: No.

DF: We had to go in there on that bus and it was scary. But they were on their best behavior. I'll tell you one more story about that. We walked in and they hadn't played sports in three years. Because they had a baseball team three years before this, where one of the prisoners was a coach on third base and the guy was running home and he told him to stop. And he didn't stop --

he kept on going – and he got out, of course. The coach was so angry, he picked up a bat and hit him off the head and killed him. These are all prisoners. So the prison warden and the governor said, “No. No more sports for you guys. For three years.” So three years are up. We come in and we hear this story. And we said, “Oh my God. What’s it going to be like?”

PC: We were getting changed and as we were coming out one of the guards said, “If you’re not on the field and you’re on the sideline, don’t take your helmet off. Keep your helmet on at all times.” [Laughter]

DF: But they were nothing but gentlemen. They were told if anybody messed up they were, you know, another three years.

PC: That was the cleanest team I remember that we played at all.

DF: They were awful. They weren’t any good at all.

PC: They didn’t have the endurance. They played us well the first half. They played us very well. The second half is when they just ...

DF: They were well-behaved, I thought.

JT: Their uniforms were worse than ours. Their equipment. That old Abington town team equipment was pretty ratty.

PC: At least there we weren’t [unintelligible].

JT: And I remember one of their guys, he was a back. And he didn’t have any insulation in his helmet and he was wearing a watch cap underneath it and it kept sliding off because he didn’t even have a chin-strap. So when you tackled him, his helmet would go flying and he’d have to go pull it back over his ears again.

DM: The thing I remember about visiting the prison and playing [there]. I don’t remember playing the games but I do remember that they did feed us. And we compared their food to what we were getting in the dining hall. And a lot of us did want to stay. [Laughter]

JT: Seriously, we were fed better on the road – including the prison – than we ate at the dining hall. Nothing to do with you [*directed to Betty*]. You only served it.

BC: [Laughs] Yes. I used to be a waitress in the dining hall. And I was lucky enough, I guess. I was the waitress for the football team. So not only was I a cheerleader, I was also your waitress for a couple of years.

PC: You looked out pretty good for us.

JT: You took care of us.

DM: Most teams would have [a] training schedule prior to the beginning of the season where players would come back. Well, the first year, I remember in 1960, there was a hurricane that year. So school didn't start until the second week of September and that's when football started as well. There was no pre-training camp. The second year – the dining hall wouldn't let us eat there. I think we went over to the church – to the Methodist Church right behind Boyden Hall – and we were in their dining area downstairs. Of course, Coach Swenson would bring in all of the things from his farm. That was our meal. The apples and vegetables and whatever.

JT: Tomatoes and cucumbers.

DM: Tomatoes and cucumbers.

JT: Bug juice.

PC: Bug juice.

DM: Right. So that was part of our whole training.

JT: Right.

DM: It was humbling, to say the least. But we enjoyed it.

JT: That first pre-season, that we had, where we showed up a week or so ahead of time and he had the seven o'clock to ten o'clock sessions. And he had set up ... I don't think that they allowed him to serve from the dining hall at the time. I think he had to pay out of MAA or maybe even personal funds.

DF: I know he coughed up personal money several times.

JT: He coughed up. Because he came to us ... Nobody was going to ... Breakfast was at six o'clock. Well, nobody went to breakfast. And he had some ladies that he was paying over there that were serving us. He pretty much cancelled breakfast and he gave us each a two dollar bill to last the week. [Laughter] I remember that. So we could go down at ten o'clock and eat something at ten o'clock. Then we'd have a what, three o'clock, four o'clock practice after that? And then we'd get fed again at night at the Methodist Church basement.

PC: No, no, it was earlier in the afternoon because I remember him feeding us salt tablets.

DF: Oh yeah, that's right.

PC: He took the break in practice, in about an hour into practice and [said], "That's it. Water and salt tablets. So you don't get dehydrated." He was a thoughtful guy. I mean, he was a sweetheart of a guy.

JT: He was a great guy.

PC: Ed Swenson, if you can picture it -- for those that haven't seen him -- is a Santa Claus without a beard. And he had the same personality as he [Santa Claus]. He looked like a jovial, fun-loving guy on the outside, which he was. But inside he was a very complex guy. He was a visionary, as far as having the vision to see and expand the program, as far as buying the hill to expand the facilities up there. And he pictured in that, putting a stadium in there and all that surrounding ... You [*to David Morwick*] are really on top of something like that. To bring in football -- I think that really united the college itself. It was amazing. We were just starting out and numbers that were in the stands were great on home games. It was good turnouts.

BC: In our homecoming -- we would have a homecoming parade, we had a homecoming queen.

DF: We had floats, we had prizes.

BC: We had floats. And we also had the bonfires.

PC: This was something that also affected the entire town. This is the first real step that the school made to reach out to the townspeople to embrace them and say, "Come on into it."

DF: Speaking of homecoming floats. We had that one in our fraternity -- Alpha. Jim Cunningham designed it. He said, "We're going to win this thing." So he designs a boat. It's to celebrate the Statue of Liberty. He has the French flag on the front and the American flag in the back. He made a Statue of Liberty, about six feet tall, sitting in the boat. We looked at all the other floats and said, "Hands down, we're going to win this thing." Well, we didn't win -- we were second place. After the game, we had a little caucus. We went down to [the] Polish Club or something, and after I don't know how many beers ...

DM: You probably started off there, too. [Laughter]

DF: I'm not going to name names but some fraternity members, at about two in the morning, somehow got into the administration building with the Statue of Liberty. Minus the boat and flags. And went up to the bell tower.

BC: Yes, yeah. It was up ...

DF: Right to the bell tower. Went outside -- this was like three in the morning.

BC: This is like M.I.T.

DF: Tied it all up. And then, [*swishing sound*]. Sunday morning, everybody goes out to breakfast, the bells [are] ringing. They look up and they go, "Holy cow. What is the Statue of Liberty doing ...?" And that's when Clement Maxwell, who was the president, called an assembly that Monday morning.

PC: Right, right.

DF: The whole student body in the auditorium. And he said, “I don’t know who did this, but I may never know. But it’s disgraceful.” He said, “All I can say about you students is ‘God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.’”

PC: Because you are going to become their teachers. [Laughter]

JT: I remember something very similar to that. After the student riot – actually it was the girl’s riot. Woodward Hall started it. They’re the ones who said, “We’re going to have a riot tonight at midnight” or something like that. [*To Betty*] Do you remember that?

BC: Keep going. I will.

JT: And so they passed the word around. And the guys – this was the first year of the men’s dorm [*editor’s note: the first men’s dorm, Scott Hall, opened January 1, 1961*] – we didn’t have any regulations. So we were ready to go out and a lot of the off-campus guys were still living off-campus. One of the off-campus guys had parked across the street, [he] was parked illegally, and [said], “Geez, there’s a cop there, ticketing.” We’re saying, “We’d better not go outside.” It’s about midnight. We hear this roar, and all the girls come flying out of Wood Hall, and running across the street, banging on pans and stuff like that. Screaming. So we ran out the back way, because the cop was across the street. We got out the back way and someone had a bonfire going – the guys from off-campus set up a bonfire. And we were running all over the place. And they brought in the police. They brought in the police from four towns. And the state police. Then they brought the fire department out. They were going to hose us. Do you remember when the girls finally started to run back to Wood? One of the local cops almost ran through them with his car? Hit the brakes, just in time. They were threatening us and stuff like that. Then Clement [*editor’s note: Clement C. Maxwell, president of the college from 1951-1962*] had us down there the next day, the whole student body, to be chewed out. He had the chief of police in there to warn us off. But it was one of the girls over in your dorm that organized it, Betty.

DF: I thought we drove him out and we drove Dean Shea [*editor’s note: Ellen Shea, Dean of Women*] out too finally.

BC: I don’t think you drove Dean Shea out.

DF: She ruled the college then.

BC: Life was different back in the 60s. You were supposed to always obey. And the football program brought in, I thought, a lot of good characters. You really were.

DF: We were frame-breakers.

BC: No, it was something ...

PC: Some of the recruits were interesting characters. But a lot were good quality people that came in.

BC: Yeah, they were.

PC: When I interviewed to come here, I asked the interviewer – I don't know who, what teacher it was – I said, "I am interested in Physical Education and I know that the women's Physical Education program here is big and it's strong and it's good. Is there going to be a men's Phys Ed program here?" And he said, "Yes." So it was on that [information] that I elected to come here. I had a scholarship for baseball at U-Mass. I passed up on it to come here to Bridgewater and they never had brought in the men's Physical Education program.

DM: Right. It came years later.

PC: But once that program came in, the athletes came in.

DF: Oh, sure. That helps.

PC: And that's when the football program ...

DM: It really took off.

PC: ... got a tremendous boost. Everybody else before then, they were here first for their education. They wanted to become teachers. And then secondly, what programs were offered. And it just happened that we had a bunch of talented guys that went out for it. We only had 32 guys on the team the first year. There were no try-outs. Nobody got cut. "Come on in. We need bodies."

DM: What was difficult, too, we weren't in a league. There wasn't the MSCAC [*editor's note: Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference*] league as there is now. That didn't come till later. There was no conference as such. We were sort of an independent team. The forerunner – the first state college to have a team at the time. Where Swa got some of his alliances, I'm not sure. Do you recall the second year, not only did we scrimmage the prison, Norfolk Prison, but we scrimmaged Northeastern University.

DF: And Brown.

DM: Right. Well, we played Brown in a game.

PC: We played Brown twice.

DM: Yes, we did.

DF: That's a game we should have won.

DM: Right.

DF: As far as I'm concerned, we won that game.

DM: Here was Bridgewater with fifteen hundred students, roughly, at the time, and we're playing Northeastern University, a well-established program with scholarship football players. At that time, they probably had twenty-five thousand students. We were on the same field with them. I think we lost that scrimmage, I think it was seven to six.

DF: Eight to six, I think.

PC, JT: Eight to six.

DM: Eight to six.

DF: We lost on stupid penalties, by the referee ...

DM: Who we won't name.

DF: Who was a member of the faculty of Bridgewater, was a referee.

BC: Oh, yeah, yeah.

PC: Penalties.

DM: But we held our own. That was the interesting thing. We held our own. And then we played ... When we talk about Brown, we were supposed to play ...

JT: Mass Maritime.

DM: Mass Maritime. But they couldn't get their team together. Their team wasn't organized at that point. So at the last minute, Swa got us a game with the Brown freshmen. And that sounds kind of weird that we would be playing a freshmen team, but yet Brown was recruiting for their ...

PC: Hundredth ...

JT: Hundreth? Two hundredth.

DM: Two hundredth anniversary. In 1963. They were loaded. I can remember. I talked with the Brown coach when I was in high school – about going to Brown and so forth. He said, "No. Your college boards are about eight hundred points below what we accept." [Laughter] Anyway, we ended up playing that freshmen team that was loaded.

PC: Right. Right.

DM: And they were terrific. They beat us in our first homecoming game. That was, to me, the most humiliating thing. That first homecoming to play a freshmen team and get creamed like we did. And it was the satisfying thing that the second year ...

PC: That we beat them.

DM: ... we played them, we played their second team ...

DF: Down there.

PC: Down there.

DM: Down there. But most of those ..

JT: Same guys.

DF: J.V.

JT: Same guys.

DM: But most of those goons had flunked out.

JT: Oh, had they?

DF: Oh, yeah.

DM: They were loaded the first year.

JT: They still had that big, big two hundred seventy-five pound tackle. I remember that.

DM: Oh, they did. They were big. But we beat them the second year.

DF: Beat them pretty good.

JT: We beat them good. [*editor's note: Brown J.V. lost to Bridgewater 25 to 12*]

PC: As a matter of fact, the quarterback for Brown, that year when we played the freshmen team, was one of my best friends from the Cape. He was the starting quarterback for Brookline High School and he was also National Honor Society, this, that, and the other thing. He was looked at by a number of even Division 1 schools -- he was that good.

BC: And that's who you played.

PC: That's who we played and Bob, Bob Donovan was his name, was a heck of a quarterback.

DM: Yeah, I remember him.

PC: He was gone the next year.

DM: Yeah. A lot of them were.

PC: His were a lot ...

DF: One of the games I remember the most was my senior year up at Maine, Maine Maritime. They were undefeated. They were a four touchdown favorite. We came in there, and that was so damn close. That was the bloodiest game. Toughest game I ever played, physically.

DM: Yeah, yeah.

DF: I think I probably had two concussions that game. [Laughter]

BC: Was that the game that you were hurt in?

DM: No, no.

DF: No, no.

DM: We didn't beat Maine Maritime, I think, till our third year.

DF: Our third year.

JT: Yeah.

DM: We lost the first two years we played them. They were tough. What are you going to do in Maine? They drank and played football. That was it. There were no women around for fifty miles. That's what they did.

DF: They took it out on us.

DM: And they were good.

JT: They had outstanding records.

DM: They did.

JT: They beat everybody. It wasn't just that they got by us.

DF: I thought we outplayed them that game.

PC: We thought -- my senior year when we beat Maine -- we were going to have an excellent season. However, after the game and we took stock of players and personnel we lost, we lost nine starting players on both sides of the ball that game for the year. As a result, those holes were never really filled and the rest of the year, we were sort of competitive, but we weren't the same as when we went to Maine.

DF: Depth is an issue when you've only got thirty-two guys.

PC: Well, by that year I think we had forty.

DF: [unintelligible] after I had graduated. [Laughter]

PC: And then after the game we were down to thirty-one.

DF: But about Coach Swenson. Swenson was no Bill Belichick. I don't want to put him on a pedestal too much. He was visionary. He got the thing started under terrifically difficult circumstances. His tactical skills on the field, sometimes were ...

PC: They were old. They were old. I remember Bob Peluso [*editor's note: Robert Peluso, class of 1964*] changing our defense on the fly.

DF: Oh, yeah, yeah.

PC: He said, "We're going to go to a four-four." And everybody said, "What's that?"

DF: Making up plays. [Laughter]

PC: So he said, "You line up here. You line up there. You do this. You do that." So all of a sudden, we throw a four-four against them and the offense didn't know what to do. They were playing against us. So it was that type of a thing.

DM: What was confusing to me as well, in the huddle, we looked strongly to Coach Jardin, Frank Jardin, for advice and so forth. He was very good and worked with the backfield. And a play would come in from Frank, and yet a conflicting play might come in from Coach Swenson. [Laughter] So we did it on the fly a lot of times.

DF: Yes we did, actually.

BC: You described today about Coach Swenson when he tried to discipline. How your Santa Claus [analogy] ...

PC: Yeah.

BC: Explain that. That was neat.

PC: He'd tried to be gruff. You look at him at just go, "[*sighs*] OK." You couldn't get upset at him.

DF: No.

PC: And he really couldn't get upset at us. He tried to at times, but ...

DF: I remember I came out for a game for a while, for a few minutes. We were playing defense. He told me to go back in there and he said, “Fee, go back in there. Go get ‘em. Get mad.” [Laughter] I was half-way out on the field and I said, “Get mad?” I started to laugh. So he says, “What are you laughing about?” And I said, “What number is ‘mad’?” [Laughter]

JT: I remember when we were up at Maine in that game that we came so close – it was twenty-one to fourteen. We were, like, third and thirty. I was thinking you’ve got to throw on this play. You know, because Paul has a great leg and he could ... [to Paul] you kicked one seventy yards that game, which they called back but they kept calling them back.

BC: It was called back three times.

PC: Oh, yeah.

JT: Anyway, Swa grabs me and I hadn’t played. And he says, “Fullback draw. Left draw. Draw left.” I’m thinking, “God, fullback draw?” With thirty yards to make up? [He] sends me in. And I go in and say, “Draw left. Draw play left.” And Dave [Morwick] looks at me, and I’m right off the bench, and he says, “Draw play right.” So I go in and ...

BC: And that’s over you.

JT: No, I was left guard. He sent me in at left guard. He said, “Go in as left guard. Draw play left.” I say, “Oh God. There it is. It’s going to be over me.” So he calls it to the right. I say, “OK, fine.” I’ve just got to hold my man and push him to the left and block him up. Well, I make contact and this guy starts backing off to the right. And I’m going, “Oh, God.” I’m pushing him right into the play. Next thing I do is hear all this screaming. I look up and Wassel [*editor’s note: Bill Wassel, class of 1963*] is heading into the end zone because, obviously, we must have clogged up right there and the hold was off.

DF: That was a fantastic play. I wish we had film of it because the blocking was incredible.

JT: Not my block! [Laughs]

DF: Wassel was untouched.

JT: Yeah. I know.

DF: He was trapped. He kept ball and he came back and he said ...

JT: The whole left side must have been ...

DM: Basically, everybody was confused on the whole field. Offense. Defense. The whole thing, and the coaches.

JT, DM, DF: [all speaking at one, unintelligible]

JT: The first play and I'm driving him right into the play.

DF: He [Bill Wassel] should be here. He could have told that story. He would have told that one.

JT: Yeah, I bet. Because he saw it from a different angle. Sure.

DF: Who, Bill?

BC: Yeah.

DF: He didn't get hit. Nobody. He just kept on going.

JT: That was like Bobby Lane when he broke that run against Maine Maritime in the fog. Dave slipped him the ball. He called a draw play, like a delayed play. Dave rolls out. You couldn't see the other side of the field for the fog. Slips it to Bobby. Bobby likes this [*pantomimes hiding ball in his arms*]. Everybody runs by him. He looks up and [*whistles*]. He goes about forty yards for a touchdown. And we won that one, twenty-two [to] twenty.

DM: Right.

JT: It was a big upset.

DF: It was a sad year for us, because we lost Bobby. [*editor's note: Bobby Lane died 2011*]

JT: Yeah.

PC: Yeah.

DF: One of our original team mates. Great athlete.

JT: Sure was.

PC: Good brother.

JT: Yeah.

ED: What were some of the other memorable games?

PC: I know one year ...

DF: Nichols.

PC: ... it wasn't a pleasant one, down at Bridgeport.

DF: I had graduated.

PC: You had graduated.

DM: It was our third year

PC: That was a tough, tough game.

DM: Oh, yes. In pouring rain.

PC: Pouring rain.

DM: The rain came right across the field.

PC: It was ironic. They got to a point, they started taunting us on the field. I did my graduate work at the University of Colorado, and my second year I was teaching there as a grad assistant. And a grad assistant came in who graduated from Bridgeport, Peter DeGregorio. And he was the quarterback of the team that we played against on that night. And he said, "I just remember film week, and seeing you guys and our coach." It was just humiliating to hear what he said about our team, getting ready for the game. And how they carried it over into the game itself.

DF: The players?

PC: The players. Oh, yeah.

DM: They were a Division II school, with a long-established football program.

PC: They were a powerhouse.

JT: They were building for their hundredth anniversary as well.

DM: What we were doing there out on the field.

PC: We didn't belong there.

DM: Right.

DF: You [*to Dave*] got banged up.

DM: Fortunately, the Bridgeport Hospital was right next to the field.

PC: Immediate entrance.

DF: You didn't make the trip home that day.

DM: No. I did [get] on the bus.

PC: Now is that the year you injured your back?

DM: That was the game.

BC: That was the end of your football ...

PC: The end of your football career.

DM: So, when you bring up the University of Bridgeport, that's a nightmare.

BC: Nice going, Paul.

PC: Well, what's memorable? We lost David that game.

JT: Well, we lost him for my senior year. Because we were devastated. We didn't have a quarterback. Bobby Lane finally went up to Swa and said, "We're not cutting it with these guys. I want to play quarterback." And we actually won a couple of games. If we'd have had Dave we would have won more games.

DF: Should have gone to single wing.

JT: He did go to single wing. Like a year later, or two years later.

DF: It's not a bad offense. In high school we did it for one year. It works.

JT: Swa did it one year. But apparently it didn't work.

PC: I know one of your questions. It was a good question, too, on that sheet. Something alluding to the fact about how did we feel about playing against other teams [with more playing experience]. And I said, "That's a good question, regardless." If you are an athlete, a true athlete, you thrive on competition, regardless of what [sport] you're in. I was a baseball player from eight years old up. And a track man. And it's just the idea of competing against other people, regardless of the sport. And trying to prove that you, as an individual and as a team, can compete at that level. And I think this is what happened coming in with our football team. That most of the people, the players I knew, were athletes. We had some joiners. But most of them were athletes and came in from an athletic background. Like I never played football in my life till ... I think David [Fee] was the key influence to get me to play football. And he was my mentor that first year, which I was very appreciative [of].

It's the idea that you want to complete. I [had] never played soccer. I played soccer. Loved it. Never played football. Played football. Loved it. And had avenues after college that I could have followed up on.

DF: One thing we had -- we had several veterans, a good sized veteran population of males in the college. GI Bill guys from the Korean conflict. A few of them played football. I think it added some maturity to the rest of us. Those veterans.

DM: I do. Yes.

ED: Another question I have is who are some of the other memorable players you played with. You've mentioned Bobby Lane, who was an all-star. Who was the center?

JT: Peluso.

DF: Bob Peluso.

DM: Bob Peluso started as a freshman.

BC: Look at these pictures and talk about them.

DM: Bob was excellent, played on defense as well as offense. He was an excellent player. Tough nosed guy. Smart.

DF: Our tackles, Tom Salvo and Kherlopien [*editor's note: Tom Salvo and Richard Kherlopien, both class of 1962*].

PC: Tommy Salvo.

JT: Kherlopien, yeah.

DF: Those two good tackles.

JT: Big guys.

PC: The first year they were also almost player-coaches, out on the field.

DF: They were co-captains.

BC: Your first year.

PC: They were our co-captains, yeah.

BC: But then the next few years ...

PC: Peter Flynn.

DF: In fact they were commuters too, I believe. Wasn't Tom Salvo and Kherlopien ... married?

JT: Yeah, he was married.

PC: [Salvo was] married and had a child.

DF: Was a veteran.

JT: Come up from Fall River. Kherlopian -- either lived off-campus or he commuted.

DF: I think he commuted.

JT: Did he? OK. And those were two good tackles. After my sophomore year, when they graduated, we always had a problem filling the tackle positions. We had Peluso at center – we always had him at center -- you had center and two guards, but the tackles ... And they had experience. That was another thing.

DF: It was really fun playing next to Kherlopian. He was the left tackle and I was on the left side, end, receiver. So he and I had to work together.

JT: Sure.

DF: On all running plays.

PC: And Tommy and I were on the other end. So working with Tommy was great with me. Now Lee Rendell [*editor's note: class of 1963*] was another running back who was a talented kid.

DF: We lost track of Lee. He's disappeared somewhere.

PC: He's off the face of the earth. He was my roommate. He and I were like this [*intertwines fingers*] all the way through college.

BC: And you were co-captains your senior year.

PC: We were co-captains that year.

DF: And he was a great running back. He was kind of like a Bobby Lane – a little guy, but he could run.

PC: Yeah.

DM: Well, I'll have to say that as quarterback ...

DF: Wassel?

DM: Yes, Bill Wassel. But as quarterback on the team, I was really fortunate to have both of these two guys as receivers. Both of them very strong athletes, gifted athletes who could get the ball. There were so many times when I'd be scrambling back there, not even realizing where they were. But just throw that ball up there and you knew that either Paul or David would come down with the ball. Put it in their general direction. So they had the talent to do it. They had the speed. They had a lot of game smarts. And Paul mentions that he didn't play football, but yet,

you couldn't tell that on the field from seeing him play. Not only was he fast, but he had terrific hands. David the same way. Fast, knew his routes. You knew where he was going to be. So as I say, I'd throw the ball not knowing where they might be, but you knew where David would be, because he ran his routes precisely. [I was] very fortunate to have them.

JT: Both of these guys had a way of getting open. I'd watch it from the sidelines. And I'd see how they would -- how are these guys getting loose like that? Who's covering them? They'd always be in a position to get the ball, if he didn't get sacked. [Laughter] If the blocking held up for him. But you did a lot of scrambling in those years.

DF: I didn't drop many. I recall one dropped ball. I had it in my hands and I got clobbered by two guys. [Laughs]

PC: I had one incident and I know it was pass interference. Guy hit me from behind. The ball is coming. I hadn't quite touched it and I get hit, pushed through the ball. [The ball] hit me in the chest and goes up in the air and this other guy picks it off and runs. "Where's the flag? Where's the flag?" Play on.

JT: It was probably up in Maine.

PC: No. It was one time we were playing here at Bridgewater. I don't know the team.

JT: They never called anything up in Maine, except against us.

PC: Oh, no. Against us, yeah.

JT: I'd like to say one thing about Paul. It was his first year of playing football and he mentioned he had never played football before. I think a lot of guys took it for granted that he wasn't going to be able to do much. I remember not paying much attention to him when he was going to come in to block me. And it takes a while to learn how to block me. He cut me down like ... [laughs] I never made that mistake again.

PC: Sorry.

JT: It was a great block. I was thinking, oh he's [nothing] ...

PC: It was fun. I really enjoyed the game. Matter of fact, I don't know if even you guys know this, but I had try-outs later on with the Dallas Cowboys.

DF: We did. You had several teams.

PC: And the Patriots. At that time Holovak was coach of the Patriots.

BC: But this was way after ...you had your masters.

PC: This was after I got out of Colorado. Because I wanted to play baseball, and my last year I played with the Red Sox in the Cape League. And that was my dream, to go on and play. It didn't work out. But I said, "Well, let me give football a try again." So I did have a try-out with Dallas and then I had another one with the Patriots.

BC: And they said, "Bridgewater?"

PC: "You? Bridgewater? Never heard of you." They said, "You did well, but we're taking this Terry Swanson, just graduated from U-Mass." Punter. They took him. And they said, "I want you to go to Lowell Giants." That was the minor league team for the Patriots at that time. And it was run, coached, by Ken McAfee from Brockton.

JT: Oh, yeah.

PC: I'm working out there. He said, "You go ahead and loosen up and I'll come out and see you kick." This guy beside me is kicking the ball from a tee. And he's got a withered hand, a pot belly, and he's got [a] Converse sneaker on, with his right foot is a stub. And he's got gray tape on that stump. It's flat like this. He would hit that ball and you'd hear "thump" and that ball would just take off. I'd stand there and stare at him. And he'd come back, put it back on. Boom, hit it again. That guy was Tom Dempsey. Tom Dempsey still has tied with the longest field goal in National Football.

DM: The longest field goal. Pro [football]. New Orleans. Right.

PC: For New Orleans. Anyhow, McAfee said, "I want you to kick for me. You and your wife come on to the next home game. We're playing a team from Virginia." I said, "OK." So we go there. [It's] almost to the end of the second quarter. The punter is back. Just releases the ball on a kick. He's fully extended with his leg. Guy comes in and catches him right in the knee. He helicopters down to the ground and he doesn't get up. All of a sudden a stretcher comes out and they put him on the stretcher and off he goes. I said, "Hmmm." I look at Betty. She looks at me. I said, "You know something. I just got my masters degree in Phys Ed. I've got a great teaching job. I've got my health."

BC: And I was pregnant with our second child.

PC: Betty was pregnant with child number two. And she figured it out that if I made the team I would have been out in Oakland when she was having Kerry, our second child. I said, "You know something, Betty. I had fun playing. I know I could get to the next level. But I don't want to go. Let's get out of here." So we left. I called the coach, McAfee, the next day. He said, "You know, Paul. I don't blame you." As it turned out, two weeks later, Terry Swanson was injured and out for the year. And I would have been called up to kick for them.

BC: A Bridgewater State ...

PC: A Bridgewater State [athlete] would have been at that next level.

DF: It would have been neat.

BC: But back to Bridgewater.

PC: Enough about me. [Laughter]

ED: What kind of concessions did the teaching faculty have to make for your football schedules, or didn't they make concessions?

BC: That's a good question. There were none.

JT: Noooo.

DM: There were none.

DF: There was almost a backlash.

DM: Right

BC: Yes. That's a great question.

DF: I felt discriminated against by the faculty.

DM: Yes. I did.

DF: They were tougher on us, because we were playing football.

DM: Right.

DF: It really was. I know in baseball, when it was spring training, we took off for the week.

PC: That was during vacation.

DF: It was vacation, but we had some spillover, I thought. But they gave us hell on that. It was all sports, but football primarily. I think ...

PC: We never had to take an excused cut from a class for football.

BC: You weren't allowed to.

PC: Never.

BC: You had to go to your classes.

DM: We had to go.

DF: We had a couple of exceptions. Guys like Tom Dooley, Harrington [*editor's note: Lee Harrington*].

JT: Yeah.

DF: There were some guys.

PC: Oh, they were neat guys.

JT: Fiore. [*editor's note: Jordan D. Fiore*]

DF: Fiore was supportive.

JT: Fiore was good.

DF: There were some faculty guys who really supported us. But generally speaking, it was ...

JT: We took the day off to go up to Maine. So they had to have given us the cuts for that.

PC: That Friday. Yeah.

JT: That Friday.

PC: That's about the only one that I can remember.

JT: I remember the one, my senior year, and I got in trouble because I was student teaching. I was teaching in Natick, as a matter of fact, at the Woodrow Wilson School. I had told the principal, I said, "I'm taking these two days off to play football." And he says, "OK. Fine." He forgets about it. And he needed me to sub. And I hadn't shown [up]. "Well, he's not here today." And the guy that I was teaching with knew where I was. So he called the school and reported. I got a call from DiNardo. Dr. DiNardo [*editor's note: V. James DiNardo*], who was in charge of -- what was that called at the time? Teacher training or Apprenticeship?

PC: Student teaching.

BC: Student teaching.

JT: Apprenticeship training or apprenticeship teaching. He called me in and he chewed me out. He said, "You're going to have to make this day up." He called me in, of course, after the fact. I said, "OK. That's fine with me. But I'm going up to Maine Maritime as well. I think I'll just tell you about it now. I'm going to do that. And they know about it in Natick." And he says to me, you know how he talked, [*imitates*] "That's the stupidest thing I ever heard in all my years at Bridgewater. You'll have to make that day up as well." Which I did. I made both days up over Christmas vacation. I went in there. Finished up. I got it all signed out. And I'm applying for graduate school. And I get these letters back, "We can't get your transcripts. Your transcripts have been held up." So I went down and I checked it out. Well, yeah. "You don't have any

grades for your practice teaching.” DiNardo never put the grades in. I had to go to Dottie Ferry [*editor’s note: Dorothy R. Ferry*], who was my supervisor for training, and she went in there and twisted his arm, and he put it in. But I would have been trying to get in grad school. I would have probably been looked over if they hadn’t come back and told me they couldn’t get my transcripts. That’s the sort of pettiness that was ...

PC: That went on.

DM: I experienced that as well. I mentioned that I was hurt at University of Bridgeport and that was the end of my playing days. It put me back in my academic program. I missed my junior training and had to make it up the following year. I couldn’t partake in the training program because it had already started when I was injured. When it became time for graduation, there were certain administrators that wouldn’t let me graduate with my class, walk across the stage. I went to Lee Harrington, at the time Dean Harrington. And he was supportive of the program and supportive of not only athletes but all students. He indicated, “Yes, you will walk across the stage. We’ll give you a blank diploma. But you’ll get it later, when you’ve made up your senior training.” There was an element of that pettiness that was there, and the resentment of having football started at the school.

JT: Right. Yeah.

DM: And that’s what Ed Swenson bucked for many years, trying to get the program going.

BC: Yes.

DM: And trying to keep it going. So it was a struggle. We’re proud we made it through.

JT: On the other hand, there were some good guys too. Like ...

DM: Absolutely.

JT: Joe McCarthy told me about – remember Dr. Davoren [*editor’s note: John L. Davoren*], he taught freshman English, freshmen Lit. He was a good little guy. Joe wasn’t doing well in his class. Joe went up to him and he was talking with him and Davoren said, “Well, what kind of grade do you need?” Joe was, at the time, flunking it. And he says, “I could use any grade, to tell you the truth, to pass.” He said, “Ed Swenson told me that you’re a good football player and asked me if I’d help out. I want to help you out.” So, you had guys like that.

DF: There were exceptions.

PC: Yeah, yeah. Very few.

JT: John Davoren. I’ll never forget the guy.

BC: Wow.

ED: Was President Rondileau [*editor's note: Adrian Rondileau, president of the college from 1962-1986 and 1988-1989*], more supportive than Maxwell had been.

DF: Likely. I don't know [about] Rondileau, but was on a different page.

JT: He was ...

DM: Right.

PC: He was very parochial.

DM: Right.

DF: I think Maxwell should have been -- probably wanted to be -- a priest. No, more than that. He probably wanted to be a cardinal. [Laughter]

PC: In time that was a ...

DF: In charge.

BC: And Dean Shea was a nun. [Laughs]

JT: Yeah. Mother Superior.

DF: He acted that way. If you tried to relax with him, he'd get upset. He was very formal. Very strict. Very reserved.

JT: His brother was the president of Boston College, who was a priest. So maybe the brother was the one who was sent to the seminary. I don't know where he went to school, to tell you the truth, but he got his doctorate somewhere and ended up as president of Bridgewater State.

DF: "God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." I'll never forget that quote. [Laughs]

JT: I'll never forget the time he came through the dormitory. The men's dorm. I think it was a couple of days or the day afterwards. We had no rules, but the only rule was that you had to have your bed made. And he came through ... But the bed had to be made by 8:30 in the morning. He came through at eight o'clock. He hit every room and he called everybody in who didn't have their beds made. Some of the guys that he went in their rooms -- a couple I remember, Gerry Hickey and Ron Boulay -- there were beer bottles in their rooms. They got suspended for three days. They were close to graduation.

DF: [*To Paul*] Didn't you get ...

PC: I was rooming with Lee Rendell at the time.

DM: Oh, yes.

BC: But this isn't football. [Laughs]

PC: I know.

JT: No, but it's Maxwell.

PC: We were here that week – we were here the week before for training camp.

BC: This is unbelievable.

PC: Bob Calzini [*editor's note: class of 1964*] comes in the night before. He said, "I left my dorm key at home. Can I bunk in with you guys tonight?" So Lee and I said, "Yeah, we'll pull a mattress off on the floor, but you make sure when you get up in the morning you put it back on the bed and you make the bed up." It was my bed. Lee got up and made his bed, and Calzini was still sleeping. Because we had to get up early and get out to breakfast and class.

We come back. We go to the room, the mattress is still on the floor, [the] bed is not made. Then the word came out, guess what happened? So, we got suspended for three days: "Messy room." I go home, tell my father.

BC: But tell the story.

PC: He says, "Messy room? Are you kidding me?" I said, "No. Honest, Dad." Typical Irishman, he's ready to – out to the wood shed. We come back and President Maxwell wants Rendell and I up in his office, front and center. Lee and I were fun-loving guys that enjoyed a good time, along with the sports. He said, "You two. You don't know how bad I want to split you two up. Mr. Rendell, I would like to see you at the University of Alaska. And Mr. Callahan, I would like to see you at the University of Florida. That's how bad I want to split you two up. You are not to room together *ever* while I am here. As a matter of fact, either you people are going to be gone before graduation or I'm going to be gone." Well, after junior year, he left. [Laughter]

JT: Thank god for that.

DF: I spent six months at a dorm one semester, and I said, "I hate it." I moved out. I went back off campus.

PC: I think the dorm was good for some people. To me, it was fun.

JT: It was a lot of fun. Yeah.

PC: It was better than living in a house.

BC: And you got to eat with all the girls in the dining hall.

PC: There you go.

DF: That's right.

JT: Well we did anyway, we did when we lived off-campus.

DF: I had the Lanzikos family and their six kids. They gave me free room and board.

JT: Geez. That's great.

DF: But I had to babysit. I had to ... paint, do things around the house. [Laughs]

JT: But to finish the story of Maxwell. He had us all there in his office. One kid says, "Dr. Maxwell. I was in bed sick. I had the flu," which was true. He says, [*imitates*] "Your bed was not made." He says, "But I was in bed, Dr. Maxwell. I have the flu." He says, "Your bed was not made." And the kid says it again. And Maxwell keeps getting louder and angrier. Finally, that was it. Three seniors got -- not expelled -- but suspended for three days. Of course, with the cut system and all, they might not have graduated. But I think Dean Harrington worked that one out. He'd always step in. Harrington was a good guy.

DF: He had to work around ...

JT: I think Mailloux [*editor's note: Henry A. Mailloux*] was the Dean of Men by then and he ...

BC: [unintelligible]

DF: But I had the same experience in sports -- you had the football season -- I was [teacher] training up in Brockton, some junior high school up there, and that was a hassle. Getting back to practice every afternoon.

JT: Sure.

PC: Yeah.

BC: You had to be dedicated to the team, in order to do all that.

DF: Racing back, and changing real quick. Getting on the field. [unintelligible] I missed one of the pictures -- photos -- because of that. One of these team photos.

PC: I was out third ...

JT: Third quarter.

PC: Third quarter, but that baseball for me. I had to come flying back here to change up to get ready for baseball.

JT: I was commuting from Natick. I was living in Wellesley at home, going to Natick in the morning, then driving down for practice ...

BC: Wow.

JT: ... eating in the dining hall, driving back and working on my lesson plans. That was ...

PC: Dedication, Jim.

JT: Wooo.

PC: We're proud of you. [Laughter]

PC: I see one question that's a good one about Coach Swenson coaching other sports. And this is kind of a carryover for us. He coached basketball and track. He was just an all-around ...

DM: And soccer.

PC: As a matter of fact, he was also a hockey player.

DM: Right.

PC: At BC for one game and then as coach. And soccer. Anything that had to be coached, he coached. But he was a track man. As a result, when we were playing baseball, if he had a track meet going, if we were able to we would pitch in and try to go over to run track or something like that.

DF: That's right. Do both.

PC: I was throwing the javelin for him. And Dave would get in and he was a half-miler.

DF: And the high jump. Half miler and high jump.

BC: And they would do it in their baseball uniforms.

DF: We would change real quick. [Laughter]

BC: No, you'd take your shirts off.

PC: We'd take our shirts off.

BC: But you had the baseball pants on.

PC: In some instances.

BC: I remember you throwing the javelin with ...

PC: With baseball and cleats on. Then you'd run back to the diamond.

BC: But that's what Coach Swenson ... He had to recruit men. Because there weren't that many men.

PC: That's the way a lot of the athletes here that under him felt about him. Anything we can do to help Coach, we'll do it.

DM: Right.

PC: Finally, the year you left, they passed a ruling in the league that we were in – that no two sport athletes. 'Cause I won the E-C-A-C [*editor's note: Eastern College Athletic Conference*] in the javelin.

DM: At the same time. At the same time.

PC: And they didn't like it.

DF: It happened to me in high school – you know the story [*to Paul*] – my sophomore year I played baseball and I was very good as a baseball player. Came out to junior year and I started baseball, pre-season, in high school. I skipped practice and went to the Red Sox opening game – somebody slipped me tickets. And I came back the next day to practice and the coach says, "Where were you yesterday?" I said, "I was at the Red Sox game." He says, "You never told us. What would you do, Coach." We didn't like that statement. It was a challenge. So he says, "Fee, you're off the team." So I was cut from the junior [year] high school [team]. The next day I went down to the track coach. I can do something, you know. And the track coach was a very good track coach. I played track that whole junior year. And did OK. I was in the state meet as a half-miler. Jumped in a high jump against John ...

JT: John Thomas.

DF: A six-footer. He did a foot over me. He was an Olympian. So my senior year comes around. The baseball coach comes up to me and says, "We've got to work something out. I want you back on the baseball team." I said, "I want to play baseball. But Coach Berenson, he'd like me. I did OK in track. I like to do that, too." He said, "You can't do both." Apparently, the next day I get called in. They're both teachers – I get called in their office. One of the offices, they're both there. They said, "We're going to work out a deal. We looked at the schedules, there's no track meet or baseball game the same day. We'll let you do it, but you got to promise that after baseball practice every day, you're going to spend an hour practicing track." And they let me do it. And to this day I was the only four-letter man in Chelsea High School. The exception ... in the greater Boston League.

PC: A feather in your cap, Dave.

DF: Carried over to Bridgewater.

BC: But Swa, needed athletes.

PC: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

DM: One thing about Coach Swenson. With his track background, he insisted that his teams be runners. Always in shape in that respect. He ran us a football team for practices. He ran us constantly.

JT: “Run, run, run.”

DM: I would listen to them talk about soccer before I got to Bridgewater. His soccer teams ... I think he won twelve championships in soccer. Yet his teams were always well-conditioned. And they would just wear down other teams in the fourth quarter. That’s the way we were in football. We could go the whole game.

PC: Good conditioning.

DM: Good conditioning. Right.

PC: A lot of us, during those days, had to go both ways. There was no such thing as “I’m an offensive player” and “I’m a defensive player.” No. You’re both. You had to really, really be in top-notch shape then to go full-tilt the whole game, both ways.

DF: And party afterwards.

PC: Then, that’s the important part, where the conditioning was. You’ve got to carry it off ...

BC: Dr. Maxwell was right. [Laughter]

PC: Yes, he was.

DM: I never partied after games, until I met you two. [Laughter] That was my downfall.

PC: Clean-cut American boy comes to Bridgewater.

DM: At one point I was. Changed quickly.

PC: Did you become an Alpha man? [Laughter]

DF: We had enough veterans. We had one fraternity started by veterans and they adopted the Polish Club around the corner here as their favorite meeting place. They realized they were running out of veterans so they had to recruit non-veterans. So we were the young crowd that came into that fraternity and they were our mentors on partying.

PC: They were all the athletes and the officers of the class. Different ...

BC: [*To Jim*] You were in Kappa, weren't you?

JT: I was in Kappa.

BC: You were the good boys.

JT: [Laughs]

PC: You were nationally ...

DM: Accredited.

PC: Accredited. Yours was a national [fraternity].

JT: There was a national.

PC: We were a one-an-only.

DF: We were local.

DM: A mongrel group.

PC: The name of the group that started -- I taught with them in Abington -- said the first year we started out we were known as the Four Roses. [Laughter]

JT: From the wine? Wasn't there a Four Roses wine? No, no. Four Roses whiskey.

PC: Whiskey. Yeah. They said, "The four of us got together on Friday night -- it was our Friday night happy hour." And they grew.

DF: We even had our own song. Cunningham wrote. Remember that?

PC: Yes we did.

DM: We did.

BC: I don't think you need to sing that for Ellen.

DF: We can't.

BC: Definitely not. [Laughter]

DF: The college wouldn't like it.

BC: Once the mike's off.

DF: Right

ED: Betty, can you add anything else from your perspective – as a female student who was the head of the cheerleading squad?

BC: As the cheerleader, we had fantastic student body support. It was amazing when we had the bonfire, the rally for the bonfire. I don't think any dorm student did not attend. And so many commuters came. It was a big event to have the bonfire. The cheerleaders would cheer. The captains would get out and say their little speech. I don't even recall whether Coach Swenson even spoke. I know senior year you [*to Paul*] and Lee were the speakers.

DF: There was good turn-out for the games, too. The next day.

PC: Oh yeah. Excellent.

BC: The parade was a big thing. It was funny because back then very few students had automobiles. We were trying to get a convertible -- to get the homecoming queen to sit in the back of a convertible, and the cheerleaders. I think there's a picture in our yearbook that we have probably eight girls sitting in a convertible because we couldn't get any other convertibles. So here we were, going down the street, sitting on the rooftop.

PC: That was Phil Stanton's car.

JT: Was that the first ... Did they have homecoming for soccer?

BC: No, no.

JT: This was the initial homecoming.

DF: It was the initial.

BC: And the strange thing as cheerleaders, for some reason -- and this was a carryover from the soccer -- someone thought the cheerleaders should have this voice that would project, instead of just go "Yea. Yea. Yea." [*clapping softly*]

PC: Sing-song-y cheerleaders.

BC: And we had to take lessons. And we would go [*in a unnaturally deep voice*] "Go, team" And we sounded like a bunch of men out there.

PC: That sounds like our linemen should have been doing that when they were coming out of the huddle. [Laughter]

BC: And it was funny. They laughed because you talked about the game that was foggy. And they said, “We think that we should have used the cheerleaders to tell them ‘Go left,’ ‘Go right.’” [Laughter]

PC: A lot of credit to the cheerleaders. I don’t think they had an advisor. The girls did it all on their own. And all transportation was up to them.

BC: Yeah. We ...

DF: How did you get the uniforms that all of you [wore]?

BC: We had to buy our own sweaters.

DM: Really?

BC: But the skirts and tops ... When you were chosen – you had try-outs. And the try-outs were the seniors leaving and we did have a faculty advisor there.

PC: For that.

BC: For that. When you were chosen to be a cheerleader, a captain was chosen. It was up to the captain to schedule the practices and to do everything. It wasn’t a faculty situation. We had ... the girls would be practicing on the lower campus, and the guys would be having their football [practice] on the lower campus. But we had our little corner and we had to do our little cartwheels or whatever. And yes, when I was ...

JT: You had the hill, right? You had the hill part.

BC: We were on the hill. [Laughs]

PC: Cartwheel down the hill.

DF: My future wife [*editor’s note: Patricia Siekman, class of 1963*] was your classmate. She was a spectator, so she’d sit on a hill with her girlfriends, drinking beer and watching you guys.

BC: Oh, I don’t think she did. [Laughter]

PC: No, Pat didn’t do that.

BC: Cheering – we felt very involved with the football program. We felt the student body respected the football program and the student body . It was a neat, neat time in our life. Even though we had our “low voices” [Laughs]

DF: Linda Mattioli Corcoran [*editor’s note: class of 1962*] was a cheerleader, right?

BC: Yes, she was.

DF: And Jack [*editor's note: Jack Corcoran, class of 1962*] was on the football team.

BC: There were several romances – different girls were dating the football players. Maybe that's why we tried out for football. Who knows? [Laughs]

JT: Tried out for cheerleading.

BC: I mean cheerleading. I didn't try out [for football].

PC: No, I don't remember that.

DF: I think tomorrow at the game [*editor's note: the 2011 homecoming game*], several of our original team is going to be present. We'll see them at the game. Or tonight maybe, at the banquet.

DM: Yes. Could be tonight.

PC: But definitely tomorrow at ... Barrett's?

JT: Barrett's, yeah.

PC: Barrett's. You've got the invite to come.

ED: I do. Thank you.

PC: OK.

BC: It might be more fun, you might hear some other stories.

PC: That's about fourteen or sixteen of us, just sitting around. Mason [*editor's note: Robert Mason, class of 1965*] will be there. Hughes [*editor's note: Mike Hughes*] will be there. Frank Jardin will be there. You'll meet ...

DF: Frank. Coach.

DM: Yeah.

DF: Doherty [*editor's note: Paul Doherty, class of 1963*].

PC: "Buns" [*editor's note: Paul Doherty*] will be there. [Edward] Meaney will be there.

DM: Meaney should be there, yeah.

JT: Frank Jardin would have been the guy for this, too. You know, I didn't think about getting in touch with him. I'll talk to him maybe for another session.

PC: He would love to.

JT: He'd give a different perspective.

DM: A different perspective. Yes.

PC: He loves being involved with the program and the team. We were his boys because we were the first ones there.

JT: But he wouldn't let us drink water. When Swa would call for a water break, he wouldn't let us have water.

PC: Really?

JT: Yes. I remember that. Because I was a back then.

DM: You were a back.

JT: I was a back that year.

DM: He'd say, "Backs don't drink water."

JT: "Backs don't drink water."

PC: "You're tough."

BC: I just want to add. Coach Swenson was also a person that you could become a friend to. In fact, when Paul and I planned our wedding, we invited Coach Swenson and his wife to our wedding. They used to have a lot of foster children.

DF: They did.

BC: And the night before our wedding, they had a newborn ...

PC: One-day old.

BC: Just a very newborn child and they drove from Abington ...

PC: Whitman.

BC: Or Weymouth, out to Leominster where our wedding was, with the newborn. And they attended our wedding and reception.

JT: Wasn't that great.

BC: He was just a great guy.

JT: He had something like eighty-four foster children over the years. And he had four adopted children.

BC: Yes.

PC: And they all graduated from Bridgewater.

JT: They all graduated from Bridgewater. Yeah.

PC: He was quite the humanitarian.

JT: He really was.

PC: He was just a unique, unique guy. As a matter of fact, we exchanged Christmas cards to the end. He lived to be eighty-four. And he was in a mobile home park in Florida. Being someone who can't sit still, he was writing a manual on how to survive in mobile home parks. [Laughter] It was the guide to survival.

DM: Starting a football team, probably.

BC: And he was the mayor of that mobile home park.

DF: It's fitting that the field is named after him. But still more has to be done on that field. There's more building that has to be done, in terms of spectator stands, especially the visitor's side.

JT: Visitor's side.

DF: Athletic team itself needs a better facility.

DM: A team changing room.

DF: All that kind of stuff.

JT: And they need showers over there. The kids, the players, today -- they have to change at the Kelly Gym, somehow get over there, and then get back to shower at Kelly Gym.

DF: I think it's a continuous thing. We kind of got things started and they kept on building, but there's more to do. There's really more to do.

JT: Swenson said to us, "You freshman. You're going to see a stadium before you graduate." Well, he was wrong, but it was, what, maybe eight ...

DM: Or ten.

JT: years after we graduated that they finally opened up Swenson Field? But he got it. He worked at it.

DF: But you don't have enough alumni football players -- funds are starting and can continue to build up.

JT: Yeah.

PC: Yeah.

ED: I want to thank you all very much. This has been the most delightful hour and a half of my week by far. [Laughter] But it's been a delight.

PC: Thank you for having us.

DM: Thank you, Ellen. Thank you very much.

JT: Thank you, Ellen. You've been very supportive.

PC: It's been great. It's been fun.