

2007

Interview of Chris Franklin

Chris Franklin
La Salle University

Kevin Brightbill
La Salle University

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Field Notes

Narrator: Chris Franklin

Interviewer: Kevin Brightbill

Date: 11 April 2007, 11:00 a.m.

Location: La Salle University track & field office

Language: English

Ephemera: Narrator's personal history history as a runner, and current role as La Salle coach.

Since this interview occurred a week after my first two, I felt I was best-prepared to do the questioning; however, that feeling did not last long as I incorrectly identified the narrator as "Ryan Franklin" when introducing the recording. He corrected me, laughed, and I was able to restart the process with his actual name.

Of the three narrators, I had the least knowledge of Franklin before our interview, both as a result of my own personal history with him as well as inquiries made into the other coaches. I had not know, for example, that he was born into an Army family in Germany, nor that he attended community college for two years before enrolling at Eastern Kentucky.

His interview wound up being the longest and most biographical in nature, as Franklin possessed a wider range of experiences – having lived in Germany, PA, New York, and Kentucky whereas the other two are essentially lifetime Atlantic residents.

Of all the interviews, the subject I was most lenient to talk about was Franklin's experiences with regards to race at ECU, but I knew I would have to ask them because of previous stories I had heard. Franklin, by nature, is a completely open and free-speaking person, but at the same time could also be seen carefully thinking out his responses before making them – something that is perfectly understandable.

The interview took place in the morning in the track and field office, and as such I was worried about being interrupted. No one else entered, though, for the majority of the interview, at least until the closing questions when a member of the janitorial staff entered and began to set up to vacuum the room. I answered my closing questions at that point, thanked Franklin both personally and from the standpoint of an oral history investigator, and walked away with a sense of wonderment and surprise at some of the things I had been told.