

**INTERVIEW WITH RALPH BOSTON
CONDUCTED BY TOM SCOTT
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TELEPHONE INTERVIEW**



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TS: The interview today is with Ralph Boston, Olympic long jump champion in 1960, from Tennessee State University, Tennessee A & I at the time. Ralph, in doing a little research I found that you born on May 9, 1939, in Laurel, Mississippi, and that you weren't even the first Olympic champion to come out of Laurel, Mississippi. Lee Calhoun was an Olympic hurdler champion in 1956 and 1960 from the same hometown that you came from. So, maybe I ought to just begin by asking, what was going on down in Laurel, Mississippi, that you all were producing so many great athletes?

RB: Well, I can't answer that exactly. I can tell you that my contact with Lee Calhoun came in early 1957 when he had come back from Melbourne (site of the 1956 Summer Olympics). He came home to Laurel to his grandmother's funeral, and he stopped by the high school. I had never met him.

TS: Well, he would have been a little older than you [born 1933]. Had he left town before he went on to Olympic fame so that you wouldn't have known him growing up?

RB: No, I would not have known him because he grew up in Gary. He left when he was a small child, but he was born in Laurel. As a matter of fact, he probably still has family there. There was family there as I grew up.

TS: I think I saw where you were the last of ten children. Does that sound about right?

RB: That's it on the money, and I'm glad there were ten, because I'm number ten.

TS: Well, I just interviewed somebody on Friday—one of our faculty members here at Kennesaw State—who was the last of eight growing up in Texas; and my mother was the last of thirteen in her family. So I guess there's a good thing about big families sometimes.

RB: Yes, and it was wonderful, the fact that I grew up in that large family. This time of year, this time meaning Christmas, the holiday season, was absolutely wonderful. With all of the things that were happening in Mississippi at the time in the 1930s and 1940s, the one thing that we could pull together on that was really wonderful was family around the end of the year holidays. It was wonderful!

TS: I bet so. I saw where your father was, I think, a farmer?

RB: He was a farmer, but he was more of a handyman

TS: I see. Okay. Did you have good coaching along the way? It wasn't just the long jump. You were a great hurdler and high jumper and triple jumper and just about anything you wanted to do, I guess. So, did it all just come naturally, or did you have some good mentors that helped you develop?

RB: In my mind, I think I probably had the best two mentors available. My father, number one, was a person who never finished the third grade, having been born in 1883—during the third grade year when he was eight, his father died, so he had to stop school and begin working somehow, trying to take care of the family. He was number one, and number two was my brother Peter who—and I'm not taking this lightly; I'm very serious about this—may be the best athlete I ever saw. Willie Mays said so when I met Willie. He had played baseball against Willie. Willie's first take was, "What happened to that guy? That guy was good!" Those were my mentors. Then, the fact that that little, small town had produced football champions and so on. There was not a lot to do, so during the summers you wanted very desperately, after the crops were laid by, to play. So I learned. But I learned specifically from my brother Peter, and, oh, he was some kind of athlete!

TS: Did he have a baseball career?

RB: He should have had a career in either baseball and/or football. He was Bo Jackson before Bo Jackson. He was drafted and went to the military, and, if I remember correctly, he banged up his knee, and at that time they didn't know how to fix it. I remember seeing a letter that came to him from St. Louis from the Cardinals. It stayed on top of that refrigerator until finally it just grayed or turned color, but he was some kind of something.

TS: Wow! Now your father, if I did my math correctly, must have been about 55 or 56 years old by the time you were born, wasn't he?

RB: Yes, sir. Yes, he was. And my mom, being born in 1896, I came from a pretty long line of well-entrenched Mississippians.

TS: It sounds like it. Now did you get recruited to Tennessee State?

RB: Actually, I did not get recruited. I was first, Tom, a football player. I was a quarter back and a punter. All of the historically black colleges in Mississippi and around recruited me to play football. I heard from Grambling, and Alcorn, and Jackson State, and even a small school over in Arkansas, Pine Bluff; Kentucky State, all those schools, wanted me to play football. My mother said she didn't want me to play football. I was 6'1" and 165 pounds. So, my coach wrote a letter to three different schools: Indiana University he wrote. At the time, Indiana University had produced the reigning [1956] Olympic long jump champion, Dr. Greg Bell [later a dentist and director of dentistry at Logansport, Indiana, State Hospital]. Then, he wrote to Morgan State in Baltimore, which at that time was the top HBCU [Historically Black Colleges and Universities] school in track and field. He wrote to Tennessee State on the chance that he saw where a hurdler had won the Drake Relays. Indiana University sent a recruiter who looked at me, and we never heard from them again.

TS: Oh, my goodness.

RB: It hurt. Morgan State wrote back and said, "We have no money. If he can pay his way, we'll find some money in the spring." Tennessee State, on the other hand, said, "Send him! We'll take him, sight unseen." That's how I got to Nashville.

TS: Now, I know that the women's track program at Tennessee State was famous with Ed Temple as the coach and so on. Did he coach the men's team also?

- RB:** He did not coach the men's team. The men's team was coached at the time I came by a guy named Raymond Kemp, who was the athletic director and was a graduate of Duquesne University and was a former Pittsburgh Steeler [1933] himself. There was, I guess, you could call it conflict, not in the sense that it was knockdown, drag out, but the women had first choice of times to train, and we couldn't train while they were there on the track and so forth. So, I mean, there was a little bit of conflict.
- TS:** I guess so. That's pretty unusual too back in the 1950s and 1960. The University of Tennessee didn't even have a women's track team at that time.
- RB:** There was Tuskegee, there was Tennessee State, and there was like one other program, I think. But no women's NCAA. There were no rules that governed them that way. They were only governed by rules and regulations that applied to the then Amateur Athletic Union.
- TS:** So you are really saying that the Black colleges were way ahead of the public White colleges as far as having women's athletic programs.
- RB:** Oh, yes, certainly with track and field. As I traveled and made my little forays into other parts of the world, they knew a lot about the Tigerbelles of Tennessee State.
- TS:** I guess one reason I was asking all these questions is that it is one thing to have all the talent in the world, but to be an Olympic champion there's a lot of coaching on technique that has to take place too. Where did you learn the skill of long jumping?
- RB:** As you pass through the sport, you begin showing up at track meets, and you begin to show a little bit of prowess, people gravitate to you. One of the persons who helped me was the 1956 Olympic champ in the long jump, Dr. Greg Bell, who now lives in Logansport, Indiana. He pulled me aside, and pointed some things out, and said, do this, do that, and so on, and try this. The other person was a [bronze] medalist in the [1948 games, London games], Dr. Herb Douglas [former vice president of Moet/Hennessy USA and 2011 recipient of an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, Xavier University of Louisiana]. Dr. Herb Douglas saw me and said, "If you can make 25 feet, 7 inches, you can make the Olympic team." He told me this in 1958, maybe 1959. He pointed out some things, and as you moved around and competed and got stronger and better at just competing period, you began to realize some things. It just all came together then.
- TS:** I read where you later on were at least the unofficial coach for Bob Beamon before the [1968] Mexico City Olympics. Is this just something that was

unique to long jumpers or track athletes in that period that they helped each other instead of trying to keep it all to themselves?

RB: You hit the nail on the head. Yes, I think it was rather unique. I got help from unlikely sources such as a hurdler who went to Winston Salem [Teachers College] named Elias Gilbert, who was world class [world record holder in the 220 hurdles]. We called him Snee-wee. Snee-wee would tell you, “Hey, man, if you would try this.” Or, “I see this.” Other athletes, other long jumpers would just kind of help you out, or try and help you, or point out what they were seeing. And you just continually worked on it and worked on it and worked on it until you weeded out the bad and kept the best and, wham, the rest, as they say, is history. Gilbert was from Linden, New Jersey, from the same town as my junior year roommate, John Moon, who ended up coaching at Seton Hall [University, 1972-present]. It was just the thing where people helped each other.

TS: There are a lot of things that have been covered in a lot of places. You obviously won the Rome Olympics in the long jump. Even before that you had broken Jesse Owens’ record. I found a lot in researching for the interview about that. I don’t want to spend a lot of time on the things that are perhaps best known, that have been covered. Let’s see if we can just jump a little bit. You had become internationally famous by winning the 1960 Olympics. I was amazed in doing the research; I had forgotten that you won by only 1 centimeter over Bo Roberson. Of course, you were second in the 1964 Olympics and third in 1968. So you had a great career in the long jump, and you were the top triple jumper in America in 1963, and you even did well in the high jump. But let me jump ahead to the Tennessee story. When you were coming along, the University of Tennessee was just beginning to integrate its academic programs, but athletics were segregated until 1967. Let me just ask you, because I know how gracious you were with your time to come over to Knoxville Track Club meets and so on, but how did you feel about that back in the 1950s and 1960s that athletics at the University of Tennessee were still segregated?

RB: Obviously, I didn’t feel good.

TS: I wouldn’t think so.

RB: Then, as you think about it on the other hand, I didn’t feel totally bad, because part of that segregation then forced me and other athletes, like Wilma Rudolph, to go to a smaller school, Tennessee State University. So things worked out. I guess what I’m trying to say is that life has a way of working itself out. That was a wonderful thing. I got to see people and meet people. [Lee] Calhoun, instead of going to Indiana or some other [large university] went to little North Carolina Central University. It worked

out, but living in Nashville and working in Nashville and training right through the [1968] Mexico City Olympics, I had come to know the first African American Black athlete to break the color barrier in the SEC, Perry Wallace, the basketball player that went to Vanderbilt [1966-1970, graduating with an engineering degree and eventually becoming a law professor at American University Washington College of Law]. I had come to know Perry because he was at a local high school [Pearl High School] in Nashville. I guess, as I look at the thing, Tom, I sit back and look and I remember seeing all the changes as they just kind of like a wave took over, came out of nowhere. Perry Wallace. Then there was Lester McClain [wide receiver from Nashville] who came to UT [as the first African American football player in 1967] and so on. Things just started snowballing and rolling. It is amazing when you sit back and reminisce and look at all those times.

TS: Did you know Lester McClain before he went to the University of Tennessee?

RB: Yes, I did. I had met him at Haynes High School. I believe it may have been his junior year. His coach was a guy I had met from California, and I had come out to watch them run a track meet or something, and I met Lester. At the end of that year, they had closed the high school that Lester was going to, and Lester went to another high school. But I had met Lester.

TS: Let me just ask you, how did you get to those Knoxville Track Club meets back in the early to mid 1960s? Did somebody invite you over—Chuck Rohe or somebody call you up and ask you to come?

RB: You hit the nail on the head. There was a guy named Chuck Rohe.

TS: Okay, so that's the story? He called you up and said, "Would you come compete in these track meets?" Is that the way it worked?

RB: I can't remember that he called me up. I'm pretty sure we saw each other at some competition somewhere, and we talked about it. We had become friendly and familiar with each other. You also knew that the Knoxville Track Club was the preeminent track club in the area. In fact, I can't remember of another track club. At that time, if I remember, it was more of an officials' club. Seeing some of those guys that I had come to know, and God rest their souls, most of them are gone now, but Chuck Rohe had asked me to come over for some late summer meets, and it was fine. As the years progressed, you would come over to Knoxville, I remember, oh, yes, and those were fun.

TS: Okay, the way I remembered that—and I was in some of those meets back then—I ran the half mile and who knows what else in a summer meet—but

the Knoxville Track Club was able to use your name to really advertise those meets. So, I guess the way I think back on it is that you did a whole lot more for the Knoxville Track Club than they could ever do for you.

RB: Yes, and I thank you for that, but you have no idea how things work out, because I got to meet and compete against a young man named Robert Rovere [1967 NCAA Division II 100-yard and 220-yard dash champion for East Tennessee State University].

TS: Oh, sure!

RB: Rob Rov and I became the best of friends. We traveled to Trinidad together. His father [Al Rovere] and the rest of the track club members helped me out on a number of occasions when I was trying to do some track meets in and around Nashville. They would kind of point the way. What was his name who was the starter—who fired the gun?

TS: Oh, my goodness! Was it Hal Canfield?

RB: Hal Canfield! Absolutely! You got to meet them, and they helped me in a lot of way and, actually, helped track and field, certainly, in the State of Tennessee and in the southeast.

TS: I know you were majoring in biochemistry, I believe, at Tennessee State....

RB: Right.

TS: I wasn't real sure when you graduated from there. I saw one place that said 1960, and another place that said you went back and got your undergraduate degree after you retired from track and field.

RB: No, I graduate in 1962 with a degree in biochemistry.

TS: Okay, now, what is the story on how you got to graduate school at the University of Tennessee?

RB: Well, in the late 1960s, early in 1967, I started looking around, because I was sure that if things worked out for me in Mexico City, this was going to be it for me in track and field. I'm sure you are aware that at that time there was no money in track and field.

TS: No, and you were 29 years old, I guess, by the time of the 1968 Olympics.

RB: I was no spring chicken. So I was looking around, and, evidently, the word had gone forth that I was looking around. So I started getting contacts from some names, for example, Bob Giegengack, who was the head track

coach at Yale [1946-1972 and head coach of the 1964 US Olympic team]; Sam Bell who was at Cal Berkeley [1965-1970, and head coach at Indiana University, 1970-1998]; and so on. I started getting contacts from all these people. Somewhere—I can't remember the meet—I must have said that to Coach Rohe. There was some ensuing conversation, but the next thing I knew, he was talking to me about the possibility of coming to the University of Tennessee. Both he and the then governor were saying, "Hey, you've made all these friends and you've spent all this time here. What sense does it make to take it and move it to California or to Connecticut or wherever? Why not look at staying?" And that made sense. So we talked to some people. Even Governor [Buford] Ellington [Tennessee governor, 1959-1963 and 1967-1971], I remember, told me, "Just keep this under your hat, but we're looking at [finding something for you at UT] very definitely."

TS: Governor Ellington helped recruit you to Tennessee?

RB: Yes, he did.

TS: Well, I guess I'm going to have to change my impression of Governor Ellington because I always thought of him as about as right-wing as you could get in that period. [Ed. Note: In his first term as governor, Ellington was a segregationist and was responsible for the expulsion of several Tennessee State students who participated in Freedom Rides, but during his second term he moved beyond his segregationist past and appointed Tennessee's first Black cabinet member].

RB: Oh, he was a native Mississippian. He was born in [Holmes County] Mississippi. So we had come to know each other over the years, and he was very much interested in my coming to Knoxville.

TS: Great! So when did you start graduate school at the University of Tennessee?

RB: Well, actually, there was a couple or maybe three years that I was in Knoxville before I actually was in graduate school. I came as a special assistant in the Office of the Dean of Students—the idea being the population of Black students is growing; and before it gets to a point where it has grown so exponentially that there is no contact or anything, let's see if we can pull something together to help with this.

TS: Oh, okay, so you were really there to help recruit and mentor and increase retention and graduation rates of Black students.

RB: Students, but specifically Black students. When I came to the campus, the number that I remember was something like 25 Black students on campus.

They would frequent my office a lot if for nothing else just to talk, just to see a friendly face.

TS: I bet.

RB: Even to this day, I'm still in touch with a lot of those students.

TS: What year would that have been? Like 1965?

RB: No, I came directly from Mexico City—1968. I came directly from Mexico City to Knoxville.

TS: So you become special assistant to the dean of students, and the dean of the students is this guy that's got the same name that I've got [Tom Scott]. Right?

RB: Yes he was. I would see him leave the office some times, late afternoon, and go run, because he was a runner.

TS: Right. Well, he won the SEC cross country championship in 1949.

RB: Right, right. Dr. Tom, oh yeah! That was a pleasure working with him. He had a demeanor that was second to none. He knew how to quell situations, and bring volatile situations to a calm. Dr. Scott was really a good man.

TS: That was my impression. I didn't know him well, but I did meet him a time or two just briefly. I guess he had something to do then with you being hired as a special assistant in the dean's office?

RB: Now that one I can't add any credence to. But I know that when I came he was dean of students. There was a guy over student affairs, basically, named Paul Sherbakoff. There were women's programs and so on. It was at a time when, for lack of a better term, it was time; it was necessary.

TS: I remember in the early 1960s an equally small number of Black students. I don't remember ever seeing more than one at any time in any of my classes.

RB: Right. I will tell you what I would do. I would get together at specific times that we would decide and just say, "Hey, let's get together for a party or something, so we will get to know each other." And it worked. Out of those original students that I knew, there were lawyers and doctors, oh my goodness, instructors. It's amazing what has come from the minds and efforts of those students. Wow!

- TS:** I was just thinking back in your Tennessee State days how many really great people came out of Tennessee State.
- RB:** Oh, it was like a Who's Who in all phases. If I remember correctly, and I think I do, the engineering school was producing engineers, right and left, and those guys were going out—because I don't remember seeing a female engineer, but they did have female engineering instructors, and one of those ladies is still around—Dr. Clark. But you would see those guys, and now I run into some of them down here in Atlanta that run big engineering firms. It is just amazing to look at what has happened over all these years.
- TS:** Well, you were all pioneers.
- RB:** Never thought about being a pioneer. When I think of pioneers I remember the people in covered wagons. But it's the same. We just didn't have a covered wagon.
- TS:** That's right. I know that Coach Rohe was trying to recruit Black athletes, and the athletic director [Bob Woodruff] was trying to slow him down, but I heard a story the other day that Chuck Rohe wanted to hire you as an assistant coach and Woodruff vetoed it, at least in terms of paying you a salary. Is there any substance to that?
- RB:** There is great substance to that.
- TS:** What's your memory of it?
- RB:** Coach Rohe wanted me to work with the track program, and since I was already employed by the university there wouldn't be a need for a huge salary.
- TS:** Right. But if you are doing more work, you need a supplement.
- RB:** Right, and the athletic director, Mr. Woodruff, wasn't thrilled about that. But because I had come to know lots of folks, and over the years I had competed against them, I would come to the track anyway. I would come to the track anyway. One of the guys, Jeff Gabel, a triple jumper [3rd at the 1970 NCAA indoor championships, 1st at the SEC outdoor championships in 1968 and 1969 and the SEC indoor championships in 1969]—we are friends to this day. I went to his son's Bar Mitzvah. The relationships were great. It's too bad that George Robert Woodruff just didn't have the foresight—the insight—to let things happen, and who knows what could have come out of that.
- TS:** Absolutely! I don't know what his motives were—whether he was just chicken or whether he really felt that way. I didn't know him at all, really,

except to just see him in the distance. But I don't think you were the only one who had a problem with him. Bill Skinner, I think, later on had a little problem too over a moustache.

RB: Yes! Yes, sir.

TS: Jeff Gabel was kind of a pioneer too. Pioneer is not the right word, but he was very distinctly a minority as a Jewish athlete.

RB: Yes, he was. He used to talk to me about going to Israel to the Maccabiah Games and so on. First, it was a wonderful relationship. It turned out that I had two sisters who lived not very far from where Jeff grew up in New York and lived. Jeff would come by and visit or on occasions we would go to visit Jeff when I was passing through town. As I think back on life, it's been quite a ride; it's been quite a wonderful ride.

TS: I guess so. Any other athletes that you particularly worked with in coaching them in the long jump or triple jump or hurdles or high jump or anything else.

RB: Anybody who came, who was part of the program, and wanted help, certainly, [I said], "If I've got the information, surely you can have it." One particular guy I remember was the defensive back [at the University of Tennessee, 1976-1979] named Roland James. He was a hurdler. He would come out, and I think more than anything, those football players who ran tried to miss spring practice. That's why.

TS: Pretty smart!

RB: But Roland and I and Anthony Hancock [wide receiver, 1978-1981] and I ended up working together. Roland actually ran some very good times.

TS: So how many years did you do that?

RB: I came in 1968, and I left the last day of 1977.

TS: And what year did you get your master's degree?

RB: I did not finish it.

TS: What were you working on?

RB: Education administration and supervision.

TS: Now you came in as special assistant. Somewhere along the line you became an assistant dean. Is that the way it worked?

RB: Right. After Dr. Tom left, they couldn't come up with a consensus of who was to be the new dean of students. So there were three or four assistant deans of students, and I was one of them.

TS: Oh, I see, no dean but a lot of assistant deans.

RB: Right. We used to laugh about it and say, "As far as we can tell, the university is the only major school in the country that does not have a dean of students."

TS: Well, it must have worked pretty well for a while, I guess.

RB: Yes, it did.

TS: What year did Dr. Tom leave? Do you remember?

RB: I think it was 1974 or 1975.

TS: So two or three years you all operated without a dean of students?

RB: Right.

TS: You talked a little about working with the Black students, and I guess your responsibilities grew in those two or three years as assistant dean. Any other memories of that period of administration at the University of Tennessee that you would like to have on the interview that stands out?

RB: Once you start talking you could never stop—there was so much, but nothing particularly jumps out at this point. But just things! You would see things. You would hear things. You would notice things. One of the things that I remember very early in my career at UT—there was an issue, and I tried to make a foray into the department about this—the band would play the good southern song, *Dixie*.

TS: Yeah, that became controversial everywhere about that time, didn't it?

RB: Right, and so you tried to kind of head off that fight before it became a fight. It blew up somewhat, but it also—you've never heard it anymore.

TS: So, you played a role in, I guess, resolving a conflict before it blew up?

RB: Well, you tried to, and you made an attempt, but I'm not sure I was very good at solving it because it did kind of come to a head there in one basketball game a couple of years after I was there. But nobody wanted to see it or hear it, and then as time moved on you could see and hear it all

around the country or certainly all around the southeast because that was probably the only place where it was played. So it gradually but effectively was eliminated, and everybody moved on.

TS: Well, now Chuck Rohe moved on in 1971, but do you have any memories that we haven't talked about with Chuck Rohe that you would like to mention for the interview? What did you learn from Chuck Rohe?

RB: Let me tell you. The one thing that I will never, ever forget about Chuck Rohe was that Chuck Rohe was in fact a salesman. He could sell oil to the Arabs. He could sell! That's how I came to Knoxville. Chuck sold me. As a result, I had a life in Knoxville, and it's interesting how many people—not all—think that I was born and raised in Knoxville, because that's where Chuck Rohe, with his salesmanship, attracted me to come to.

TS: We've had a lot of the early recruits joke about how, "we didn't find out until we got here that they didn't have a track."

RB: Oh, yes. We used to run the Knoxville Track Club meets over at old Evans Collins Field.

TS: Oh, that was an awful track, I think, awful compared to Tom Black track, I guess I should say.

RB: But it was fun.

TS: It served its purpose in its day.

RB: Yes, it was part of the maturation process.

TS: Well, now, in 1977 you moved on to other things, and I know you've had a very distinguished career since then, and was even co-owner of one of the television stations in Knoxville, so why don't you just talk briefly about why you left the University of Tennessee in 1977, and what you did after that?

RB: Well, I was looking at and working on weekends with CBS doing track and field meets [for *CBS Sports Spectacular*], and we did those for years. It was becoming a bit of a strain. I remember the summer of 1975, I guess, I commuted from Knoxville to Europe. I would leave on Thursday and fly to wherever we were having the track meet in Europe. During the meet, I would take the tapes and be met at customs when I would come back on Sunday and be in the office on Monday morning.

TS: Well, Knoxville is not the easiest place to commute from to Europe, I suppose.

RB: Yes, that was a haul.

TS: I guess so, so you decided you were tired of doing that.

RB: Right. Then the CBS thing—I left the university, stayed in Knoxville, but the CBS thing kind of fell apart, so I did things in and around Knoxville, and again met some great people and worked with some great people. I ended up working with Tom King, I believe a UT graduate, who owned an insurance agency. I worked with Tom and his agency. John Thomas King, probably one of the better people that I've met in my life because he had a mentality and a resolve that helped solve a lot of problems. Then after that I did what I needed to do until I stumbled onto the idea of the television station. I became a general partner in that. Finally, when we sold that I came south.

TS: That's when you moved to Atlanta?

RB: Yes, sir. Here I am!

TS: Okay, and what year was that?

RB: I left Knoxville in 1992. The station hadn't quite sold then, but I came here [Atlanta] to work for a company that delved into telecommunications.

TS: Now was that Ericsson, Inc.?

RB: Yes it was.

TS: And you were director of customer relations?

RB: And it became international director of customer relations because I went all the way to Warsaw. Oh, man! One of the things I thought I was trying to do was eliminate so much air time, but it came right back. Finally, when I left Ericsson and the station sold, I kind of settled down and had come to know Billy Payne from the [1996 Atlanta] Olympics, and all fell into place.

TS: So I guess you are pretty much retired these days.

RB: Yes, I do just basically nothing.

TS: Well, you must go out and play golf a lot from what I gather.

RB: Well, only on days that end in "y."

TS: All right. I can't think of any that don't end in "y" so that must mean you play about every day.

RB: Weather permitting. I am a warm weather golfer. I don't like the cold. I visit family. Five of our ten siblings are left. We get together as often as we can. With nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews there aren't many buildings that can hold all of us.

TS: Well, that's good that you have such a large family and that all of you can get together. What have we left out? Any stories that you want to tell about those days at Tennessee or as an athlete that we should include?

RB: Periodically, I'm asked what stands out about all of this that has happened to me in my life. What is most outstanding? The answer I have come to is the people that I have met. That's amazing from the so-called upper crust like heads of state to people like you, Tom Scott, just people, but people who over the years have treated you with respect. When I think of all those people, particularly people at UT, I think of Jeff Gabel and Chris D'Orazio and Hardee McAlhaney and James Craig. But then you also remember the Lee Calhouns and all of those folk. It has just been an amazing ride!

TS: Well, it's been an honor to interview you and talk to you today.

RB: A pleasure. Let me thank you for this walk down memory lane.

TS: You're quite welcome. Thanks, Ralph.