

7-31-1989

## Interview no. 780

William S. Steven

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### Recommended Citation

Interview with William S. Steven by Dr. Charles Martin, 1989, "Interview no. 780," Institute of Oral History, University of Texas at El Paso.

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE: William S. Stevens  
INTERVIEWER: Charles Martin  
PROJECT: History of the University  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 31, 1989  
TERMS OF USE: Unrestricted  
TAPE NO: 780  
TRANSCRIPT NO: 780  
TRANSCRIBER: \_\_\_\_\_

BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Born and raised in Galveston, attended Texas Western College on a football scholarship 1964-67; played professional football 1967-70 for Green Bay Packers; coached, then became a banker in El Paso.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

Describes life as a married student and athlete at Texas Western College 1964-67; tells teaching techniques of Dr. Porter of the history department; tells about his athletic career and playing football under Coach Bobby Dobbs and for Green Bay Packers.

Length of Interview: 40 minutes Length of Transcript 20 pages

William S. Stevens  
July 31, 1989  
Charles H. Martin  
UTEP Diamond Jubilee

M: What we'll do is start off by asking you a little bit about your background and kind of go through these things chronologically. For example, why don't you tell me where you born--when and where? Where you grew up?

S: I was born in Galveston, Texas, August 27, 1945. I lived in Galveston all the way through high school. Came to El Paso for the purpose of going to college on a football scholarship.

M: Did you play football there in Galveston?

S: Played football, basketball, baseball. Back in the old ages now. I guess I'm getting to that age everybody played every sport, for all practical purposes. If you were an athlete you played all sports. Football was the one I received a scholarship in--out here in UTEP. Although when I came out here, it was with the understanding I was going to play football and baseball. But then Bobby Dobbs came in my second or mid-semester my freshmen year, I should say. He came in with a new program and everything like that. He kind of felt that Spring training was awfully important to a quarterback. So I didn't play baseball that first year. Didn't play thereafter.

M: What attracted you to Texas Western? How did you learn about it? How did you end up here as opposed to some place?

S: Don Smith, who was a football coach at Ball High where I went to high school. He came out here at the end of my junior year in high school. He recruited me to come out here.

M: Okay. When you arrived here--when exactly would you . . .

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S: Came out in August of '64.

M: What were your first impressions of coming from the Gulf Coast with its humidity and beaches to far West Texas?

S: Hell, couldn't have been any worse than what it was in El Paso. I guarantee you. It was hot. Even in Galveston you say 85 degrees and it's warm. I can't standing going back there with all the humidity. Coming out here it was hot, it was dry. Just such a drastic change from--360 degree change--from what I was used to. I don't think a person who's ever come to El Paso in the first six months that thought it was a great place to live. They have to go back home one time and realize how bad it is back home, that it's not so bad out here. At this point, gosh, I would have such a tough time leaving El Paso.

M: I know what you mean about the climate change. I've experienced . . .

S: Drastic, drastic change. It really is.

M: What were your first impressions of the school itself, when you arrived down here?

S: Oh, of course I really had not ever traveled anywhere, not been anywhere. Coming out here was going to the other end of the world-- 850 miles from home. I was lonesome. I was homesick--typical freshmen-- every freshmen goes through it. I guess whether you're an athlete or whether you're a student, whatever area you're in. I think going away from home for the first time is a tough experience. I thoroughly loved it and enjoyed it. I thought it was great after I got used to a little bit. But it was a drastic change. The campus at that time was very green, which it is during the summer months. In August it's beautifully green. Of course the architecture was Bhutanese and it was a drastic change. Everything was a drastic change for me. I very much enjoyed it. I thought I was

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really in the big time. It was great.

M: What was student life like? (We'll come back to sports in a little bit.)

What was student life like in the mid-sixties at UTEP.?

S: I don't think student life today is probably any different than how it was back in '64', in that we do not have campus that is a very active campus socially. Back then Friday afternoon at twelve noon, the campus was dead, shut down. I remember one of the big arguments we had. They used to close the Student Union Building on weekends because nobody ever was around. Yeah, there were several hundred in the dorms. We started arguing that they ought to have it open. They started keeping the sub open, I guess Saturday till noon or something like that. There were some other times you'd go down and play pool, the bowling alley and those type of things. And for most of us--we didn't have whole lot of money so that was nice to be able to go over there and do something fairly inexpensive. But like I said I don't think the campus has probably changed a whole lot in that respect. It's still a commuter school. There's not a lot of campus activities.

M: What did students in your class hang out or go for social activities other than the sub?

S: Well, there's the old K.P.T., Kern Place Tavern. That was and I guess is still one of the places to go to, although I have not been over there in a while. We used to go up to the Campus Queen, which I guess just until recently, it was called the Campus Queen. Back then you could up and get burrito, a bean burrito for 15 cents or something like that. At late night that was the place to go. And everybody always had the beer blasts, whatever they call them, down in the river. I don't guess they do that as much as they used to. I lived down close to the river now and

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I haven't heard the noise that we used to create at times. I assume they're not doing those as often as they use to.

M: Were any particular campus activities that stood out in your mind or any like particular activity or event or something like that?

S: Really no. I guess I'm probably the one person that you shouldn't be talking to, asking about campus activities. I had gotten married mid-semester of my freshmen year in college. So my campus activity was going home. It was not out running with the boys too much. I really did not get that involved in any of the campus activities for the most part because of being married. Every opportunity I had that was free was trying to find a job to make buck, this type of thing. There were not a lot of social activities at that point.

M: What was the attitude toward married athletes in those days?

S: Surprisingly my senior year out of the twenty-two starters on the football team, I would venture to say fifteen of them were married. It was a fairly large number of the students that were married. We all kind of hung around together. A lot of us lived over there in the campus apartments. In the off season a Friday night or Saturday night, we all got together and played cards. None of us could afford to go anywhere or do anything so we did things together that were cheap. Inexpensive may be a better word for it.

M: Okay. Where did you live your first semester and then after you were married?

S: We got married . . . The first month we lived in this dinky, little apartment on Yandell Street, that they should condemned the month before we moved into to it for sure. The month after, we left. We just could not take any longer. It was really in bad shape. Then we lived for a

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semester down, just below El Paso High School, in a group of little apartments that are still over there. There was a fairly long waiting list to get into the campus apartments because of the inexpensive rent. It took us a semester and half I guess to get into those apartments. Then we lived there the rest of the time. G. 4 still sits there. I guess still looks the same on the inside from what I've heard. Although they've put a few trees around and they've grown up a little bit. It looks quite nice over there--it was great. We loved living over there. I've heard so many of the former alumni. John Phelan lived in what they called a Vet Village. He used to talk about how much fun they used to have. Friday night, Saturday night they all got together over there. They were all in the same shape. That's kind of the situation we were in living in the campus apartments. We were all struggling through school and didn't have an extra dime to do a whole lot. We were all miserable together I guess and had a great time at it.

M: Comraderie.

S: Right, you bet.

M: What kind of academic route did you follow? What kind of impression did you have of teachers and students?

S: Well it was really funny. I planned on being a football coach. That's all I ever wanted to be from day one. I went in first semester as a Physical Education major. That's to some degree just ignorance about of what it really was all about. I found out you did not have to be a Physical Education major in order to be a football coach. So I changed my major to Business. I was going to be an accountant. After taking accounting for one semester I said there's just no way in the world I can be sitting behind a desk, playing accountant for the rest of my life. I

decided I still wanted to be a football coach so I majored in Secondary Education with Math and History as the teaching fields. I ended up getting Bachelor of Science and Education with Math and History as teaching fields. And then ended up in banking. How those two come together, I'm not real sure. I guess I learned a little something back in some of my accounting classes.

M: Where there any particular teachers or fellow classmates that made any kind of impression on you?

S: I think as a teacher, the one professor, well there were several that stuck out in my mind as being good professors: Mrs. Meschcon, the Speech Department. I just loved her excitement she had about the way she taught and everything. I felt like I learned a great deal from her. In the History Department, Doctor Porter. I guess you were there for a little bit when Doctor Porter was there.

M: I think he had just left. I know the name.

S: He retired about 68' or 69', there about. You're right. He had influezna real bad. I think it was part of the problem. As a history professor, he was just tops in my book. He would walk into class. Never brought a book one, all he had was the roll book. He laid that roll book on the desk, look around the room. You'd see him make some check marks. Now he never checked roll as such. I think in his own he was making marks of who wasn't there and who was. He always walked in when the bell rang. He was never there early. He was never there late. He walked in -- I think he stood outside and waited till the bell rang just to walk in there at that point. But he would pick up his lecture in the middle of the sentence he stopped, at the last class. When the bell rang he stopped, right then and there, picked up his little roll book and walked



out the door. But he did such an outstanding job of keeping our attention. Just sitting there he demanded you take notes. If he saw you looking up, not writing, he'd stop class and ask why weren't you taking notes. He had such a way about him. His tests were tough. They were always written. There was never any multiple choice or anything like that. He'd give you five essay questions of which you'd have to do four. He would let you make up the test the day--walk into class and he'd say, "what do you think would be a good test question." I took him for Russian History; everything I could just about get from him. You'd throw something like "I think maybe if we discuss the Russian Revolution." "Well, that's an awfully good question but awfully broad. Don't you think we ought to confine..." I mean he got the exact question he wanted. But you felt like you were making up the test. It was just the atmosphere he created. It was great. I have taught school. I taught school for one semester. I taught several A.I.V. courses in banking. I've always used a lot of those techniques that I learned from him, not as an Education major but just as a teacher. It was something that he did that I thought kept my attention and kept my interest. I learned it the way he taught me.

M: It's a lot easier to keep classes attention with this system . . .

S: Sure. I mean he was fantastic. As far as his ability--he demanded that you pay 100% attention to him. We had to do two book reports. If it was Russian History it had to be a Russian novel that you had to do your book report on. I think he had read every book that had ever been written. The way students always do we'd trade book reports. Here you write this one and I'll write, this type of thing. I guarantee, I don't think there's a person that got away with ever doing that. I mean you'd

walk in and he'd say, "Bill, seems to me that I've read this book report before somewhere. Wasn't that the one that Mary Jane wrote back in 1946." You know it was uncanny. It got to the point where we'd always try to put one over on him to see if we could. I don't think one ever got put on him. He was always, he'd laugh, "I think you ought to rewrite that." He knew exactly what we were doing, for the most part. He just had a way of-- you wanted to make an A in his class. It was embarrassing if you didn't. You felt like you let him down because you didn't study hard. He had that atmosphere about him.

M: What was it like to try to juggle being an athlete and successful athlete at that, with also being a student and also being married at that same time too?

S: Fortunately, the married part of it was very easy, that I had a fantastic wife. She worked and made the money for us to live on. She would take an hour or two at night--class type thing. She was not a full time student by any stretch of the imagination. A lot of people don't realize the amount of time and effort that it goes into athletes. Everybody thinks you've got this scholarship that you got it for free. But I guarantee that's not the case. It's like any job that you do. If you do it correctly you're going to put some time and effort into it. I would say we spent a good six to seven hours a day in preparation. The work out time, the study time, the conditioning time all those type of things. Then again I put in a little more than others as a quarterback watching film and trying to read defenses and those type of things. We put in a good six, seven hours a day. In class--it was like I had a full time job for all practical purposes and going to school. Now during football season I only took twelve hours a semester. During the off season I

would take fifteen to eighteen hours. It was really funny. I guess the two best semesters that I had, as far as grade point were the two semesters I took twenty-one hours and the final two semesters to graduate. Because I had taken twelve hours and I never went to summer school so I always had to work as being married. The final two semesters I had to take twenty-one hours a semester in order to graduate. I carried almost, about a 3.8 in those two semesters. Whereas the other semesters I guess I didn't work as hard because I didn't have to work as hard.

M: Let's switch over and talk a little about your athletic career then. When you came here or during your career, who were the coaches you worked under? Who were some of the players that you were associated with that you think deserve some distinction?

S: Well, Ron Harper was the head coach my freshmen year. I was recruited by Don Smith, who was the defensive backfield coach at that time. Then that staff was let go at the end of the first semester, at the end of the football. Bobby Dobbs came in at midyear and he was here the whole time that I played. But I came back and coached for three years under Dobbs after I played three years professional football and then came back and coached for three years with Dobbs. The players, of course, I guess the majority of the ones that people would remember, Chuck Hughes, Bob Wallace, Freddie Carr, who was all-Pro linebacker, Charlie West, who was an all-American defensive back and also played baseball, George Daney; at my senior year, the six of us were all drafted in the top three rounds.

M: Did you play much as a freshman or . . .

S: No, we had a freshman team. We were 1-1-and 1. We won one, lost one and tied one. We only played three ball games. And back then, Freshmen were

not allowed to play varsity. You had to play Freshman football. And I guess it wasn't until my Junior or so that they allowed--started allowing Freshmen to compete on a varsity level. That same year, again, Harper's staff was let go, they were 0-8-and 2. And it's really kind of funny, you know, we went back home and everybody, they'd [ask], "How'd the football team do?" Well, they were 0-8-2, I mean, the way you said it, it was like they were 8 and 2, not 0-8-and 2, so. . . . But the following year we came back and played in the Sun Bowl. I think we were 7 and 3 and then played against TCU in the Sun Bowl and beat them, I'd say it was 14-13, something like that was the final score.

M: A pretty big comeback to go from an 0-8-2 [S: Yeah] to a much more successful one. . .

S: Well, we started throwing the football bigtime; we did not run the football pretty much. We ran a draw occasionally, just to let the other team know we had some running backs back there that did other things besides block. We would throw almost every down. And back then, the college football was not much of a passing conference as it is today for the WAC. And we were not in the Western Athletic Conference; we were independent at the time, but we still played all the same WAC teams that the team plays today. It was not a passing conference, therefore, we were far ahead of the defense. And so we were able to sneak up on them a little bit that first year, I think.

M: Did you start most, or all of the games, as a Sophomore?

S: Yes

M: Do you remember your first game?

S: Yes, that was against North Texas. That was quite an exciting situation. We--it was really kind of ironic because we were playing North Texas

State and the quarterback for North Texas, a fellow by the name of Videll Carlin, was one year ahead of me in high school; and the fullback for North Texas was a fellow by the name of Jerry Suller, who was also one year ahead of me in high school--and there were a couple of other players on the team that were all from Galveston Ball High School. So, I definitely knew them, and quite well, and wanted to beat them in the worst way and so the, you know, competition type of thing. And we ended up beating them, I don't know, 55 to 14, or something to that effect and we threw as a team for almost 600 yards that particular night. I think we completed like the first eleven passes we threw. You know, I think I could have thrown it between my legs and over my shoulder and somebody would have caught it and been from our team. You know, it was just one of those particular games we had worked and prepared very hard for that ball game and, again, caught North Texas very much unaware, you know, of our passing ability and they did not have the defense to stop us. So it was quite an exciting beginning to a football career.

M: I imagine so. That was the year also UTEP, or Texas Western rather, had a good basketball team, too. How much did the football team follow basketball? Was there was interaction between the teams?

S: There was not a whole lot. We all knew each other. We all lived in the same--and back then all the football, basketball, baseball, you know, if you were an athlete, you lived in Miners Hall. And so we knew each other in that respect. Whereas today, the teams probably aren't near as close as they were back then. So we knew each other. We did not interact with them near as much as we did with the other football players--this type of thing. It was quite a basketball team. You don't get to win a national championship too often.

M: That's true. Now, your junior year, the team wasn't quite as successful. What happened that year that was a little bit different than the ones on either side?

S: Well, I think we were like 6 and 4, I think, that particular year. I think the defense caught up with us a little bit and we were not near as successful in throwing the football because of that. The defenses caught up with us. And we had a couple of close games that just didn't, didn't work in our favor where they did the year before. There's not a whole lot of difference between a 6-4 season and a 7-3 season but we were not near as successful as we had been the year before.

M: Now, what about the season your senior year?

S: I think the ball bounced our way a little bit more than what it did the year before and I'm not sure what the record was; it would have been in '67, I guess, 7-2-and 1. OK, yeah. I think it could have been a little bit better. We had a couple of close ball games too that, you know, had it bounced our way a little bit better would have looked--Wyoming--I don't know, if, well, you came out in '68 so you weren't . . . .

M: '78.

S: Oh, '78, excuse me. We got beat in the just the last few minutes of the ball game, you know, [that] type of thing. Wyoming was going to go to the Sugar Bowl if they won. We were going to go to the Sugar Bowl if we had won. The loser got to go to the Sun Bowl. That's kind of the way it worked out. And we tried a field goal with two seconds remaining on the type of thing and it was as close to being good--if not good--it was just, I honestly think the referee could have called it either way and felt good about his call. It was just one of those things. We got beat in the final few seconds or we would have gone to the Sugar Bowl.

M: That would have been a . . . Now, let's see, what about the Sun Bowl game that year?

S: We played Ole Miss, or the University of Mississippi, I guess is what it goes by. It again was a very close game. Although we threw the ball and were an exciting offensive team, we were really a defensive team. We won more games defensively than we did offensively. And both the Sun Bowl games and this one certainly fell into that category, was won by the defense. The final score was 14 to 7, or something to that effect. And, again, very, very tough defensive football game.

M: Now, what kind of honors did you get in these bowl appearances?

S: I was selected as the outstanding player, I guess is what you'd call it. I was very fortunate that I played on a great quality--two, or three really--very quality football teams. You know, it's very easy for the quarterback to get all the glory when you win. When you lose, as you well know, the quarterback gets a lot of the blame. We were fortunate we won more games than we lost. So I got a lot of the credit.

M: Now is there anything in particular about playing on this--now you had a team that had a good number of black players and Ole Miss was still an all-white team in those days. Was there any--were you aware of that or anything?

S: There really wasn't. If they were, and some of the black players may have talked amongst themselves type of thing, but we as a team, did not discuss anything like that or try and make that an issue to get us riled up a little bit. We went to--as they do today--several functions within the bowl atmosphere. There's a big breakfast out at the Sheriff's Posse and then there's the big luncheon downtown. Several, you know, where all the teams were together. There was never any mention of that being a

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problem. We had a very unusual situation, I think, and something that I feel very good about, the atmosphere amongst the players. We used to kid each other about being black, white, purple, green--you know, that type of thing--it was never, it was never the racial issues brought up and we played, I don't think it was my junior year, that's right, and that was one of the things that kind of hurts a little bit in that season. We were to play Santa Barbara in California. And that game was called because of racial problems out at that campus. They were afraid to have the football game. And there was just never any problems, even on campus there was never any real racial problems and certainly not within the football team. Several of the black players were married; several of the, as I told you, white players were married. And we socialized together. As I said, we were all in the same boat. We didn't have any money to go out and do anything, so it kind of drew us all together. And we had a team, we really were. We were friends as well as teammates in football. And I still see several of the black players. They come to town, we always get together. There was just not that feeling of he's black, I'm white. And I don't think from the black players that the feeling that we're black and they're white. We used to tease each other all the time about those type of things but it was always . . . . [End of Side One]

[Side Two]

M: Let's see, you had just been saying that the married players used to socialize with each other since neither one of you had any money to spend on lavish entertainment and you were about to say something about Fred Carr.



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S: Freddie, something that I guess I'll always remember about Freddie-- something that happened: we all got called together at the end of practice and I don't remember what it was about but Dobbs made the comment that we had a decision to make about something or other and I don't know if you've ever heard the statement that, "Well, you're free, white, and twenty one, make a decision." Well, he [Dobbs] says, "Now, everybody here is free, white, and twenty one; make a decision". And Freddy Carr just started dying laughing. Now, he's blacker than the ace of spades, OK. He just starts dying laughing, rolls down on the floor and Dobbs still has not figured out what he said. And we all slowly but surely realize what had been said and Dobbs was getting mad. You know. "Everybody's laughing at me, what's . . .?" you know. And finally, Freddie says, "Coach, coach, I'm not free, white and twenty one." You know, we could joke about those kind of things. It was just not an ugly thing by any stretch of the imagination. And Dobbs just started roaring after he finally realized what he had said. But that was the type of atmosphere, I guess, and the type of camaraderie that we all had. We could poke fun at each other about things like that and not have a problem with it.

M: You were the quarterback on a successful team and most valuable player in tournaments, were you a prototype of a campus football hero? In the fifties and sixties, we used to talk about those things. Did you see yourself that way?

S: Well, no. . .

M: Did others see you that way?

S: That I can't answer whether the others saw me that way. As I stated earlier, I was married. And, you know, I went to class; went to

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practice, went home, you know, worked when I could, this type of thing. So, I was really not that involved in campus life. So, I'm not sure what the prototype was or anything like that but I can remember everybody joking . . . And back then, as it is today, there was a lot of discussion about how much the players were getting paid and this type of thing. And I could tell you we certainly were not paid by any stretch of the imagination. But I, my mother-in-law and father-in-law bought me a bicycle, a Schwinn three-speed bicycle, for Christmas. You know, I'd wanted a bicycle so I could ride around campus with it and, again, it would save money for gas, you know, this type of thing. So they bought me for Christmas a three-speed bicycle. Well, it was right after the Sun Bowl football game, my Sophomore year, and, of course, the big joke on campus was, "Oh, Stevens got a bicycle!", you know, type of thing. So that was my claim to fame, I guess, I got a bicycle for and I rode that bicycle around campus for three years.

M: You were there '64 to '67, which is middle of the sixties, but in some ways a little early for what people view as the sixties. Was there much evidence yet on campus at that time of the so-called 1960s issues like the Vietnam War or other kinds of upheavals or anything?

S: There was a little, a little of that on campus. I don't remember there being a whole lot of protests or this type of thing while I was in school. And again, I think a lot of that has to do with the fact that we were a commuter school. People came in, did their classwork, and headed for work someplace, you know. So they didn't hang around in the Student Union and cuss, discuss, and argue those type of issues. They had other things to do, supporting their families, and, you know, this type of thing. And, so, I, there really wasn't as much unrest or

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demonstrations, this type thing, as there were probably on a lot of other campuses around the country.

M: Now, after you finished playing your senior year, what did you do after that for the next couple of years?

S: I played professional football with the Green Bay Packers for three years. Which was quite an experience and something that I'm quite proud of. I said played. I stood on the sidelines and watched. I never played a whole lot. Bart Starr was still the quarterback with the Packers and he was still the quarterback when I left. It was a great opportunity and certainly financially advantageous. There weren't a lot of kids right out of school with a degree that were able to make the kind of money that I was fortunate enough to make. So it gave me a great start. And like I said, even though I never played, I'm quite proud of the fact that at least I got to wear a uniform. There were a lot of people that can't say that. So it's a very exciting situation. I came back and as I said, I planned on being a football coach, that's all I'd ever planned on being. And so I taught high school here in El Paso for one year. And, an opportunity came up to get into the coaching ranks out at the university. And, I went to work as the receiver coach and quarterback coach. And did that for three years and, huh, I guess I realized I didn't really want to be a football coach all that bad. I realized, I guess, that if you wanted to coach, you were going to have to move on. Either you get fired because the team did not do well. Or if the team had a very good situation, you were rewarded and got to move on to bigger and better things. But, you know, as a football coach, you move about every three or four years. And I just really did not want to do that. My wife and I both dearly loved El Paso and kind of wanted to stay and I got an

opportunity to go to work for El Paso National Bank in their Marketing and Business Development area. And I did that and very much enjoyed banking, went back to school--University of New Mexico has a banking School which is a one-year program that you go to school for a concentrated period of two weeks, then come back and take, I think, there are six work, home work study problems. I did that and took some of those dreaded Accounting courses that I couldn't stand back when I was going to school. Learned what I needed to learn in order to get into the lending side of banking which is definitely where the money is as far as salaries and this type of thing. And I've never regretted it, it's been a very enjoyable situation.

M: When you're in the pros and you're thinking about possibly continuing with your career or whatever, did you ever have any second thoughts about having chosen UTEP or, what would have happened to you if you had gone to a Southwest Conference school or something?

S: I honestly think if I had gone to a Southwest Conference school, at that time, there weren't any Southwest Conference schools that were throwing the football. My real ability as a football player is a passer. I am not a runner by any stretch of the imagination. My two feet kind of clink together when I run. I probably never would have had the opportunity to play professional football had I gone to another school. I was very fortunate that Bobby Dobbs came out here as a football coach 'cause he came out here and threw the football. And that was, like I said, that was my ability, was in passing of the football, not of running the football.

M: When you look back on your years at Texas Western, what special moment or special moments that come most to mind? What do you think about if you

STEVENS

reflect back on those times that stands out?

S: As an athlete, certainly one of the two Super--ah, Super Bowls-- two Sun Bowls has to stand out as being a very high point within a four year college career. As a student, certainly getting a degree. And I, as has been mentioned numerous times at different events that I have gone to for UTEP, so many of the graduates from UTEP are first-time graduates within a family. And that's certainly true with me. I was the first one within my family to get a degree. So I, that stands out a being a very high point. My mother was quite elated and excited about the idea that I had graduated. I guess, really, the highlights to me in the four years, five years that it took me to graduate, had to be athletic, you know, type situations. Because of being married, there was not that much campus life that I was involved in. I was not involved in campus politics, you know, I was not involved in anything other than athletics and going to class. And so, I guess, most of the exciting things that I recall would have to be on the athletic field.

M: Anything else that you can think of that we haven't talked about that we should talk about concerning your UTEP days?

S: Well, one thing that I would like to throw in, for what it's worth, there's so much discussion, and I've got two boys, of not wanting to go to UTEP; it's not as good a school as some other place. And that's definitely not the case, it really isn't. I think we all have learned through the years, that you get out of something what you put into it and the quality of education that you can get from UTEP is not better or no worse, in my opinion, than what you can get at 95% of the other schools around the country. I'm sure there are some, you know, some of the Harvards, the Stanfords, you know, these type of things that possibly in

certain areas might be better than what UTEP is. But, even in that, what I understood from several of: our engineering students far outrank the Stanford students as far getting jobs and this type of thing. And that's always been a kind of a real bone for me to swallow. I think you do get out of it what you put into the thing. And I think I got as good a degree, as good an education I guess I should say, from UTEP as anybody got from any place else in the country at the same time. And I guess the other thing that, huh-huh, kind of gnaws on me, is the "dumb jock" type of syndrome that's out there. That, probably more than--certainly the fact that you can't get a good degree from UTEP is probably truer. There are a lot of jocks out there that probably never should have gone to school, never should have been in school, did not go to school really while they were there, didn't learn anything. There's a lot of that, certainly, there's no question. But don't include me in that group. I guess that's what I'm trying to say. That gets rather irritating to me to stereotype all athletes as "dumb jocks". I think when you do the cross-section of the university, the percentages of those who started and those that finished, I'm not sure, athletics probably isn't a little bit higher maybe in many respects than what the general population is of the campus. But I do know several of us that played football, basketball, baseball, at the university despite the fact that we were jocks, I think, turned out to make something out of our lives.

M: OK. That seems like a good note to...

S: End it on? OK.

[END OF INTERVIEW]