

JK: O.K. my name is Jeffery Scott Klienschmidt, my birthday is July 9, 1958.

JS: Ok I am going to start this over again. Who started the origins of the sports training center in 1977?

JK: The idea for sports training center or an olympic training center actually began in 1965 and what happened is the university was given some land just outside the city limits of Marquette and the president of the university at the time asked the dean of the school of education to research the land and with that they recommended use for the particular area. Dr. ? investigated the land and came back with the recommendation to use that facility or the area as an olympic training center and ever since 1965 the lobbying with the United States olympic committee for official designation as an United States olympic center.

JS: Who were the people that pushed to get the olympic training center here?

JK: The primary players behind that effort were Karen K?, who was professor in the ? department at that time and the director of the sports academy, Dr. Roy Heath was a major player behind that effort for a number of years, Rick ? was an employee of K? company at the time and the president of the local support group of the Great Lakes Training Center association, and then obviously the president of the university John Jamerich and James Appleberry were both instrumental in getting the Olympic Center designation, former governor James Blanchard and also the entire Michigan delegation in Washington D.C., and finally President Gerald Ford.

JS: How important was the establishment of the Great Lakes Sports Academy (GLSA)?

JK: The establishment of the Great Lakes Sports Academy I think was critical ah to convince the olympic committee that the people at Northern Michigan University were actually capable of running an Olympic Training Center. But, before that time we had talked a lot about our abilities to be a olympic training center and to train athletes, train and ? athletes at the same location, we had never actually done it. So by establishing the sports academy and actually convincing athletes to come here and train those athletes for the olympics well at the same time educating them. IT made the United States olympic committee realize that it is possible to combine academic and athletic excellence at one location. So I think if we had not started the GLSA we would not be an Olympic training center or educational center at this time.

JS: What was the effect of Governor Blanchards help?

JK: Governor Blanchard was very instrumental also in helping us become and Olympic Training Center. I think it was important for the United States Olympic committee to know that our efforts had the backing of the entire State of Michigan all the way up to the Governor's office. And the Governor himself went to Colorado Springs to meet with the United States Olympic committee house of delegates at the time they designated Northern Michigan University as an Olympic Training center. I think his presence there along with his announcement, his surprise announcement to all of us, that he will commit 21 million dollars to NMU to build a sports training complex. I think he was very very important to the Olympic Training Center effort.

JS: Who decided on the sports that would be offered?

JK: Actually each sports governing body makes their own decision on where they would like their athletes to train. So what we have to do after we were named an Olympic training center was to get all the information to the governing bodies about what facilities are available on campus, on and off campus in this community. It was actually lobbying and working with each governing body to convince them that this is an ideal location for their athletes to train, and continue their education at the same time. It is very important for each sport that is here to be able to train at the finest facilities in the country, if the athletes are not able to train on world class facilities then they are going to go somewhere else to train. If they can train on world class facilities then the NGB would be more than happy to have them train here and continue their education at the same time.

JS: Northern is probably usually looked at as more of a winter sport training area, because of the cold weather up here, what types of summer sports are offered here?

JK: At the current time we only have one summer sport that has a resident athlete training program here, that is the sport of boxing. Over the years since 1985 we have had programs here, athletes here in approximately 30 different sports. So that approximately 24-25 summer sports included. Last two years we have hosted the national championships in high school gymnastics here, we have hosted national and international events on team handball, table tennis, taekwondo, Judo, rhythmic gymnastics, a whole variety of summer sports. Soccer, archery, we have had a lot of different summer sports here in the past.

JS: How many future Olympians were housed at first and how has that grown?

JK: It is difficult for me to say how many future Olympians were housed at the facility when the facility was first opened. I know that in the last two winter Olympic games approximately one third of the entire U.S. Olympic team at the winter Olympic games had one time or another participated in our program here. In the last two winter Olympics in 1992 and 1994 the U.S. team won a record of 24 medals combined two winter Olympics, and our athletes who lived and trained at Northern Michigan University have won 6 of those medals.

JS: Northern Michigan University made it clear that all future Olympians could train and also take classes here, and this was a unique offer because the other two centers in the U.S. don't offer this, how effective is education attracting a trainee?

JK: I think there are advantages and disadvantages to that, the national governing body of each sport is obviously interested in solely in winning Olympic medals. That is why they are in existence, that's how they get funded when they produce medals and that's what their main interest is. At the same time they want to take care of the athletes needs the best they can as long as it doesn't sacrifice their opportunity to win Olympic medals. So overall some athletes have come here solely for the educational opportunities and other athletes have avoided coming here simply because we have the educational requirement, which is an additional time commitment which takes them away from their training schedules. So I think it has been an advantage and a disadvantage for us.

JS: Has receiving national media attention as a Olympic Training Center made Northern a more prestigious university?

JK: I personally believe that it has, sponsors right now for the olympic games will spend 40 million dollars for the right to associate their particular product with the olympic movement. Forty million dollars is a tremendous amount of money to pay for that right, but those businesses pay up that amount because they know from research that they have done that the public believes the olympic movement promotes excellence and that it's pure and wholesome and all American and all those types of things. So Northern Michigan University had an opportunity for 10 years to tie into the ? logo together with the olympic ? logo not only has the University received national attention but certainly international attention. We have had athletes training, and competing here from all over the world. We haven't did a study on this but probably close to a dozen other countries have been represented here at various training camps and competitions. In addition to that, when our athletes win olympic and world championship medals they regularly give a lot of our credit for their success to Northern Michigan University. So I think it has been extremely helpful to the institution.

JS: How is enrollment been effected by the Olympic Training Center?

JK: I know directly we bring in approximately 40 to 50 athletes each year to enroll in classes each year. In addition we bring in 10 to 15 athletes each year that enroll in Marquette Senior High School. Which obviously helps us and brings in additional State support to the High School system and then those athletes will ultimately end up transferring to Northern Michigan University when they finish the high school program. In addition to that we have had athletes who have participated in our program for a few years and have for a variety of reasons have left our program but have continued to go to school at NMU. Along with that a number of athletes bring along their girlfriends, or in some cases their spouses to participate in to take classes at NMU to join them here in Marquette, I know for a fact that there have also been some professors that have intentionally selected NMU as the place they wanted to work simply because of the olympic training center being here. Those professors have wanted to work with the olympic movement and athletes so they have come here all across the country simply because of the olympic education center.

JS: How do other athletes interact with students?

JK: Well our athletes have the same opportunities to get involved with various campus programs same as the general student body does. Including intramurals and house and resident life activities and winterfest and all the different activities that occur at Northern. The athletes have had some what a difficult time getting directly involved in a lot of activities on campus because of their schedules. The athletes are extremely busy, to give an example, as is in a boxing program the athletes will get up at 5:30 in the morning they will go for a morning run until about 7:00 or 8:00 o'clock in the morning and then they will go to classes throughout the day, they will get back about 3:00 in the afternoon and many will go to a mandatory study hall, they eat dinner, they go to their training sessions at night until about 9 or 10:00 o'clock at night and then they go down to the swimming pool some nights for additional training. So there really isn't an opportunity for them to get involved in other activities on campus. We encourage the interaction as much as the athletes are interested and able to participate in the campus activities. We personally believe that it

broadens their horizons, right now they are athletes and students but we would like them to get the whole experience of being a student at Northern.

JS: In your opinion has the dome been a success or a failure?

JK: Well it is hard for me to say whether the dome has been a successful or not, the dome is not an Olympic education facility. The athletes at the Olympic education center will use the dome just like the library, pool, or any other university owned building. I think the dome has been successful as certainly generated a lot of revenue on its own the past couple of years. It is tremendous the number of shows and conferences and what not that have been held in the dome. If anyone would go to the dome in the morning they would see hundred of senior citizens walking in the dome, I think the dome is used by everyone in the community from senior citizens to young children. It is used for various groups all across Michigan, so I think it has been very successful.

JS: How is it, how has it been for accommodating(?) the different sports at the olympic training center office?

JK: Almost all of our sports would use the dome for their training sessions, primarily dry land training sessions, we do not have any team currently that's training with us that is housed in the dome that is number one training facility there are some sports that we have considered that may end up in the dome at some point in time. To be frank the dome is so busy right now with other activities I am not sure if there would be time in the dome for us to if we would recruit a sport to be headquartered in the dome, I'm not sure if there would be time to get in there for 3 hours at a time for a training session.

JS: There has been some concern in the past over University money spent on the superior dome on building, do you feel that the university has been collecting in other areas on putting money into the superior dome?

JK: I really can't speak to that because I'm not directly involved in the operation of the superior dome I'm not sure where all the funding comes from for that facility.

JS: Do you think there's enough involvement for the sports training center.

JK: Obviously I'm very close to the sports training center and I would like to see much more involvement. It really is a unique program. There are three other Olympic training centers in the country, New York; Colorado, Springs Colorado; and that new one building up actually in April, in San Diego, California but Northern Michigan University has the sole exclusive right to be the only United States olympic education center anywhere in the country. I think that's the special and I'm very proud of it and athletes work very very hard and I think they've been both successful in the class and in the Olympic games and other international competitions and no I don't think there's been enough community involvement with the program or with the student population on campus I would like to see that extended but that's a difficult challenge to do everybody has their own priorities and athletes are busy in what they're doing so it's difficult to really explain the olympic education center story to the entire campus population.

JS: Has spending twice as much on the sports training center been a good thing or a bad thing?

JK: I'm not sure you got those figures right, I'm not aware of us spending twice as much on the sports training center. To my knowledge Northern Michigan University's general fund has never directly supported the Olympic training center or the olympic education center there has been additional funds that have channeled through the university from the state of Michigan to the support the olympic facilities efforts but never any general fund dollars that I'm aware of.

JS: How many different types of sports are trained here?

JK: At the current time we have six resident athlete training programs (tape goes blank)