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Angela Sandretto's
interview with
Dominic Jacobetti Jr.

My name is Angela Sandretto. My interview will be on February 12, 1993. I will be interviewing Dominic Jacobetti Jr. It will be a topical interview mainly on Mr. Jacobetti's basketball career but also his teaching career. The interview will take place at National Mine School.

Me: Mr. Jacobetti when were you born?

Mr. J: February 15, 1946.

Me: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Mr. J: Yes, I have an older sister and an older brother. My sister, Judy, is 50 years old. My brother Collin is 48.

Me: O.K. What were your parents names?

Mr. J: My parents names are Dominic Jacobetti Sr. and Marie Jacobetti.

Me: O.K. Um. What is your wifes name?

Mr. J: My wifes name is Debbie.

Me: ^{O.K.} What are your childrens names?

Mr. J: My childrens name are Dominic Jacobetti the III, Anthony Jacobetti, Julie Ann, and Tracy Lynn.

Me: O.K. How old are your children?

Mr. J: Dominic the III is 23, Anthony is 20, Julie Ann is 16, and Tracy Lynn is 15.

Me: And what are your parents occupations?

Mr. J: My father has been a state representative for 38 years. He is on his 19th term which would give him 40 years of service plus he had worked as a miner, underground miner for 16 years before he went into this occupation.

Me: Um hmm. O.K. Did your mother have a job?

Mr. J: My mother worked periodically through the years off and on as ^{uh} in the clothing store, uh, but mainly she has been a house wife.

Me: O.K. What is it like having a dad that's well known?

Mr. J. Well, there are pros and cons, Angela, uh. Some of the pros are that alot of people ask you questions about your dad and there is hardly a day goes by when someone won't ask me ^{that}

"how's your dad doing" or "what does he think of uh what's going on" and I kind of like to socialize with people and talk to them about things, different things that are going on uh today in our state. Some of the cons are people tend to try to get to my father through me by asking me to uh ask him certain questions for them or ask me if I ^{can} ask him to help them. And that gets kind of hard at times. But its kind of, its fun and its interesting and its exciting.

Me: O.K. Um. Did your mother have to raise you and your brothers and sisters by herself anytime?

Mr. J: A lot of times my mother had to perform most of the duties as far as raising us because my dad had to be in Lansing and when he first started uh. it was hard for him to travel back and forth so there were times when maybe he would get home maybe once a month. But he was very concerned and always right there when we needed him. So there really wasn't a problem with that. My mother did do a beautiful job.

Me: Uhmm O.k. And where did you go to school?

Mr. J: I went to school at Negaunee St. Paul.

Me: What was that school like?

Mr. J: It was a very nice school. I have a lot of fond memories of the school. It was a very friendly school. It was like one big family. Everyone cared about each other. Everyone helped each other. Uh, so I had a lot of good experiences at that school.

Me: o.k. Do you have any special memories about growing up in this area?

Mr. J: Mainly, the memories I have, Ang, about this area is that it was always a safe, and a friendly place to grow up. You always felt that the home people were always very friendly with you and uh, there wasn't a lot of ~~these~~ things to worry about like today. uh Even so around here a little more than it was back when I was growing up about the crime that goes on, drugs, and uh things like that. But basically my fondest memories are the peacefulness of this area.

Me: Um. When did you start playing basketball?

Mr. J: I probably started, really playing, Ang, a lot when I was probably in about fourth

grade. It was always a big part of my life and I would say organized basketball probably when I was in fifth grade. I started to play and I continued playing uh right through school, Right through my high school days and into my college days.

Me: You were on a team all the time?

Mr. J: Yes, I was on a team at Negaunee St. Paul, a Junior High team 7th + 8th grade. And then varsity 9 through 12 and then on into college basketball.

Me: O.K. What did the kids like to do when you were a teenager?

Mr. J: Pretty much what the kids like to do today. uh, we liked to uh, did alot of skating, ice skating, that was really a big thing. uh, play alot of different sports, baseball, basketball, football. Go to dances. We had a U center and that was always a big place to be on a Friday and Saturday. So we had alot of fun doing things like that. We never had alot of things they have today like snowmobiles and probably the variety they have today, but the things we did have we really enjoyed.

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Me: Yeah, o.k. Where did they "hang out" in your town?

Mr. J: Mostly on the basketball courts ^(laughing) during the day. Basketball was probably the big thing then. That was the only thing and the big thing. So that's what we probably did most of all but we also had a place called the "Teen Tap" in Negaunee. It had Pinball machines, and you could buy hamburgers and have malts and things like that so we hung around at the "Teen Tap" a lot.

Me: o.k. What did you and your friends do when you were teenagers, just play basketball?

Mr. J: Lot like I mentioned earlier, lot of basketball, lot of sports but a lot of other activities too, such as hunting, ^{and} fishing, and sledding, and a lot of skating.

Me: o.k. How old were you when you found your first job?

Mr. J: uh, part time job, Ang, I was probably about 15^{or} 16 years old uh, when I had my first part time job.

Me: O.K. Where did you work at?

Mr. J: Uh, I was^{uh} surveying highways for^{uh} the highway department through the state, Uh in the summertime.

Me: O.K. What types of duties did you have to perform on your first job?

Mr. J: Uh, mainly staking out new highways. um, one that comes to mind all the time is uh to me now is the highway down in the Skandia area that was all just bare uh field and we surveyed and put in a brand new highway there.

Me: O.K. What stands out most in your mind about your first job?

Mr. J: Well, the excitement of knowing that I was going to be making some money.

That was a big thing at 16 years old. And meeting new people and seeing what it was like to really go out and have to work eight hours a day and be on a job.

Me: O.k. How many total years did you play basketball?

Mr. J: Probably, I would say, Ang, at least a good 35 years of organized basketball.

Me: O.k. Did you ever play in a basketball league?

Mr. J: Yes, I played in uh, Negaunee independent basketball league for probably 22 years. And had alot of success there. Uh, I insure most people heard of the NIT basketball Tournament in Negaunee. And we, the teams I played on we won the most trophies, first place trophies as, uh, then any other team in that tournament. So we had alot of success there, and it was exciting, and just great.

Me: Umhm. O.K. um. Do you have any special moments that stand out about this aspect of your life?

Mr. J: Yes, there are numerous moments that stand out, but just to mention a few that, uh, being named uh, most valuable player in that NIT tournament six times was a great honor. Being selected to the All State Team three years consecutively in high-school was a great honor. Ending up scoring the most points, more points, than any other player in the Upper Peninsula history was a great honor... uh, being selected to the U.P. Sports Hall of Fame was a tremendous honor. It goes on and on but the thing that I remember the most is that I was always taught to be humble about your aculates and that that you received. And uh, this has paid off because it tends to rub off on other people and other people understand what it is, through you, to be successful but still be a down to earth person.

Me: How many years did you play in the league?

Mr. J: In the league I played approximately 20, about 22 years I would say.

Me: During your lifetime where were you employed the longest?

Mr. J: I was em, I've been employed the longest in uh NICE School District Ang, uh, I started out in Champion and I coached Varsity basketball, And I taught in the high school for uh, 5 years, and then I taught middle school for four years and then when we consolidated into the NICE School District I taught uh at various schools in the district, so I would say I have about, approximately 15 years in the NICE School District and I had 9 years with the Champion School District.

Me: What did you teach at those schools?

Mr. J: At, when I first started out teaching

uh, at the champion high school, I was teaching uh, Science and health, and half time physical education.

Me: How or why did you choose this career?

Mr.J: Well, I attended Northern Michigan University, Ang, and it's basically a teaching college and as the years went on I started to see or feel that I would really enjoy a career in teaching. Uh, I had a great care for people and a great care for children and I thought that through the experiences I had through my life, uh, I just really felt that I would like to share them with the children ~~and~~ in the other schools.

Me: o.k. How many hours a day did you practice playing basketball?

Mr.J: Oh, Ang, I was knowing for practicing basketball all through the area, Ishpeming, Marquette, Negaunee. I used to practice at least

eight or ten hours a day. It was like an obsession with me. When it was 95° and everyone was out swimming, I was out on the highway, basketball court, right across from Nelson-Chevrolet, I was out practicing by myself, I'd be the only one out there, but I used to really enjoy it and I had a just a feeling that I wanted to really excel at the game. And I wanted to really go places with the game, and it all paid off because it ended up paying probably for most of my college education. And it opened a lot of doors throughout my life, so it was all worth it.

Me: Yeah, o.k. What was the most rewarding part of your basketball and teaching careers?

Mr. J: I would say probably one of the most rewarding uh, times in my basketball career was when we went down, we played in the state championships down in Lansing in ~~Genesee~~^{Jeneseion} Field House.

I was a sophomore in high school, my brother was a senior, and we were one of the few brother combinations to ever play in a state championship. And I'll always remember my mother and father being there and I was just so excited that I knew that this is something we all dreamt about, one day being in the state championship. And when I was in sixth grade, my brother was in eighth, my father took us out onto the playing floor in Jenesion Field House and he told us, he looked at us and said "would you like to be here one day?" and we said "yes." He said well then you have to go home and you have to work. He said one day you might be here. Two years from that time, two or four years from that time we were there. And that was a big thing in my dad's, my father's life because he just loves sports and he followed us so hard and was such a big inspiration to us. It just was so gratifying to know that we were there for him.

Me: o.k. What was the most challenging or difficult part of your careers?

Mr. J: The most challenging, Ang, was probably first, when we first, first starting your career. You have so many, you're unsure of so many things. You wonder if you can really succeed at what your doing. Uh, you have alot of unanswered questions in your mind. Uh, I would say probably the first year of a career is probably the most challenging, because of this situation.

Me: o.k. Did any of ~~the~~ your family members play basketball, besides you and your brother?

Mr. J: They didn't have girls basketball back then so it was mainly my brother and I, although my father was an all U.P. selection and a captain of his team when he played in 1938. So he was known on the basketball courts himself.

Me: O.K. Could you please describe what your co-workers are like?

Mr. J: Very humorous, very fun to work with, always willing to help, if you're in need. Uh, just real nice people to be around. Very cooperative, uh, very sincere.

Me: What about your, um, team members on the basketball teams?

Mr. J: Uh, I'll probably never forget the team members that I played with. Uh, we shared a lot in common, we worked hard, they were uh very cooperative. I'll never forget in the last home game of my senior year, at the Lakeview Gym in Negaunee, the scoring record on the floor for an individual game was 44 points, And before the game started, the coach said to the team members, "We want uh Duke to break the record tonight. His last game." So they asked me if I wanted to do it, and I said, "I don't know if I can."

Mr. J: Well, they fed me the ball for the whole game. And I ended up scoring 51 points with still 2 minutes and 30 seconds remaining in the game. So they helped me break that record which was something else. Plus, another thing that I really remember about my team members, a lot of them were, were not in the spot light or recieving all the glory. They didn't get to play all the time, but those are the people that I cherish and remember the most, because it had to be alot harder on them to stick with practicing every night and working hard and being in the background.

Me: Um hm. Could you describe some interesting or humorous events that happened during your careers?

Mr. J: Well, there were alot of interesting events, Ang, and alot of humorous events that happened throughout my careers. One humorous event

Mr. J: that I think was humorous is, we were scheduled to play in a basketball tournament in Iron Mountain and uh, so we left thinking that we played on a Saturday night ^{and} we didn't have the schedule down properly. So we went all the way to Iron Mountain and we were all set to go and we got to the gym and we were the only ones there. The game wasn't scheduled until Sunday. So we had to turn around and come all the way back. Uh, it wasn't too humorous in the beginning, but we laughed about it all the way home. Another interesting event is, uh, when

I was playing in city league basketball, we went down to the tournaments, the state ~~tournaments~~ championships, in Lansing. We drove all, back home all day Sunday, we got home about 9:00 in the evening. And we turned around and packed our bags and we left for a tournament in Hermansville which started at 12:00 midnight.

And we played in that game at midnight and drove all the way back home. So that was, that's something that I think about today. I'll probably never do that now.

Me: Yeah, O.K. What made you want to play basketball?

Mr. J: It was like I said earlier, it was the thing when we were kids. Basketball was it. And it was a good ~~pastime~~ pastime and I just enjoyed playing, even if it was by myself, just shooting and practicing. I just loved to do it. And I knew it was ahead, I went to a lot of basketball games and I watched a lot of players when I was younger. And you tend to use those people as roll models. And I would go home and try and do the same thing and it just kept giving me more incentive and more incentive.

Me: Hm.hmm. o.k. At anytime did you feel * like changing careers?

Mr.J: At times I thought about, Ang, I had alot of people through the years say to me I suppose your getting ready to run for your dad's seat. And alot of people felt that I would do a good job in politics. And it did pass through my mind many atimes, but, wh, I do like what I'm doing and it's a nice relaxing profession, you can help alot of people in this field. So I kind of pushed it out of my life.

Me: Oh, O.k. Did you receive any special awards from your basketball career?

Mr.J: Yes, um, I received some very nice honors, Ang, through the years.

Mr J: Um, I was all conference for four years, one of the few players in the history of the Upper Peninsula to ever make all U.P. three years in a row. And I mentioned earlier all State three years in a row. That's the top best, five players in the state of Michigan. So and another, uh, being selected to the U.P. Hall of Fame was great. And having the honor of being leading scorer in the Upper Peninsula history in a four year career. Plus one honor that stood out in my mind also, is when I was a sophomore in high school, & right before our championship game uh, I was named to the all class, all tournament team. Which was quite an honor because that was A, B, C, D schools all combined. They picked 5 best players and I was chosen as the captain uh, to

lead that team, so that was just a tremendous honor.

Me: Am. Himm. Do you have any special stories to tell about your days playing basketball?

Mr. J: Well, Probably put it in one, sum it up is it was exciting, uh, just a tremendous experience, uh, it does alot for a person, uh, afterwards uh and it teaches you to accept losing as well as winning, uh it teaches you ^{how} to deal with tough situations through life. uh, I just cannot say enough what that game has done for me through the years.

Me: hm. hmmm. What were your fondest memories of your working days?

Mr. J: Being able to work with alot of many, many hundreds of just of great, great kids.

Mr. J: Uh, kids that you can see that are going to go places in this world. Kids that are sincere, uh kids that are honest, kids that want to make something of themselves. Kids that will give you 110% when you ask them. Uh, children to me, uh, mean a lot, and is a very imp, is a very important thing to me. I like to see people succeed, and I like to see them have a chance to succeed. So, these things here are the things that keep me going in what I'm doing.

Me: Hm Hm. O.k. Did you ever consider going out for an NBA basketball career?

Mr. J: It was always in the back of my mind, Ang, it would have been a great thing to be able to pursue

Mr. J: something like that. But after I played all the years I did, um, I kind of pushed it out of my mind, I was ready to settle down, and just start my career in uh, in the teaching field. And if maybe with another 5" of height maybe I would have had a better shot at it. (laughing)

Me: O.k. If you had to do it all over again, would you choose the same career?

Mr. J: I think I would. It's been very rewarding, & I'm doing a lot of things that I like to do, uh, coaching basketball, coaching track. So it's all like you're living your high school days. It seems like it never leaves. You're always involved, you're seeing other people do what you did. And it's uh very rewarding.

Me: O.k. When did you start coaching basketball?

Mr. J: uh, I started coaching in 1969-1970 at Champion High School.

Me: What did you coach there?

Mr. J: I was the varsity basketball coach, I was the varsity track coach, varsity baseball coach, varsity cross country coach, and I taught, also taught the 7th and 8th grade basketball team.

Me: O.k. In closing do you have anything else you would like to add about either of your careers?

Mr. J: Just that they've been very rewarding, uh memories that will stay with me as long as I live. Uh, just meeting a tremendous amount of great people. And being able to help someone when they need help uh is probably one of

Mr. J: the most important things in my mind. And I'm glad, I want to be available to do this for people. I want to give them something that I had in experienced and I want to see people succeed. If, I think that's why a teacher is in the field that he's in. They care about children and they care about kids, And they want to see them succeed.

Me: O.k. well, thank you. That's all I have.

Mr. J: O.k. Oh, Ang, is it working? I just want to say that you were a former player of mine and a cheerleader this year for my 8th grade team. And it's just been a pleasure having you uh, as, being as a person you are, always giving 110%. It's great to have been associated with you.

Mr. J: I'm really going to miss you after you leave this year. We had a lot of fun experiences, and I'm sure you remember the games that we played. So just continue the good work and Mr. Jacobetti thinks the world of you.

Me: Oh, thank you.

Stories and Philosophies of Mr. Jacobetti

Mr. J: My name is Dominic Jacobetti Jr. I was born February 15, 1946. I lived in Negaunee, Michigan all my life. I attended Negaunee St. Paul High School. I have one older sister, Judy, and an older brother Collin.

I went to a private school, Negaunee St. Paul. We were taught by nuns.

Mr. J: The school was a very strict and a very high level learning school. Some of the things I remember that stand out in my mind through the school year was that when we changed classes, at the private school, all the girls had to walk down one side of the hall and all the boys on the other. This really was an experience when I first started teaching at school at Champion High School. I remember the first class I was teaching and the bell rang and everyone poured out into the halls. Girls and boys just cluttered in the halls. I was just astounded to see that how they dismissed from their classes. As the years went on I guess I did get used to this, but I always did like the other way better. There were, the students were under control, and minding their own business and doing what they were supposed to do. Also, at Negaunee St. Paul, the nuns were very dedicated to their profession. They

Mr. J: loved God as their number 1 goal in life. And their number 2 goal was to make sure we as students learned and were prepared for life. This I always did remember about the sisters of St. Joseph. They ~~xx~~ did this out of their heart, they were not paid. This was not a job, this was something they wanted to do in their lives, with their lives. I have a lot of fond memories of Negaunee St. Paul. I played my four years of high school basketball at Negaunee St. Paul. They had a very good feeding program. Through the years, we had a 7th and 8th grade basketball intramural league plus a 7th and 8th junior high ~~team~~ ^{grade} basketball league. When I was in sixth grade, I was allowed to play on the 7th + 8th grade intramural

Mr. J: league. Which this made, pleased me very much. And helped me alot through, preparing for my highschool days. I played probably, started to play basketball probably, pretty regularly when I was about in 4th grade. I'll never forget when I was in kindergarten, that's a long time ago and that's most people do not have memories of kindergarten. I remember walking into the gym with our class, and they had just put up new glass bank boards. I found a ball and shot the ball and it went in and I was so excited, and the boys and girls in my kindergarten class were so excited that I made the basket, It seemed like I just, that was something that I just loved to do. As time went on, I started to enjoy it more and more and I would practice probably 8 to 10 hours on the average per day. One of the basketball ^{courts} that I did practice ^{alot} on is still in existance. It's the basketball court on U.S. 41 right

across from Nelson-Chevrolet. I would spend 8 to 10 hours there in the summer. ~~while~~ Most of my friends would be swimming or fishing. But I eliminated those things in my, while I was striving to reach a goal to be, excel at something that I loved. I would pack a lunch, and take a lunch with me and stay there all day. If it rained I would stay under the picnic table and wait till it stopped raining. I was obsessed with it, I just loved it. I wanted to be the best. As time went on, as I entered my freshman year in high school, I was brought right up to the varsity basketball team. Before I go onto that, we were the junior high 7th and 8th grade basketball champions. In 8th grade someone had told my father, "you have a real good basketball player in your family." My dad said, "oh, I imagine he's o.k

Mr. J: So he did come to see a game, he was impressed. He never missed a basketball game from that year on. When I was a freshman at Negaunee St. Paul I was brought up to the Varsity and I was a starter on the Varsity as a freshman.

This wasn't heard of too often. My father for four years, ~~so~~ that I played in high school, would fly home on Tuesday nights from Down State, and he would fly back that night and he would be back Friday again to watch us play. He was just ah, was a tremendous sport, sports enthusiast, and to have my brother, Collin, and myself playing on the same ^{basketball} team was the highlight of his life. He wow, our success is highly due to the enthusiasm he showed. The support, the spirit, the backing at every game. When we were in, ~~when I~~ when I was in sixth grade and my brother was in eighth, we were down in Lansing ~~visit~~ visiting our family, visiting my dad. ^{And} He took us to the Genesis Field House where the state championships were played.

Mr. J: He asked us if we would like to play there some ~~the~~ day and we said, ~~yes~~ "yes we would." He said, "then you have to get home and go to work." 3 or four years later, when I was a sophomore in high school, we were in the state championship game, a dream come through. Something we had talked about as a family, something my dad, my brother, and I had talked about, something I had strived for all the years that I have played. Here it was, reality. I'll never forget, people from all over the Upper Peninsula were down at the game. People were looking for tickets, they were asking my dad for tickets. My dad was giving him all the tickets he could get his hands on so they could, make sure they could see the game. I'll never forget he looked at my mother, 10 minutes before the basketball game was to begin, said, "Marie", he said, "I gave all the tickets away," he said, "What are we going to do now?" They went to the

Mr. J: Field house and they did get two tickets and he told the guy at the, the man that was taking ~~the~~ tickets he said, "My two boys are playing, I have to get into the game." He let them go into the game, they were sitting up in the top row about 50 rows up from the floor. Even though they gave up all their good seats he said, "It was one of the most exciting moments in his life, to have two sons, a brother combination playing in a state championship basketball game." That afternoon I was also selected as a sophomore to the all state basketball team. The all state basketball team is the best five players in the state of Michigan. I was nominated the captain of that team. Later that, after our game, that afternoon, I was elected to the all class, all tournament team which was an honor I never expected, never dreamed to ever receive. I was just elated. My family was elated. People from the Upper

Mr. J: Peninsula were elated. It was just, gave me so much more, so much incentive, for the next two years that I had. played that I practically lived on a basketball court. People knew me and associated me with a basketball. I'd dribble from Negaunee to Ishpeming to play in a basketball game on a Saturday, during the week anytime. I was always with a basketball. I lived and dreamed a basketball. I ~~slept stepped with~~ slept with a basketball. By doing this, it did pay dividends in the long run. I went on to college and it helped pay for my college education. I was on a Grant and Aid scholarship. I played four years at Northern Michigan University. I saw alot of the country through those years. I went to places such as New Orleans, Las Vegas, Montana, Colorado, the Air Force Academy. Just numerous places throughout the country in my four years at Northern. It was one great experience all due to basketball.

Mr. J:

Some of the awards that I received throughout my playing career uh, I was elected to the all state team three times. This honor was just a tremendous honor. That just includes the best five players or top players in the state of Michigan. I was captain of the all state team. I was selected to the All U.P. team three times, which is a great honor. And also I was selected to the All conference team four years straight. One, another honor that I received here just recently I was ~~nominated~~ nominated into or inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame, U.P. Sports Hall of Fame. That was just a tremendous honor, And a moment that I won't forget. One of the reasons I was nominated into the Sports Hall of Fame was that I had scored a total of 2,140 points in my four year career. This labeled me as the highest scorer or an individual that scored the most points in the history of any basketball player in the Upper Peninsula.

Mr. J: This was just a tremendous honor. I did not know at the time till the end of the last game of my senior year that I had achieved this goal as far as a point production. This was not a goal of mine, this was just something that happened. It ended up as being a great honor, As there was many great basketball players that have come out of the Upper Peninsula in many years, in many, many years. Besides basketball, I also enjoyed other things such as skating, I used to love to skate, play hockey. I used to love to play baseball. As kids we would attend dances, junior high dances. We had a U center and right through high school we had a U center and that was our place to gather and enjoyed that to a great extent. Probably one reason why was not to dance with girls but they had a ~~ping~~ pingpong table 2 pingpong tables, or 3 or 4 pingpong tables and pool tables. I probably spent most of my time back there in competition trying to uh, playing against others and always having little tournaments in the back of the U center. This was probably the main reason for wanting to be up there.

Mr. J: Just like to touch a little bit on uh, what lead to being successful. The main reason probably for being successful was uh, having great support from my parents, my father and my mother. Always, they were always right there, always very enthusiastic, great following, always, never missed a ball game, always made sure you had what you needed to compete, made sure you ate right. My mother was great for that. Always made sure that I had the proper food to eat, uh, a pre game meal, always was just so supportive.

My father was a very avid sports lover. He would, before basketball games, before big games he would take my brother and I and lock us, close the door in a room and lock the door and talk to us. He'd inspire us. He'd bring tears to our eyes. Just to stand there, ~~and~~ to look and see ^{him} ~~him~~ motivate us, and ^{to} see how motivated he was. I remember the game we played down in 1963, We played in a district tournament championship, against champion ~~the~~ High School

Mr. J: The HedgeCock Fieldhouse was packed to the rafters. The game ended up, it went into three overtimes, it ended up with 5 seconds to go we had the ball, the ball was thrown into me, and I had taken a shot ^{from} approximately 25-30 feet and it went in. It almost ~~tore~~ tore the net off. It was so clean, that was from practicing all the many hours I talked about on the courts outside. My father was so excited, my ~~mother~~ mother, my father came down out of the second balcony without using the stairs in HedgeCock Fieldhouse. Through the rope that was supported and held by the state police to keep people off the floor, through there and out onto the middle of the floor, just hands up in the air and just so excited and so happy and so thrilled that this we had won that tournament game. We then ventured on to our dream, playing in the State championship game in Lansing, Michigan. The place where my father had worked for maybe 5, 10, 15 years. It was like his home town.

Mr. J: He had two boys playing in the state championship. It brought back the memory of him asking us, "Would you like to play here someday." If you would you have to go home and go to work." We worked and here we were playing in the championship game. My father, there ~~was~~ were people from all over the Upper Peninsula at this game, from the Copper Country, down to through Marquette County. My dad had given away all his tickets so that, for the basketball game. People were looking for tickets and he gave them away. 10 minutes before the game was to start, he looked at my mother, and he reached in his sport coat pocket and ~~took~~ ~~at my mother and~~ ~~said~~ looked at my mother and said, "Marie, we don't have a ticket to get in the game. They ~~has~~ hurriedly went to the field house and told the ticket taker that he was out of tickets and he had two ^{sons} ~~boys~~

Mr. J: playing. They let him in the, he and my mother in ~~the~~ to Jencision Field House, they ended up in the 50th row which was way up in the back, as far back as you could go. But they were just thrilled that they could get back, get into the gym, into the field house to see the ball game. It was a great day. That afternoon I was selected as a Sophomore to the all-state team, and I was also selected to the all class, all tournament team. That was an honor that I never, ever expected to receive. I was just thrilled as a sophomore to be honored in this fashion. My dad and mother sat up in the 50th row, my mother told me the story later that tears just streamed down her eyes as they watched my brother and I throughout that afternoon. This, a brother combination in a state championship game was very rare. This was so special and

Mr. J: a memory that I'll never forget as long as I live.

Besides the sports, it carried, sports carry over and build alot on a character, it builds alot of confidence, and they help you deal with alot of things that, problems and things that arise during life, throughout life. That's why I like to see individuals, boys and girls, participate in athletics. It brings out the best, it keeps you competitive, it keeps you sharp. It also builds a tremendous amount of pride, pride that cannot be taken away from you. You earn things that, earn different awards and different things throughout your year that ~~no~~ ^{no} one can ever take away. It's all written in the record book. Everything you work for and you earn will never be erased.

I'd like to just talk a little bit about my philosophy as far as school and as far as life. My father worked in the mines for 16 years before he became a state representative for the state of

Mr. S: Michigan. He worked in Rock Drift at the Athens Mine. They drilled with jackhammers everyday. That was their way of making their living. Those days they weren't paid by the hour, they were paid by the foot. So they had to work very hard to make a good days wage. They earned everything they got. My father was the President of the union. He was a strong leader. Steel armed and steel fisted as he is today in the Michigan legislature. He lead the first strike, longest strike in 1946. I was born a strike baby. 100 day strike. They would not go back underground until they received what they had coming. A fair wage for a fair days work. People believed in my father. They selected him as a leader. In 1954 they wanted him to run for state representative so he could do more for this area, for the mining company and for jobs to help the economy. He had to make a big choice, whether to stay and be a captain in the mine, or to run for state representative.

Mr. J: Well, he ran for state representative in 1954 and has been there ever since, 38 years going on 39 and 40. He's known in Lansing as the godfather. A lot of people call him Jake. He's known as the godfather for his leadership, for his character, and for caring, and his compassion for people. For caring about people having jobs, lunch, dinner buckets on people's tables, for caring about old people, for caring about all people. These lessons were taught to me as a very young boy, and they have carried through thus far in my life. My father had taught me to care for people. It was something that was imborned in me to start, but he brought it ~~up~~ out, my mother and father always said, "help ~~be~~ sympathetic with people, be whatever you can to help people."

A little story my dad had told me as; when he ~~was~~ was a boy, he was, he lived in the Patch location in Negunee. They were up on the hill playing one Saturday afternoon and they all decided they wanted to go to the show. So they ran down

Mr. J: the hill and ran to their houses to ask for money. My dad walked into his home, my grandmother, grandma Jacobetti was standing over the table baking homemade bread with her big apron on, ~~my~~ my dad looked up at her and said, "Ma, can I have a dime to go to the show?" She looked down at him with tears in her eyes and said, "Dominic, I don't have a dime to give you to go to the show."

~~They~~ They were poor, hard working people. My dad was hurt, he didn't understand. He ran out into the garage, they had chickens ^{out in} the garage. He stayed in ~~there~~ there all day and he cried and he learned to go without. He said he stayed in there all day but when he came out, he came out stronger. He came out fighting and he had made a statement that people should never have to go without, people, I'm going to make sure people do not have to go without, and do the best I can to make sure they do not have to go without.

Mr. J: That made my father strong. He related these ideals to us as his children, and to me and it carried through through life. He always said do a little extra. Never be satisfied. And that's just what we've been trying to do and doing.

I've learned to care about children and to care about people the same way. One situation that I came across in school, a little boy named Brian Adams, a handicapped boy, had very poor coordination. He could not do a lot of things, he could not run. I would carry him around in games and run with him on my ~~to~~ shoulders and he would laugh and the laugh made me feel so happy to know that Brian was getting something out of what he was doing and he felt important, as important as the other children, he felt he was part of something. I can still hear his laughter over my shoulders. We had to go through some very unpleasant times where I had a lot of spit, a lot of mucus on my shirt from Brian. He could not control his nose from running or his saliva from

Mr. J: running from his mouth when he got excited. But it was worth every minute of it. I love Brian. Also another situation that happened I had a little, I went to get a class to go, come into the gym, and a little girl forgot her tennis shoes. She had a little dirty dress on and she was told to stay in the classroom, she was crying her eyes out and I said I would like to take the little girl in with me. I did take the little girl in. The little girl ran and grabbed me around the leg when we got into the gym and she said, "Mr. Jacobetti thank you. I love you." The little girl, I told her to just go out and enjoy herself and run like the other kids were running. That made me feel good, to know that that little girl didn't have to sit, because she was poor ~~en~~ because I knew her mother or father didn't have enough money to buy her a pair of shoes. When the little girl was in fifth grade, she came back and she said to me, "Mr. Jacobetti, I remembered what you did," and she said, "I'll never forget it."

Mr. J: That's what teaching is all about. Helping, caring, and wanting to do things for others. It's not only $1 + 1$ is 2 or $2 + 2$ is 4 and so on. It's knowing how to help, and how to care, and how to take the time to listen to children, to listen to their problems, to show them by example. And the big thing is to be sympathetic, and the next big thing and the biggest thing is to help, there's a solution to every problem, help. That's my philosophy in teaching is to care for all the children, not whether they be rich or poor, whether they be smart or handicapped, love and care for them all. They are the children of tomorrow. They will be our leaders of tomorrow. Teaching has been a very good profession, good clean living, I've met a lot of wonderful people. I've been into coaching. I've been coaching girls and boys basketball. I've been coaching girls and boys track. I've met a lot of great competitors. I've seen a lot of character ~~to~~ being built in many boys and girls. It brings out the best in people when you have to stand on the line and you're out there alone and you have to run a mile or run 2 miles and you have to stand up tall,

Mr. S: and you have to make your own way. This builds character. This makes a person strong. All sports are great for all individuals. So I would like to see as many people, as many boys and girls as possible participate in some sort of athletics. One thing that I've always loved besides basketball, it's a great sport, is I loved skating. I've always loved to skate. Today I still own skates and I plan on using them. It's one of the best ~~things~~ exercises a person can ask for. So my advice as far as physical education philosophy is to stay with activities, life long activities, activities that you can do for the rest of your life. Skating is an activity you can do for many, many years. Tennis is an activity you can do for many, many years. Stay with some activity. It builds character, it builds people.

One last story I would like to bring up, was a story, something that had happened to me when I was working in the

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Mr. J: Summer, I was in charge of the Negaunee Ice Arena where we would have activities for all children of all ages. I had four or five people working for me at the time. I had one young lady about 18 years old, seemed like a very pleasant person, I did not know the young lady. She seemed to be a little rough around the edges. After a couple weeks of work, the ~~young~~ young lady did not show up for work on a Monday and a Tuesday. I assumed that she had probably just quit her job. The next day on a Wednesday, I received a phone call, the young girl asked me if she could come back to work. I did not question her why she was not there, I told her to come to work and make sure she did come and see me. That day she came to see me and she told me what had happened. She had been picked up for minor ~~in possession~~ possession. Her and three of her friends. She was brought down to the county jail and she had to spend the night in jail. I asked her if her friends were there with her to help

Mr. J: her through this. She said, "no." I explained to her that that's usually the way things happen. When you get into trouble you're all alone. Your friends are not there to help you get out of the situation that you all were in together. I had told her that she was a very nice looking young lady and had a great future ahead of her. But she had to decide what type of life she wanted. She had to make her own way. I explained to her that the road she was on was a dead end road. She had to get a hold of herself. She had a lot to offer people, other people, in a situation where she could help a lot of people. She had a great future ahead of her, but it was up to her. I had tears in my eyes at one point and she looked at me and asked me, she said, "Mr. Jacobetti; you hardly know me, why are you crying?" I told her because I care. I said "I'm not ashamed to cry, because you're not a man until you do cry." You have to care in your heart I told her, I said, "and I really care what happens to you." she broke down crying. She could not believe that someone had cared as much as I cared.

Mr. J: She told me that she did not have a father. Things were hard. She said she had a very good mother, but she really missed having a father. I told her that at any time she had any problems that she thought she wanted to talk about she could call on me. From that day on this young lady, after knowing that someone really cared never missed a minutes time of work, was one of the best workers I had for the rest of the summer. At the end of the summer, I was going over to the ice arena and a car pulled up behind me, a woman jumped out of the car and ran up to me and said, "I'll never be able to thank you enough in this life time for what you have done for my daughter," she said, "I am her mother," she said, "You have made her turn, make a complete turn around in her life." she said, "I'll never forget it." We both stood there and cried. It was a great moment. A moment where you

Mr. J: succeeded in helping someone.
 Someone get on the right track, and
 someone doing the right thing. I
 later wrote a letter of recommendation
 for this young lady to attend Northern
 Michigan University. She was accepted
 and she is still going to college at
 Northern Michigan University. She is
 doing very well for herself. Her mother
 tells me she still asks about me and
 tells her to tell me she'll never forget
 me. These are the things that are
 important in life. Not how much money
 you make, not how much money you
 have, not how much money you'll make
 in a lifetime, how many people did you
 help, how many people did you care about?
 It's easy to turn away, it's easy to turn
 your back to problems and say let
 them handle it their self, I'm all right.
 That's not what we in America are
 supposed to do. It's not what you say

Mr. J: it's what you do. And we of the, in the United States of America do, we're doers. We love to help people, and we will continue to help people. I hope that some of these stories that I have told will have an impact on the people who read the story or listen to this tape. I hope you will carry this in your heart where you will have more of a wanting to help and to care about people. This is what life's all about. I want to thank you very much for listening to this tape. My voice is hoarse from coaching basketball games last week. I hope you can bare with it. It was a pleasure talking and sharing some of the experiences I have had through the years. Thank you.