

TRANSCRIPTION OF LIVINGSTON PENI ON JUNE 25, 2007

- C This is Chuck Smrt. Today is June 25th, and I'm in American Samoa. We have several people at the table here and I will let you identify yourself for the recording.
- L My name is ██████████ "██████" ████████i.
- C Okay.
- S Scott Donald.
- C Okay. You can go ahead and identify yourself.
- M I'm ██████████
- C Okay, and we just interviewed ██████████'s mom and she's asked to sit in on the interview and that's great and we've asked her to the best of her ability to let ██████████ answer the questions. And ██████████, you understand this is being tape-recorded.
- L Yes.
- C Because you will need to say yes or no because of the tape-recorder doesn't pick up you nodding.
- L Yes.
- C Okay, good. You went to Leone High School, right?
- L Yes.
- C For how many years?
- L Three.
- C What was your last year at Leone?
- L Junior.
- C What year was that?
- L 2005.
- C So you got out, you went, 2005-06 was your last year?
- L Yeah.
- C Okay. Did you play in any All-Star Game at any point during your high school career?
- L Nope.
- S How about the Samoa Bowl?
- L No, because the Samoa Bowl is only for like seniors.
- C What's your date of birth?
- L ██████████

- C Okay. Tell me the first time you remember something coming up about the possibility of you going to California.
- L My mom talked to me. I came home from practice and she told me.
- C And what practice was that?
- L Practice at my old school, Leone High School football...
- C It was football practice?
- L Yes.
- C Who did you talk to besides your mom about that possibility?
- L [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] mom and [REDACTED] [REDACTED]'s mom, and then my friends, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], all of them, they called me up.
- S When they called you, were they calling from California?
- L Yes. They told me to come up. They wanted me to come up.
- C Now, [REDACTED] mom and [REDACTED]'s mom, they talked to you in person about that?
- L Yeah.
- C Okay, so they were here obviously when they talked to you in person?
- L Oh, no, only [REDACTED]'s mom, but [REDACTED]'s mom, she called me.
- C Okay. Did you ever talk in person to Jeff's mom?
- L Nope.
- C Okay. You go, what, when did you go over there, what time period?
- L During the summer.
- C Yeah, I know that. You finished up school, how long after school did you go over there, when school got out?
- L Like a month, I think.
- C And on your plane over there, who was, were any other athletes on that plane?
- L No.
- C And as I understand, your mom was not on that plane, you went by yourself?
- L Yeah.
- C So, you got over there. You flew to Sacramento?
- L Stopped in Hawaii and then Sacramento.
- C So, you get there, and what happens when you get there?

S Let me ask a question. How long did you stay in Hawaii?

L Just for a couple of hours waiting for my flight to go to Sacramento.

S Was there anybody there in Hawaii for you to help you?

L Yes, just my mom's friend, because no one was going to wait for me, so she called her friend up to wait for me.

C So you get to Sacramento, and what happens there?

L Coach picked me up. Jeff.

C Go on, what happens next?

L We went home and then we talk a little bit about what's going to happen over there. That's about it. That night.

C And you said, we went home, what's that address?

L All I remember is ██████ Avenue.

C ██████?

L Yeah.

C ██████?

L Yeah.

C And who was living at that address when you got there?

L Everybody. Coach Jeff, his brother, Steve, and other players.

C Go ahead and tell me who those are.

L ██████, ██████, ██████, ██████, and ██████.

C ██████, ██████, ██████, ██████ and you?

L Yeah.

C So there's six athletes and then the two, Jeff and Steve.

L Yup.

C So that's eight people in that house, right?

L Yes.

C Okay. So how were the sleeping arrangements?

L There were three rooms, bedrooms, so two each. Like, we had to share rooms, like roommates.

C Okay. So, I've got three bedrooms, two each. That gets me six people.

L Yup. And there's another room, so there's four room and my coach sleeps in the other room, both of them.

C Jeff and Steve sleep in what room?

L The master room. The main room of the house.

C You mean the main room, like a living room, a family room, or something?

L The biggest room? The master room.

[Everyone talks at once here, so I couldn't pick up]

C A master bedroom?

M Just four rooms together.

C Oh, so there's four bedrooms?

M Four bedrooms.

C Okay. So, when you got over there, school hadn't started yet.

L Nope.

C What did you do during the time you got there until school started?

L Practice.

S Two a day?

L What?

S Were you doing two practices a day?

L No, the whole, like what are you trying to say?

S Are you practicing all day long?

L No, just from around 2 to 5.

S So, you had the mornings off?

L No, morning, we go like weight lifting and then we get rest, we get a break, and then around 2 we go back, but then around 2 we go on the field.

C When you start practice for the season, that's when you do your drills and everything. Are you talking about that or are you talking about just summer workouts?

L Summer workouts.

C So, when you got there, you were involved with summer workouts and you were lifting in the morning, and you were out in the field from 2 to 5?


L We had a game, too. Scrimmage. There was a camp that like all the high schools teams, all the varsity teams from different high school, we had to play each other. That was just for scrimmage.

- C So, when this thing you did in the morning, lifted weights, how many guys were you talking about were doing, lifting weights?
- L The whole team. That's when they introduced me to like the whole team.
- C So, in the afternoon, the same thing, the 2 to 5, that was the whole team again?
- L Yes.
- C Okay. How did you get back and forth to practice?
- L Well, ___ the coach always drive us.
- C Now, we talked about coach being Jeff.
- L Jeff. Coach Jeff.
- C What were Steve's responsibilities?
- L Well, he was Jeff's brother and he became part of the coaching staff.
- C And that was when practice started, he became part of the coaching staff?
- L Because he always come.
- C What did Jeff coach?
- L He coached the defense.
- C Defensive...
- L Coordinator.
- C What did Steve coach when he started?
- L Linemen.
- C Offense or defense?
- L Defense, both.
- C Was there any other line, was there any other defensive line coaches?
- L No.
- C The six athletes that were there, were there any other Samoan athletes there at the same that you were there?
- L Yeah. ██████, but he lives there.
- C Okay. That's ██████, what's his last name?
- L I don't remember.
- C All the Samoan's from here were living in the house with Steve and Jeff?
- r Yes.

- C During that summer...
- L ██████████, that's his last name, ██████████.
- C Okay. And he lived with whom?
- L His parents. He's from there. He's from Stockton.
- C Now did you, so then fall practice starts at some point, right, what type of season did you have during that year you were there?
- L Oh, you mean like the weather?
- C No, what was your record?
- L Oh, we only lost twice.
- C What type of year did you have? Did you have a good season?
- L Yeah. Good?
- S What position did you play?
- L Safety, wide receiver, running back, and corner. All of us played both ways.
- S Did you start both ways?
- L The Samoans.
- S All of you started both ways?
- L Yeah, except for ██████████. He only played one way, and that's defense. He was a middle linebacker.
- C You were there basically for one academic year?
- L Yes.
- C During the time you were there, did you ever pay for your lodging?
- L No.
- C What about your meals?
- L No.
- C Did you ever give Jeff or Steve any money for anything?
- L No.
- C Did any of the guys have cars? Did any of the six of you have cars?
- L No.
- C How would you get to school every day?

- L By car.
- C And who's car?
- L Coach Jeff.
- C I'm trying to figure out, you've got six guys and Coach Jeff...
- L It was like a big car, you know those F-150, the big one.
- M It's a big one, like a van.
- L It's like a Forerunner, but those big kind. It fits all of us.
- C So, it's a van?
- L No.
- M There's six ___ one. It's like a van, but it's not a van.
- L Like a van.
- C Okay.
- S The only F-150 I know of is a pick-up.
- M It's not a pick-up, it's a ____.
- L It's like an Expedition.
- S Alright, now did you guys have your schedules at the same time, so you would start at the same time, ___ the same time on a school day? Do you know what I mean? There are different periods, right? First period, second period...
- L Yeah.
- S Third period. Sometimes when you are a senior, you don't all have the same periods. Did you guys all to all the same classes?
- L No. We had different classes.
- S You had different classes? Okay. But you got out at the same time.
- L Yeah. Started at the same time and got out at the same time but different classes.
- S And then during the football season, you just go to football practice after class, I assume, right?
- L After school.
- S After school, right after school? What happened during when football season was over, did you play any other sport?
- L No. By then, all of them, like, when there was a football season, all the other sports were going on at that time, too.
- S The other ones that you played?

- L When we had time. We tried to join the basketball team, but they didn't let us.
- S Because practice had already begun? The season had already started by the time football ended, right?
- L Yeah.
- S So, then you would just go home after the end of the school day after football ended.
- L No, we still lift weights. They told us to get ready for college.
- S Did they put you in any pre-college testing courses, like for the SAT?
- L Yes. I remember we took about four SAT tests when I was up there. They told us it was for our college.
- S Okay. Did you actually take a course to take the test?
- L Oh, yeah, to get ready for the test? Yes. In school tutoring.
- S In school?
- L Yeah.
- S Did you take any courses outside of school for the SATs?
- L Nope.
- S Did anybody in your house do that?
- L Nope.
- C Usually when the SAT is given, it usually is given on a Saturday morning.
- L Yeah.
- C Is that what you took it, like on a Saturday morning? And you took that four times?
- L Three I think.
- C Do you remember what any of your scores were?
- L No. I came down and they sent it over there?
- C Sent it where, over where?
- L To where we were staying up there.
- C You have to fill out a registration for that.
- L Yup.
- C And you put down the [REDACTED] address?
- L ??
- C How did you pay for the SAT?

- L I didn't pay anything.
- C Do you know what you got?
- L No.
- C What score? Do you know what a NCAA qualifier is? Do you have a general understanding of what it takes to be a NCAA qualifier?
- L Yes.
- C I know you've considered, do you know if you're considered a qualifier now?
- L No.
- C You don't know or you're not a qualifier?
- L I don't know. I haven't seen my score.
- C Did you come home for Christmas?
- L Yeah.
- C How did you get home for Christmas?
- L They pay for my fare.
- C Tell me about how that was arranged.
- L They say that, get ready for Christmas, we going to come down here and spend two weeks with our families. You don't have to worry about anything, they got everything done. All we have to do is just jump on a plane, come down and come back up.
- C And you told you that?
- L Coach Jeff.
- C So, where did you get your ticket to get home? Physically, where did you get that ticket?
- L He gave it to us. Like the day before we were about to come, he we all sat down in the living room and he started passing out our tickets.
- C Okay. And so, they, you didn't pay anything for that?
- L Nope.
- C At school, when you registered, what address were you putting down on things when you were registering for school?
- L I don't know, because they took only parents.
- C Would you have had to fill something out...
- L  Avenue.

- C You put the [REDACTED] Avenue down. Okay. During the whole year you were there was nine or ten months. Did you have any discussions, did anybody ever say anything to you about if you get interviewed by anybody, here's what you're supposed to say?
- L Yeah.
- C Tell me about that.
- L Coach Jeff and Steve told us if we go to school and anybody ask where we are from, where we are stay at, don't say anything, just walk away.
- C The time you were there, did you hang out with anybody, or befriend anybody besides the guys you were living with?
- L Football players.
- C Other football players?
- L And the teacher.
- C Who was the teacher?
- L Momma [REDACTED], her name is Mrs. [REDACTED], but we call her Momma [REDACTED].
- C What type of, you said you had, how did you befriend her, what type of relationship...
- L I was assistant teacher.
- C What did you have to do?
- L I was helping her out with the library, she was a Librarian. She was in the library. I had to help her like clean up in the library, putting books in different aisles.
- C So, you got along well with her?
- L All of us did.
- C Did she know where you were living?
- L Yeah. She wanted to ask. I know, like every time she talks to us, she wants to ask, but I think she's scared.
- C Did you ever tell her?
- L No, she knew, because it was on my like paper that I live on [REDACTED] Avenue Street.
- C Now, your mom gave us a copy of that ticket that you flew back on and, so tell me about how that ticket came about, how was it that you got a ticket to fly home at the end of graduation?
- L After graduation, we went back to home, they gave us the ticket. We had to come here just for two weeks and then go back and then go back and when we get there, we going to go to different colleges, but my mom didn't want me to go back.
- C And during the year, were you recruited? Did you talk to any NCAA schools?
- L A lot.

- C Okay. Did you take any official visits? Official visits are where the school pays for it?
- L Yes. No.
- C Did you go to take any other official where you go on your own?
- L Nope.
- C Okay, so they gave you a ticket and you are supposed to come back for a couple of weeks and where were you supposed to go? Where were you going to go?
- L Santa Rosa.
- C Why were you going to Santa Rosa?
- L Because I had to start off in the junior college because I didn't have the grades to go to straight to a university.
- C And so why Santa Rosa as opposed to some other place?
- L Because that's where I wanted to go there because I talked to my mom and my mom said that my auntie lives there, so I pick that.
- C So, you made the decision about Santa Rosa?
- L Yeah.
- C Have you ever been to Santa Rosa, the college?
- L No.
- C So, you were going to come back, where were going to stay when you come back?
- L They told me that they were going to wait for me and I could stay there until the day that I like I'm about to go into college. Coach Jeff told me that when I come back, call them and they are going to wait for me at the airport.
- C And they were going to take you where then?
- L I was going to stay with them until the day, like, until the day I'm going to the college.
- C Stay with them, meaning staying at the Braden house?
- L Yeah.
- C Do you remember your graduation date?
- L Yeah, oh, no.
- C We have the ticket...
- L June...
- M 3.
- L June 3.

S The date here is June 4th to come home, so June 3 is when they had your graduation.

C Besides the six of you, did any other Samoans come over after the season? After the football season?

L Yeah.

C Who was that?

L [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], I don't know his last name.

C [REDACTED]?

L It was [REDACTED].

S Is it [REDACTED], is that how you pronounce his last name, [REDACTED]?

L I think so.

M [REDACTED]...

S [REDACTED], something like that?

M [REDACTED]?

S [REDACTED]?

M [REDACTED]? go?

S Well, I'm not sure.

C When did they come over?

L After the season.

C And where were they staying?

L Same house. When they came up, they separated us.

C So, tell me about that.

L We had to stay with Coach Steve and the other group of like had to stay with Coach Jeff.

C Okay, so in the fall, what you said earlier about the eight of you, right, the six athletes and the two coaches? Okay. That's in the fall. So, after the football season, these three guys come. Okay, so, then what happens?

L They told us we had to like, they are going to separate us, they're were a lot of us that went up.

C That would be a lot of people. So, then, who went where?

L It was me, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] went with Coach Steve. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] stayed with Coach Jeff.

S Did you have any understanding as to why they split it up that way?

L No.

- C Who stayed at the [REDACTED] house? Did Jeff stay at the [REDACTED] house?
- L Yes.
- C So, then you left the [REDACTED] house?
- L Yes.
- C Where did you go then?
- L _____.
- M Was that the address?
- L I forgot the address.
- C About how long do you think you were at that second address?
- L It was close to the high school, but from the house, it was like 15 to 20 minutes drive.
- S From the new house to the old house?
- L Yeah.
- S So, you got closer to school, but you were a bit farther from your old house?
- L Yeah.
- C About how many months do you think you were at this other house?
- L Just two.
- C So, you were with [REDACTED] [REDACTED], and so [REDACTED] was new to you, because you had been with Eric and Marcus for the first semester, right?
- L Yeah.
- C Did you ever meet [REDACTED] parents?
- L Nope.
- C At graduation, who, what parents were there for graduation?
- L [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED].
- M No, just their dad, son.
- L Yeah.
- M Only the son and the dad.
- C Okay. I asked you earlier about whether you paid for anything, and you said he did not. What did you do for spending money?
- L When?

- C For spending money? If you wanted to go to do something. If you wanted to go to McDonalds, you wanted to go to a movie. What did you do for spending money?
- L Well, movie, there was like a K-Mart like about three blocks away from us, and we would, it was like a habit for us like when we get off of practice, we just walk over there and start buying stuff and then we just eat there and then come back home with like a bunch of food and like a bunch of junk food.
- C Who paid for that?
- L All of us pitch in.
- C That money that you pitched in, where did you get that money?
- L My mom and sister.
- C Did Steve or Jeff ever give you any money?
- L No.
- C How about Coach Verner?
- L No.
- C So, all of your spending money came from your mom, came from your family?
- L Yeah.
- S Livi, did you ever get injured from any of the games where you had to go to a hospital at any time?
- L Yeah. My ankle and back. My back, that was like my injury ever since I was a little kid when I started playing, but I didn't care about my back because I love football.
- S Did you injure yourself while you were at Stockton?
- L Yeah, my ankle.
- S Did you have to go to the hospital?
- L No. There was this clinic. Every time we get injured, whatever, and you feel like something wrong with our body, Coach Verner always take us there.
- S Do you remember where that was?
- L It was close to the school. It was like a two-minute drive. It was close.
- S Was it a different doctor that you saw or...
- L Dr. Hayes.
- S Dr. Hayes?
- C Did you go to him for a physical?
- L Yeah.

- C So, the guy who gave you your physical was the guy you went to if you got injured?
- L Yeah. You know, those clinics were like, you can go there, like to pop your back, like every part of your body.
- S Like a chiropractor?
- L Yeah. They massage you. Those kind of clinics.
- M Where's that clinic that we all went, take all of you.
- L ???
- M There was another clinic that we all went. Not that one son, that one that Verner took you, it's like weren't at the private, but this one is a public one, the clinic that we went to. Either you need to give us some kind of a test that kids had to take or something where all the Mexican were working over there.
- L What?
- M It's in a clinic [she then speaks Samoan]
- C Okay, well any other injuries?
- L No. My hand, that's it.
- S Your hand? Did you get treatment there, at the same place you went for you ankle? And it was the same place that they popped your back?
- L Yes.
- C And the academics, did you, were you ever given any grades that you didn't do the necessary work for?
- L No.
- C So, basically, whatever you got, whatever grade you got, you earned?
- L Whatever grades I got, what?
- C Whatever grades you were given, whatever grades you were given, you did the work for those grades?
- L Yeah.
- C Let's to back to Santa Rosa, did you talk to the coaches there? Did you ever talk to the coaches there?
- L No, because I didn't get a chance because my mom, they wanted me to go back.
- C But between the football season and the time that you came back, you didn't talk to them.
- L No.
- S Has Jeff tried to contact you since you've been back here?
- L Nope.

- C Do they think you're coming back?
- L Not anymore.
- C Why do they think that?
- L It's been a long time.
- C Since you got on the plane, have you talked to anybody from there?
- L Coach Jeff. They were at my graduation.
- C I understand, but once you got on the plane to come back here, have you talked to Coach Jeff since then?
- L Nope.
- C Did you tell Coach Jeff before you left you weren't coming back?
- L No, I just told him that I was going to come back, because I wanted to play.
- C So, what do you believe that they're thinking now about whether you're coming back or not?
- L I think that they don't care anymore.
- C Why do you think that?
- L Because right now they still looking for other kids. That's what they did when I was up there. After the season, like when it's close to the end of the season, they start watching the tapes from down here.
- C How do you know that?
- L Because we watched it together.
- C Tell me about that.
- L We started watching these tape and he is going over and over again until he find that player that he knows that he thinks he's good and then he start asking us like, so you guys know this dude and if we say no, he don't say anything. If we say yes, he just wants more information. That's about it.
- C He is whom?
- M Jeff.
- L Coach Jeff.
- C Where were you watching those tapes?
- L At the house.
- C Was Coach Verner ever involved with watching those tapes?
- L When Jeff like, whenever Jeff finds a player, and then he takes the tape to Coach Verner's house and then he tells Verner about that player.

- C You said, and your mom said, that you guys got free tickets to fly back and forth.
- L Yeah.
- C You didn't pay for your lodging, okay? Does Coach Verner know that?
- L No. He's the one who is paying for our fare.
- C He's what?
- L He's the one who pay for our fare.
- C How do you know that?
- L Because he told me.
- C Coach Verner told you that he paid for your airfare? When did he tell you that?
- L When I just got there and then he didn't see me play, he never see me play and we were about to get ready for our game and he said that the reason why he pay for my fare to come up there because he heard that I'm good, so he said that the night that we were going to play. When I play, and I did good and then he said after I'm going to fly your mom, like I'm going to get your mom to come here and see you. I'm going to let you know that she's going to be in a first-class flight because you did good and you're a good player. So, he told me.
- C Did he ever tell you anything else like that again?
- L No.
- C That was the only time you talked to him about or that he talked to you about that?
- L Yeah.
- C Have you ever flown first class?
- L No.
- M I did.
- C You flew first class?
- M No, I went economy back and then when I came back, I flew first class.
- C You flew first class from Sacramento...
- M _____.
- C Why did you get it one way and not the other?
- M I don't know, that's how they do it, I guess. I guess because they told Livi that _____.
- C And that was your first game?
- L Yeah.
- C Who was that against?

- L All the high school. Games in Lodi, Lincoln...
- M The first game.
- C Your first game, where was your first game?
- L At camp.
- C It was at that camp?
- L We played other team.
- S That's the scrimmage game you were talking about?
- L Scrimmage.
- C So, it was before the scrimmage game when he told you what you just told us he said.
- L He said he measured, he wanted to know my height and how much I weigh and then were about to get ready for a game and he said when you really want to go home, he paid for my fare, because he heard that I'm good. So, he wants to see it that night.
- S Did you have a birthday when you were over there?
- L No.
- S Did any of the boys have birthdays?
- L No.
- C When you switched addresses for the second semester, did you put down the new address or the old address if you had anything?
- L The new address.
- C Because the SAT, you would have taken, if you took it three or four times, you might have taken it in the spring.
- L SAT, we took it and we were at the new house, and we still had to put down the old house address.
- C Are you familiar with something called the NCAA Clearinghouse?
- L No.
- C You could register, you could go online and register at the NCAA Clearinghouse and NCAA schools would have access to your scores. You also could get your scores that way if you wanted, because it would be a good way for you to get that information if you want it, or you can just call SAT and get it.
- L I forgot my pin.
- C You can get a new one. But you said, you mean your pin through SAT? Is that what you mean by your pin?
- L Yeah.

C The Clearinghouse, you are going to be okay with that. You can go online and register at the Clearinghouse, and the Clearinghouse gives you a new pin. But any, that's just kind of FYI, if you want to get your scores.

M Yeah, he needs his scores, because I told my daughter to try and get them over at the high school, because I wanted to go register for this college, but if he doesn't have his SAT, then he has to take the placement test.

C Okay. I think I would like to get the SAT information, so, I'm going to get a release form.

S Okay.

C Okay, so I have to get something out of my car, so I'm just going to turn this off for a second.

[The tape never came on, so I assume this is the end of the interview]

C = Chuck Smrt

S = Scott Donald

L = [REDACTED]

M = [REDACTED]