

TRANSCRIPT OF [REDACTED] ON JULY 25, 2007

C I'm with [REDACTED] and we are in American Samoa, and if you could just state your name for the record so we know what your name is.

T My name is [REDACTED].

C And you understand we're tape-recording our interview?

T Yes.

C Okay. And you're brother is, who is your brother?

T [REDACTED]

C Okay. Just as background, you understand I'm here representing the California Interscholastic Federation?

T Yes.

C And we are here on the island talking to people about their experience of the athletes that have gone over to the United States? You understand that?

T Uh huh.

C Who, now, when your brother went over there, as I understand it, do you remember what year he was over there?

T I know he graduated 2005 at Franklin. I was say 2004, we left for the summer.

C Okay. So, he was there for one year?

T Yeah.

C Okay. And you said, we went there? Did you actually go there?

T Uh huh.

C Tell me about your family background. Why did you go there as opposed to maybe one of his parents?

T Well, our mom is old. She didn't want to, she doesn't really understand English. She understands it, but she doesn't speak it fluently. So when we heard about the program, she was kind of hesitant to let him go being he's the youngest, but then I just kind of pushed it because I thought it was an experience for either to further his education or a good way for him to get into college because he's, his passion is football, so that's why I just kind of pushed it. My mom said okay, if you can go do all his paperwork, then you go, because you know she's not really good with the traveling and the language barriers, speaking English.

C Okay. And you've been teaching at Leoni for how long?

- T Since 2002.
- C Where did you go to college?
- T I went to University of Hawaii, Manoa.
- C And when did you get out of there?
- T I graduated fall 2001.
- C And where is your brother now?
- T He's in California. He's in LA living with relatives right now.
- C Is he in school?
- T Yes, he's in school. Golden State College.
- C Is it Golden State Community College?
- T Yeah, I think so.
- C Is he still playing football?
- T He's still playing football?
- C And, what's he going to do, let's see, the summer, it's the summer now, is he going to go back to Golden State this fall?
- T He has been \_\_\_ about two months. He only calls my other brother in Utah and the last thing I heard about him, there were some scouts coming out of Kansas that wanted him, he was going with, I think he was leaning to that college because I think he's finishing up his two years in Golden State. I believe he mentioned this coming fall he'll be done at that community college.
- C He'll be done at the end of the fall semester?
- T Yeah, at the end of the fall semester. So, he wanted to look into Kansas because he said it's different from California and so uh, he will be working part time and going to school, so...
- C Do you know what college in Kansas?
- T Sorry, no.
- C Okay. I'm from Kansas, so that's why I was curious about that. Okay, well, when, in the spring, in the fall of 2004, the summer of 2004, you were living here, at the house?
- T Yeah.
- C And he was living here, too?
- T Yes.

C So, tell me the first time any of this came up and walk me through what happened.

T The thing was, he had a friend, one of his closest friends when he was in high school. I guess he was up there already living with his brother and playing at Franklin. And then towards the end of spring 2004, he was saying that his friend has been calling him lately, calling here, and saying if he doesn't want to move up there and you know and play football with them and go to school. And I was kind of like well, why are they telling you to come, you know. And then they just said it's a good school and it's a good football program. So, then like a week later, his mother came and I remember her talking about, she said if he doesn't want to come, what do you call that, with the son, and go to school and stuff like that and then we were talking...I called my relatives up there in the same area and stuff and they were saying if he wants to come and play at Franklin, then he could come and stay with us or if he has to stay with, you know, the guy who would look after him. So, I was kind of like, I called the brother up there and we were talking about it, got a feel of the school. My brother was into music also, that was going to be his major after leaving high school. So, I talked to the vice principal when I was up there and if it had music programs, so I was kind of...I called my mom and I said I was up here, saw the campus, I talked to the coaches, I talked to the teachers and the vice principals, and so I think it's a good school for him to stay. So, we made the decision and then he stayed over there. All I did was sign off his registration papers and then he stayed with his friend [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

C Now, what's his friend's name, [REDACTED]?

T Yeah.

C What's [REDACTED]'s last name?

T [REDACTED] a. [REDACTED]

C So, [REDACTED] was up there and [REDACTED] how long had [REDACTED] been up there?

T I think [REDACTED] was up there a year before [REDACTED] came up, so he was there his junior year and his senior year.

C So, they're the same age?

T Yes.

C It's just that [REDACTED] was...

T He went up early.

C Okay. And then you mentioned that they said that, who is they? They said it was a good football program.

T Okay, the mom first when she came here.

C I'm not sure who you're talking about, who's mom?

T [REDACTED]'s mom.

C Jeff? [REDACTED]?

T [REDACTED]. Yeah, [REDACTED] mom.

C [REDACTED]'s mom?

T Yeah.

C She came to talk with you?

T She came to talk to us and said it's a good football program with a school. And then when we went up there, the vice principals and everyone else was talking about a lot of Samoan kids coming up to play. I was like, okay, well, I just wanted to make sure it wasn't just the football that we went up for, but it seemed like that was the only thing that triggered my brother to go first. But then we went up there, they had a good music program, a good school, so I just wanted him to stay up there.

C Now the, you said you have relatives. Where are your relatives in California?

T They used to be in Stockton, when my brother was there. And then when he moved down to LA, they just moved to Utah a year ago. That's my first cousin, her husband.

C And when your brother went there, is that who he stayed with, your cousin?

T Yes. He stayed there, but he would always go over to be at [REDACTED]'s house and stuff like that.

C Who is Jeff?

T Jeff is [REDACTED]'s older brother.

C Jeff is [REDACTED]'s older brother?

T Yes. He was the one that [REDACTED] was living with.

C And what's Jeff's last name?

T The same last name as his momma.

C Okay. Time wise, when did you go over there?

T We went summer of 2004.

C Do you remember what month?

T I remember it was late in May, the last week in May. We stayed there the whole summer.

C You stayed there the whole summer?

Yeah. I came back like mid July.

Before you went over, you talked with, well, [REDACTED] talked with your brother and then you talked with [REDACTED]'s mom?

T Yeah.

C Did you talk with anybody else?

T No.

C There's a coach at Franklin named Jeff Seumaala.

T Seumaala?

C Did you ever meet him?

T Jeff. That's the same Jeff?

C Well, I don't know. Is this Jeff, does he coach?

T Yes, he coaches. I know he was going over issues when he was saying his mom was trying to change his last name, so maybe he finally went through with that. His mom and his dad were divorced. I think that's the same Jeff because that was the only Jeff that was coaching.

C So, [REDACTED] mom is Jeff's mom?

T Yes.

C Okay. Where is [REDACTED] mom?

T She lives here, I know that... in Leone?

C Do you remember her first name?

T I think her name was Manu, M-a-n-u.

C Do you know her, do you think her last name is the same?

T The same, Mauga, yeah.

C Did you know her before?

T I met her like in church and stuff like that before.

C And what church is that?

T She goes to this Fellowship of Glow, I don't know, I'm Catholic, but we had some functions together with their church, so that's why we met.

C You said you knew her before she called you?

T Uh huh.

C So, she called you, [REDACTED] had talked with your brother and then [REDACTED] mom called, and what did she say?

T Well, she said if I was the sister and I said yeah, and then she was talking to me about how, I guess her son already talked to my brother. She wanted to talk to me or my mom about what if, does

██████████ would want to go up and go to school in Stockton because she knew we had relatives there, too. So, I said sure, I'll look into the program, or the school, to, and then from then on, we just kind of like talked back and forth about the school, where my cousins would be living. I think it had something to do with the district, stuff like that, if my relatives were living within the district for him to go to Franklin. So, then, from there, we just kind of said okay, we'll go up there and look into it. I already talked to my cousins, and they said sure, come up here and we'll go look at the schools.

C Did she mention Franklin to you?

T Yeah. She said that was the name of the school.

C So, why would you, why did she want your brother to come up there?

T I think it was just for, well, I don't know basically, I think it was for football.

C And why do you think that?

T I don't know. When we went up there, we were just, I just wanted my brother to leave here, you know, go to school off island because, you know, down here I kind of looked at the football program, and he was so into it, he could get hurt and all that. There's only few people that they would take based on SATs and all that. My brother's not really into the scholastic stuff, but when he did take the SAT, it was pretty high, so that was when he was off island. So, there he got back to school, got that college that wanted him, but I knew if he would have stayed here, he would just ended up at our community college, so that's why I kind of said you know, you're the youngest, you don't have to worry about financial money and all that, we'll cover that, but you just go, if he wanted to. So, we went up there initially just to look around and then they said that he is good at football, does he want to play, so I said, hey, go play, you know, you just might make it to the NFL, I don't know. I told him, I just pushed him, I just wanted him out of here.

C In talking with Jeff's mother, did she promise you anything?

T No. They just wanted to see if he wanted to come up, go to school there.

C How about, how was he going to get over there? His airfare?

T Well, the airfare, they were talking about when can we come up there, like financial wise, so, I think they wanted to, they wanted to pay for everything, but then I was kind of saying, oh, well, I want to go too because if they were thinking about him, I wanted to think about my brother and I wanted to go, too.

C When you talked with the mother, before you left, did anybody say they were going to pay for anything?

T No, because it was only the mother I was talking too down here.

C So, on your trip, so, you went, you flew with your brother?

T Yeah.

C Okay, and so who paid for your airfare?

T I did.

- C Who paid for your brother's airfare?
- T They paid half for him.
- C You paid for yours. And who is they?
- T Jeff and [REDACTED]
- C What do you mean by half?
- T I think they told us the total amount.
- C Uh huh. So, what happened then?
- T And then we just, they were saying stuff, if we were going up there, if we wait, I wasn't really sure if he was going to stay, so I told them that I wanted to pay half so that if he doesn't want to stay there, we're coming back, I'm bringing him back with me.
- C Okay. So, what, did you pay anything up front?
- T What do you mean up front?
- C Before you left? You said you paid half, right?
- T Yeah.
- C How did you pay half?
- T I paid for one, the way coming back. We all paid at the same time.
- C How did that happen? I'm confused on how that would happen.
- T Because I paid for my airfare, the whole round trip, and then I would pay for his one way, and they paid for his coming back.
- C Okay. So when you paid for your airfare, then you paid for half of your brother's, had the reservation been made already, or did you make your reservations?
- T I made the reservations.
- C You made all the reservations?
- T Yeah, that was when Aloha Airlines was still here. They were only here for about a year or so.
- C Okay. And how did they pay for the other half?
- T Electronically. Yeah. Because I made the reservations, paid for it, called them and told them that they need to pay the one way back.
- C And you called who?

- T Jeff and [REDACTED]. They were like the ones that I talked to.
- C Okay. So you get there, you fly there, you and your brother, and what happens when you guys get there?
- T We were there, [REDACTED], my cousin, [REDACTED] picked us up, went there for a couple of days, went over to Jeff and [REDACTED] house, talked to them, and then they were the ones that took us to Franklin and then, you know, gave us the tour, looking around, stuff like that, met the vice principal and counselors and then just kind of hung around and went to like a couple of the practices. He enjoyed it. Then we stayed like, and then I stayed there about a month or so with them. I came back in July.
- C Okay. When you say you stayed there, for about, where did you stay?
- T I stayed with my cousin, [REDACTED].
- C And did your brother stay with [REDACTED] also?
- T Uh huh.
- C Okay. Did you, when you went to Jeff and [REDACTED]'s house, who was at that house? Who was living at that house?
- T It was Jeff and [REDACTED] and then I think he had at that time, they had a cousin, a girl cousin, staying with them and a couple of children.
- C Okay. What was your conversation with the vice principal? What was that about?
- T We were just talking about, because she wanted to know, like we were coming up there, and I told her we were up here for educational reasons. I wanted my brother to go to Franklin, move out of here, stay with relatives, and so she was staying, well, what was he interested in, and I said we wanted to know about the music, and she was a music major, too. So, then we were talking about that for awhile and then she said doesn't he play sports, and I said yeah, we are looking into your football program, too. He wants to play football.
- C Okay.
- T She was the one that helped us out with the registration papers.
- C What did you do as far as registration goes?
- T I think just helping him with his classes and something that the schedules, went to the counselors, took up his transcript papers, talked to them about the program, what classes he needed to take and so forth.
- C What address did you put down that he was going to live at?
- T I put down the address, I think we put down the address of Jeff and Justin's house.
- C And why did you do that?
- T I think because they were in that school district, as he was going to be there, like I think most of the time.

C Jeff or ██████ or that family, are they related to you?

T Uh huh.

C How are they related?

T We just found out when the mom came that, well, it's really far relation, but we...

C Can you kind of get me close to how they are related?

T She would be like first cousin, no second cousin would be married to my first cousin. That's a marriage relation, not a legal relation.

C Her second cousin is married to your first cousin?

T Yes.

C Okay. So you put down, and again, you put that down because you thought he was going to spend a lot of time there?

T Yeah, he thought was going to be there most of the time anyways.

C Why not put your cousin's address?

T I don't know, I kind of felt like they want, I put down my cousin's telephone number but not the address.

C Okay. So, you come back, I assume, you come back you said and then he stays?

T Yes, he stayed.

C So then, before you left, did you sign anything, like guardianship or anything like that?

T Guardianship?

C Did you ever sign over or did the family ever sign over guardianship to someone?

T I don't know.

C And what about if he got injured playing football?

T [voice] What was that?

C Do you need to take a break?

T Oh, no, she's just letting me she's going in the back.

C If he got injured...

T Okay, that's the stuff, we signed it over to my cousin, ██████, with injuries and all that. I believe that the school, too, if they were saying stuff like who to notify and put ██████ and Jeff.

- C Okay. Then, so he stays there and now we're in the fall of 2004, right?
- T Uh huh.
- C And in the fall of 04, where did he stay?
- T He stayed with my cousin, [REDACTED], but he was always at Jeff and [REDACTED] house.
- C And [REDACTED] is the one that's now in Utah?
- T Utah, yeah.
- C Okay. When you say they, he spent a lot of time at Jeff and [REDACTED], what do you mean by that?
- T He, like, [REDACTED] would basically take him to school in the morning and then he would stay at school and then they would go to the football practices. After football practices then I guess Jeff would take them to his house. He spent most of the nights there. Like probably I would say he would spend the weekends there mostly, but on the weeknights, probably one or two nights he would stay there, if football practices were late.
- C So, he would spend one or two nights at Jeff's house or two nights at your cousin's house?
- T At Jeff's house during the weekdays and then most of the weekends because they had games and stuff, he would spend it at Jeff's house.
- C So he spends, you think, about one or two nights during the week at Jeff's and then one or two nights on the weekends?
- T Yeah.
- C On the weekends at Jeff's, okay. Did you ever pay Jeff anything? Did the family ever pay Jeff anything? And I see you're shaking no.
- T No.
- C It's hard to pick a shaking on the recording.
- T I'm sorry.
- C Okay, and then what about, what was he doing for food?
- T For food, well, he was, like I was saying, I would always give money and stuff like I said, but he was living with them. He was trying to get a part-time job, too. I think he was working one of the, if it's not McDonalds or KFC. This was like during the summers and all that, but during when he was in school, he wasn't working. He was either staying with my cousin or at Jeff's house. I would think they would help out with the \_\_\_\_.
- C And this was during his senior year?
- T Uh huh.

- C What about the SAT? Did he take the SAT?
- T He took the SAT. Took it late, I mean early, I think he took the May.
- C In May of his senior year?
- T Yeah, and then when he got back his results, he said it was 1,000 something. That was when the new SAT came in. So, when he said 1,000, I was like you're joking. You're joking. Where did you pull that? He's like, nope. Then I called [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] goes, yeah, he surprised me too with that, but then he always had like high grades, not high grades, but like 3.5, 3.6 GP average, so with that high point and his SAT, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], that's the husband, and they were saying that in talking with the recruiters and stuff, Jeff would always mention that if he had a high SAT, he was going to get into San Jose, something like that, at a university that wanted him. But because he took it late, his results came in late, so that's why he didn't go into San Jose and then he went down to Golden State College.
- C So, he went to Golden State right away from Franklin?
- T Yeah, from Franklin.
- C Did he get any scholarship money, athletics scholarship money at Golden State?
- T No, he didn't.
- C Do you know what a NCAA qualifier is? Have you ever heard that term? That you have to meet a certain GPA, grade point, test score, and then some core courses?
- T Yeah.
- C And do you know if he met that?
- T I don't know.
- C Okay. So, football season is on, you go through football, he's over there, you're back here. Then does he come home ever?
- T He came home, what do you call that, he came home that Christmas. My mom wanted him, so, yeah.
- C And who paid for that?
- T I paid for that. Well, not me, but my brothers and sisters.
- C The family paid for it, your family?
- T Yeah.
- C Did he play in the All-Star Game that year?
- T He did.
- C For the Samoan team or did he play over in California?

- T What do you mean?
- C He would have been at his senior year at Franklin, right, which is 04-05?
- T Uh huh.
- C He comes home at Christmas of 04. I know every year there's a Samoan Bowl here.
- T Oh, that bowl. They had a All-Star Bowl over there, too?
- C Yes, in California. Did he play in either one?
- T He played in this one over here.
- C The Samoan Bowl?
- T Yeah.
- C Okay. So he played for Hawaii in the Samoan Bowl.
- T Yeah.
- C Okay. He goes back over and that first semester, neither you nor anybody else went over there? Is that correct?
- T Yeah.
- C So, the second semester comes along, he goes back and is still living, when we talked about before?
- T Yeah.
- C Occasionally with the cousins and occasionally with Jeff?
- T Yeah.
- C Graduation comes along. What happens at graduation?
- T Graduation, me and my mom went up for his graduation.
- C Okay. And who paid for that?
- T For me and my momma to go?
- C Yeah.
- T Yeah, we paid for it.
- C Where did you stay when you were there?
- T We stayed with our cousin.

- C About how long were you there?
- T Three weeks. I wanted to stay longer, but my mom, she wanted to come back while I'm there.
- C Okay, and then what happens? You guys come back, does he come back?
- T No. He stayed up there because he had some football camps to go to in Arizona or something like that, I don't know, but they were saying there were football camps that summer, and he was already talking to us about going to Golden State, so he wanted to go down to LA and live there, go to that college. There's a Delta College in Stockton that wanted him, but he said no, he didn't want to go there.
- C And then, has he been back since he went over there, after Christmas of 04?
- T No.
- C That's a long time.
- T Yeah, it is. He's been up there for quite awhile. He worked you know, I told him he wanted he come down. He was going to come down because mom's been sick lately last semester, but then my mom just told us to tell him don't come down, stay there. And then she got better, so now in July 4, we'll be leaving, going up to Hawaii for her check up and then hopefully he'll come down from there.
- C Okay. Well, good, let's hope.
- T Yeah. Hopefully.
- C So, thinking about what you said, as far as what Jeff or someone paid for, they paid for half of his ticket.
- T Yeah.
- C Is that correct?
- T Yeah.
- C And the rest of the tickets, you paid for?
- T Yeah.
- C And any ticket you went over on, you paid for?
- T Yeah.
- C So, if I understand correctly, that's why I'm trying to think back through, the only thing someone else paid for was half...
- T Was half coming back, ensuring that he will come with me if he doesn't want to stay there.
- C And that was because you wanted to make sure...

- T Yeah, come back, because I didn't want to make him stay here if he doesn't want to. He found, we, it was really a rushed decision and he was saying he wanted to go, but then he said, oh, maybe not. I just to go tell him, we're going up, we're looking around and if you don't want to stay, then we'll come back.
- C Did you ever meet Coach Verner?
- T Yeah, I met him when he was up there.
- C When was that, that was during that three or four weeks that you were?
- T Yeah. We went to the practice.
- C Anything else that I haven't asked you about that you think is relevant or important to what we are talking about?
- T Well, when I was up there, I was questioning them about, because they were telling, they were saying that there was a Board, you know, people, I think that's where you come in. They were saying that they had been, this whole migration of Samoan people up there, they now, they've been... the reason that it came up was because I asked, has there been a lot of Samoan people playing for, you know, the high school, and they said, oh no, just [REDACTED] and then a couple of local kids. And then they said, oh, because if we were to bring up people, paying for them to come, there's a Board up here that looks into that kind of stuff. I was like why, and he goes, oh, because it's illegal for us to pay and offer stuff, like college. So, then, I would say, oh, so what is like that Board that they, do they investigate if something happens. They said, yeah, that's why most of the people, when we come here, we make sure that they have relatives that they stay with because it seemed like they were just bringing them up here. I was asking also, so if they do find out about that, will it hurt the kids, you know like education up there, and once a year are they going to like set them down. They were saying something like, no, as long as they are staying with relatives, we don't have to sit them, they just wanted a boost for their football program, I guess. I was up there and kind of watched their football team, a couple of practices, and then my brother kind of got the feel for it. He said he wanted to stay.
- C It goes back to what we talked about before, I guess. Why did they want your brother to come?
- T Good question. I knew they wanted us to come up there for school reasons and then for football, I guess. That's why I was asking around, has there been more Samoan people coming up there and playing.
- C When you were up there, though, you, or your brother got a ticket already?
- T Uh huh.
- C And, they told you it was illegal to pay or offer things.
- T Uh huh.
- C But at that time, had they done that already?
- T Yeah, they done that already.
- C Did you ask them about that?

- T Yeah, I did, but I was kind of hesitant, because I thought it was my fault, too, because I couldn't come up with whole fare. Yeah, that's why, we kind of have to with helping me out, but then when I saw that if you will find out, are they going to kind of like boot my brother out or something like that.
- C As far as the California Federation, you're brother is not in high school.
- T Yeah.
- C The California Federation can not affect your brother.
- T So, can I ask, are they like in trouble or something like that?
- C I don't know. I guess, what we're trying to find out is if something happened, and when we get done with this, we'll put all of this information together and then see what...
- T Has there been other Samoan kids, because after my brother, I haven't heard of any other...
- C There has been.
- T There has been?
- C And, in fact, there's been probably, I don't know exactly how many, eight, nine, ten, and there's some Samoans we hear who are going this fall, so your brother was not...
- T The only one.
- C No, but I think he was one of the early-on kids.
- T Oh, okay.
- C I don't know if he was the first one out, but he was more sooner in the first group than he is in the latter group. Would your brother talk to us if we called him?
- T Yeah.
- C Does he have a cell phone?
- T He has a cell phone, but it was, he hasn't been calling us lately, but then the thing is, I only have his home number. Yeah, and that's why I said I haven't talked to him because I try talking to him now, calling him and stuff like that, but he hasn't been calling me back. The only person that has a cell phone, is my brother who is in Utah, and do you want me to like talk to him if he calls back?
- C Yeah. Do you have, do you know [REDACTED] number?
- T In Utah, no, I don't. Because they just recently moved there. I could get, like, a number for them. My brother was in Utah, he just left for this 4-H program with agriculture. It was late in May, so...
- C What's the number here?
- T At the house?

C Yes.

T [REDACTED]

C What I may do is call you in a week or two.

T Okay.

C And then see if you had a chance...

T If I got the number, okay.

C If that's okay with you?

T Okay. Have you been talking to other people?

C Yes? Yes, we have. Anything else that you think I ought to know about?

T No.

C Okay, I'm going to go ahead and shut this off at approximately 8:35 a.m. or something like that.

E = Chuck Smrt

S = Scott Donald

T = [REDACTED]