

TRANSCRIPTION OF FRANCIS TUI TELE ON JUNE 22, 2007

- C It is June 22. I am in the Trail Winds Hotel, and I've got several people here with me, and Francis, why don't you just state your name for the record.
- F Okay, my name is Frances Tuitele from American Samoa. I'm the coach here, I've coached for 24 years, coached football for 24 years, and I'm at the Department of Education athletic department at the present time.
- S I'm Scott Donald, counsel for the California Interscholastic Federation, San Joaquin Section.
- C Francis, how do you spell your last name?
- F T-u-i-t-e-l-e.
- C What is your office number? Do you know your office number?
- F We have...
- C Give me your telephone numbers.
- F I think my number at the house is [REDACTED] and my cell is [REDACTED].
- C Now, what is your position with the Department of Education?
- F I am assistant director for, I am coordinator for the athletic departments for sports and stuff, for the high schools and elementary.
- C How long have you been doing that?
- F Last year was my first year. I retired from high school, I started August of 2006, so this is my first year.
- C Okay. Tell me about some of the stuff that you do.
- F Specifically, right now, well, I, we work on the schedule, the football schedules and all of the sports schedules and watch the football, just the football sports itself and soccer, because there's about five of us in this department, so all of us have all of the responsibility to do sports. I'm particularly the guy taken care of the football.
- C Prior to that time, you coached for 24 years?
- F 24 years. I didn't start coaching until 1983, last year stopped.
- C Your last position was at where? What high school?
- F Well, I'd been coaching the Leone High School, I was the head coach.
- C You were the head coach?
- F The head coach. I was the assistant coordinator for three years. I was a coordinator in 2001, 2002, and 2003.
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C I mentioned to you that we are here on behalf of the San Joaquin Section of the California Interscholastic Federation and what we're doing is we are trying, to that, for that section, \_\_\_ whether there has been impermissible recruiting going on over here by California high schools. What I'd like for you to do is start me from the beginning. The first time you ever heard of some high school or somebody, not even the high school, some of your athletes going to California.

F Well, I think, to me, it was 2004. Like I told one of your colleagues that a guy coaching high school in California. I think either his sister or his cousins doing all this to talking parent of these kids, and \_\_\_ sisters, so there the one that the coaching was the parents or the kids down here and talk about, like I said, these are the things heard, what they told the kids, we will guarantee a full ride in college, guarantee good education, SAT test, housing, guarantee housing. I sat down kid and I asked him. He said all stayed in one house together, about 10 or 11 kids to hear from it from and it wasn't to me. In the States, it is not a good living. I don't know how living, because they are in California. They was \_\_\_\_, those guys were going to watch out for them.

C Okay, so that 04, that was the fall of 04, right?

F Yep. I think the fall of 04, that was the, all the high schools heard that, all the high schools down here, heard that all those guys, the California guys, took about five of our kids, they were, there was a good lesson for them, because if they allow all these good players of mine, others may go. I was hurt, I was really hurt and I went and talked to a principal, like I said, one of these guys that coached there, I know it's going to be a Samoan guy, that coach over there, one of his relatives or cousin was the one made all of these promises to the parents.

C In 04, what kids left Leone to go to California?

F \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, there was a \_\_\_\_\_ kid, \_\_\_\_\_, the last name's \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ I think \_\_\_\_\_, you know, one of the relatives of this coach that supposedly had two guys, last name \_\_\_\_\_, all that same year. It was supposed to be, the last name was \_\_\_\_\_. It was supposed to be two. There was supposed to be a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, too.

C So we have four then?

F Yeah.

C I've got \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, another \_\_\_\_\_, and than \_\_\_\_\_.

F \_\_\_\_\_

C Is that \_\_\_\_\_?

F Yeah, that's him, \_\_\_\_\_.

C So, that's four.

F Yeah.

C Those are the four?

F Those are the ones, and they took one, they took another one last year. It was a linebacker, \_\_\_\_\_ I don't know if you got \_\_\_\_\_ on your list. His name is \_\_\_\_\_ last year.

C That was in the fall of 05?

F Yeah. Fall of 06, last year, this is 07.

C That was in the fall of 04 that the four went over there, right?

F Yeah.

C So, we have fall of 04, those four, what about the fall of 05?

F I know that, like I said, Coach, you know, then after that, that was it for me, I mean, I was helping out, I wasn't a fulltime head coach at that time, but I know there were some kids that went. Like I said, there were most likely from 2004 consistently, 2004 and 2005, last year, they were probably doing this; and there was nobody, you know, can do anything. I went and talked to, my brother was the director last year, and I told him, and he said oh, he's going look into it, find the bylaws in California. If they can do it, is it illegal? I went to talk to my congressman. I told, this has got to be illegal, I mean, I'm sure I couldn't get the connection, I call the teams that play these guys that that team is illegally recruiting these kids from Samoa. See, the sad thing is when those kids come down, when those guys come down, these guys all get ready to play their last year, they've been playing here all these three years. It was okay for me if they come and picked them up as a freshman but to wait until their senior year and, you know, they know these are the top guys from each high school. I heard in 2005, they took some from Fagaitua and took, there was a kid from Polytech II offensive line, from Polytech.

C That [REDACTED], could that be a [REDACTED]..?

F [REDACTED].

C Your brother, who was the director, your brother was the director of what?

F Education, but he passed away.

C Did he do anything?

F He told me that he's going to look into it. I said, you got to do something, you got to do something because these guys are taking all these played. I ended up with somehow, they always take the top guys from each high school. That was when they find out, oh, there's a good guy from Leone High School. Like I said, there is somebody recruiting, either one of the cousins is doing the recruiting, you know, go to the high schools and looking, that's how they get it. They have a connection here.

C You said you talked to one of the kids who stayed in this house, who was that?

F Yeah. I talked to [REDACTED], not [REDACTED], the other one.

C The other [REDACTED]?

F Yeah, the other [REDACTED].

C Is he back here?

F I think he went back, he's back in California. He graduated. All these guys graduated last year. I asked them about, you know, anybody who graduated last year, so I told them, so what, you guys go and get a full ride? These guys last year that I went, that was another thing I was looking into, academics. These kids, they weren't A students, they weren't outstanding students, and I told them that it is better to go to school here, at least the teacher is Samoan, they can, you know, bilingual kind of thing. So, well it really kills me, they are going to give them full-ride

guarantees, full ride, none of them got it, I look into it, none of them get any. I talked to [REDACTED]'s mom, tried to educate to, so they can understand. I told her because..

C When did you talk to her?

F Last year.

C They went over?

F Well, I talked to her before and I talked to her when he graduated, because he graduated and he come down here. He came down here and I, they kind of feel, I know, they kind of feel bad, and I could feel it too. Like I told them, man, whatever you guys do, I see it and I can tell they feel embarrassed, you know, embarrassed because they look at me because I begged them before he left, oh man, this is, I don't think that's right, and they all think, oh this is a good future for them.

C Let's go back to 04.

F Uh huh.

C And, [REDACTED], the two [REDACTED], and...

F [REDACTED].

C [REDACTED] came...

F There was another, do you have another name of one of the kids?

C Is there a [REDACTED]?

F Yeah, that's the one. That's the other guys that was mine, one of my top player, [REDACTED].

C What's his, is that his first or his last name?

F Last name.

C At the time in 04, before these kids had gone over, or right after they went over, did you talk to any of the parents?

F Well, I was so, to be honest with you, I was so upset, I only talk to the parents of [REDACTED] because he leave...

C Tell me about that conversation.

F I told her I don't think that's fair what she did, and I told her off, I said I think you will pay the price, I don't think...like I said, I was so concerned with all those kids, because those kids aren't smart kids, I mean to be honest. I check on their grades over here and I told them, you don't pass here, just imagine going off island how hard it is. This is what I told them. They say, no, we can handle it. The only two are in college right now. To be honest, I think [REDACTED], I heard he's struggling and [REDACTED] in San Jose City College. I don't know about it, I heard he's okay.

C What about the conversation with the Mrs., the mom, [REDACTED] mom. Okay, you told her all this, what did she tell you about how all this happened, if anything?

F Well, I didn't, I know that one of the [REDACTED] I think one of the kid's mom that related, I think that the guy they have in California is related to one of the coach out there in Franklin.

Tuiasosopo, I think he's the one that he have a sister down here and he related to [REDACTED], I think one of, [REDACTED]'s mom is one of the lady that be talking to those kids. Like I said, when I talk to [REDACTED]'s mom, in fact, I was upset, I was upset and talked to her about all these things and like I say before, this kid came there during sophomore or junior year, you know, he's up there and he had stayed up there. They always \_\_\_\_\_.

C Did these people talk about full ride, what's the basis for that, where are you getting that information? Who told you that?

F [REDACTED] parents. [REDACTED]'s mom.

C Okay, so when did she tell you that?

F Well, same year they took off, I think. He said they're going to their full ride, college full ride and stuff. See most of the information, I get it from their friends that played with him. As you know, they went to that high school, they keep telephoning these kids on the team. The next morning when I come to work and they say oh, coach, those guys called, and they felt sorry, they want to come back. There was a, I had nothing to say to them because I know I lose all the time on the field. So, what can I say? [REDACTED] called one time, called one of our coach and told him that if he can pay their fare back because it's not the same deal they were telling them, like taking care of them, the kind of living standards, and stuff.

C Let's go back to your conversation with Mrs. [REDACTED] in 04.

F Yeah, 04. You mean last year, when, yeah?

C Let's focus on, back in 04.

F Okay.

C You remember where you were when you had that conversation?

F At the school, because she's got another, at the same school, she has another son that played for Leone at that same school.

C Mrs. [REDACTED] when did you talk to her?

F At the gym, at the gymnasium at Leone.

C Okay, I want you to, as much detail as you can remember, tell me about the conversation.

F I told her off. I told her I didn't like it. They thought all this promises those guys out there telling, tell them that it was going to go through. In fact, she went and took her kid to high school, she already took him up.

C Did she say, those things that mentioned earlier, say those that day? Did she mention what they told her?

F Those guys?

C I'm trying to, I want you to tell me what she told you that day about what, if anything, she was promised.

F As you all know, we were talking in Samoan and plus I, we were kind of sad and talked to her, but she was just saying all these thing and, about, it's alright, this give him a chance. I'm

thinking, why did they left. Like I said, she always comes over there because she had another son that played for Leone team, so we always kind of elaborate, how's [REDACTED], how's [REDACTED], and she was telling me all this stuff and, you know, the kids, they like to talk, this is before.

C About the, they guaranteed him a full ride, guaranteed a full ride?

F Yeah.

C They're telling athletes this. Did Mrs. [REDACTED] tell you that that day at the school?

F Oh yeah, so those are the things she keep on like telling me, oh, those guys said they can guarantee a full ride for their son, and I keep on saying, they not going to guarantee no scholarship. You know, there is a lot of thing, you got to go to school first. This kind of talk that I keep on telling her. That's before the, before the decision.

C I'm trying to figure out whether that's something that you knew afterwards or whether she told you that directly.

F Well, she just told me when the son, like I said, she took, she took the son up in California. So, when she came back, she watched a couple of games, and I guess she liked the way her son played. At the same token, they keep on telling me that the coaches tell him that guarantee a full ride to go to big university. I think they said that a lot of major college come and recruit at their high school.

C How did this, you said, you said the word "they" a couple of times. Who is they, and how does someone like Mrs. [REDACTED] know that this opportunity exists? How does this come about?

F Like I mention a couple of times that I think one of the guy's auntie or cousin that live here and one of the cousin is, like I said, is [REDACTED] mom. I think she was another one that instigated all that and talked to [REDACTED] mom, and that's how he went through.

C So a coach over in California, it's [REDACTED] mom that is the coaches' aunt or cousin?

F I think one of those and a cousin, because like I said, I try to look all to find whose this fool that's doing all this recruiting here because none of those guys came down, so it's got to be somebody is doing all this talking to the parents of these kids.

C Taifane was one of your kids?

F Yeah.

C Why not go to the mom? Why not go to [REDACTED] mom?

F I think the reason I talk to Mrs. [REDACTED] her son is the only reason, but other than that, she is the only parent I talk to.

C Who else did you get it from about [REDACTED]s mom might have gone to people and talked to them? Who told you that?

F All this is from the students. I want to give the student up, these are Leone High School, the students that play football because I keep on asking students on the team, how find out about this, so they mention [REDACTED] mom, and these guys went, they keep on having communication with all kids that play here...how the kids, how they doing over there, and they mention it. I find out this through the football players.

- C [REDACTED] you said the mom went over there?
- F She said I took him when they were ready to go to school, when I took him...
- C When you talked with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] said about, [REDACTED] was the one who told you about the house? Right?
- F Uh huh.
- C Now, was that house the one that [REDACTED] was in also?
- F I think that's the same one. The conversation between [REDACTED] and one of our assistant coaches, so the assistant coach told me that [REDACTED] called and told him that he wanted to come back. Too bad.
- C Which coach is that he told? [REDACTED].
- F One of our coaches at Leone High School.
- C Which one would that be?
- F The coach is not coaching over there anymore. He went to the States. He's still coaching, he's a JV coach for Leone. It was one of the assistant that, our new \_\_\_ contact him. Like I said, I was done head coaching in 2002 and 2003. \_\_\_ from there, I was a coordinator, I was the offensive coordinator, I was no longer the head coach.
- ? Have you ever heard of Bob Tuiosopopo?
- F Tuiosopopo?
- C Yes.
- F Yes.
- C Where does Bob live?
- F In American Samoa.
- C Is Bob known in the football community?
- F He's not a coach here. He's unemployed, wife works, he played colleges and NFL.
- C Does he have any connection with any California high school?
- F Like I said, this all the information that I hear from other people that I think that's Bob, either's Bob's brother or cousin, because the guy that involved in coaching in Franklin is a relative.
- C You think it could be Bob's relative?
- F Yes.
- C Tell me that again.
- F It was Bob's cousin. I was cousin or brother.

- C A cousin or brother is the coach at Franklin?
- F He's one of the coaches over there.
- C Now, is [REDACTED], [REDACTED]'s mom, is she related to Bob?
- F I heard that she's the one that been doing the talking to the parents of those kids.
- C I want to make sure I understand this relationship. You think that coach at Franklin, his aunt or cousin is [REDACTED]'s mom?
- F Uh huh.
- C The coach at Franklin is Bob's cousin or brother?
- F Uh huh.
- C Okay. What we don't know is whether [REDACTED] and Bob, [REDACTED]'s mom and Bob are related?
- F I don't know that. I know they might, but I don't, I don't want to make up stories because, you know. I know, but I don't know it was the relationship between Bob and [REDACTED] mom.
- C You don't know whether Bob is going around and talking? Do you know whether Bob is going around and talking to people?
- F I never heard Bob's name, but all I know is [REDACTED]'s mom.
- C [REDACTED] mom, what does she do?
- F She's a housewife.
- C Have you talked to her recently?
- F I haven't, like I said, only [REDACTED].
- C [REDACTED], for example, the mom goes over there and he goes over there, how is [REDACTED], does the family have money to pay for him to go up there?
- F He's co-owner of business, has money.
- C Have you ever heard any information about whether anybody in California's paying for the athletes' airfare?
- F I'm glad you asked that. That is another information that I heard from the students and people, that these guys pay their fare and pay the parents, like I said, for except if I'm going, they going to pay my fare, to go up there and they pay airfare to come back. See, this is what I heard, and I'm glad you asked that because I think that was the main thing. They paid these students' fare to go up. I don't think the students paid. The school is paying, that's all those guys went.
- S When you say the school and they, and these guys...?
- F Franklin High. They are the one that do those illegal things.
- C How does that happen? How does that work out?

- F To me, it's got to be going through the connection, because when they talk to whoever's connection, they talk to the parents of these students, so up there, they doing all these calls because I know they pay their fare. Because, besides ██████████, I know they can pay his son's fare, while these other guys, I don't think they afford to pay their fare, so the school is the one that pay their fare. They promise everything to take care of enrollment, board, fare, all those stuff.
- C So what's your source of information that they paid the airfare?
- F Through the students. Like I said, through the students.
- C As far as airfare goes, tell me about a specific conversation you can remember with a student when you....
- F A student that told me that?
- C Yes.
- F To be honest, most of the student that went, I even, the one I had talked to was ██████ and like I said, he came down here last Christmas. They all came down and they kind of shield away from me, they don't want, I mean, two years ago, they came before they graduated, before they graduated from high school. They came down here Christmas and, you know, I was the one that was doing all this talking and listening to their parents. For me, I didn't have a chance to talk with them. The head coach right now, they talked. They felt bad. They all felt bad.
- C How do you know that Franklin was paying for the airfare?
- F ██████████ mom was telling me that they pay for everything. ██████████ mom was telling me that during Christmas break.
- C So they went over, they told guys on your team, and those guys on your team told you?
- F Yeah, told me.
- C What did they have to say about it?
- F That they take care, they're paid everything, just go to school and play football.
- C ██████████s mom, did she tell you that?
- F This is when they came down for Christmas break. This is during their senior year. I was coaching, we have a bowl called Samoan Bowl. Every year we have that, and they came down. That same year, I was the head coach. In 2005, I mean, not last year's one, but before last year's. That's 2005-2006 Bowl, I was the head coach then and they came down for vacation and they thought they were going to play in this bowl for Hawaii team because on Samoan bowl, we play against a Hawaiian team. One of the coaches told me, I heard you're coaching and these guys, all the guys in \_\_\_\_\_. Those guys took out, the one that hurt the most. \_\_\_\_\_, so you know...
- C Did they play in the bowl at all?
- F No. They, we do everything we could, they don't get involved.
- C I read somewhere where it said they did play in it.
- F No.

- C [REDACTED] and ...
- F Not [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Like I said, I was the head coach at that time. Then last year, [REDACTED] came. I think he played this past fall.
- C That's [REDACTED]?
- F [REDACTED], yeah, he played.
- C Why did they let him play?
- F Like I said, I wasn't, I wasn't, I got, like I told you, it hurt me so much I had to do everything to make sure this guy ain't going to get a penny from me. When they came, I heard, the coach will tell me, oh, your man [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s here. They want to play. Nope, you guys can't. Definitely, I don't want it. Last year, I heard that [REDACTED] played on the bowl.
- C Back to 04, 05, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and the other [REDACTED], they're brothers?
- F Cousins.
- C Cousins. Okay. [REDACTED]e?
- F [REDACTED]e? What's his name?
- C [REDACTED].
- F [REDACTED].
- C What do his folks do?
- F His dad doesn't work.
- C Where is he now?
- F He's the only one I'm not sure. They said he's in junior college, but I don't know where. The only one I'm sure of is [REDACTED] at San Jose State College.
- C Would his parents talk to us?
- F I could ask them to do that.
- C About the airfare. I'm sorry, let's just finish that out with the...
- F I think, to be honest, I think those are against, that would be good if \_\_\_\_, what they doing to these kids. \_\_ parents because we always go to \_\_\_\_.
- C We're here to get information. We can't tell you whether a violation happened or didn't happen, we don't know. We're here to gather that information. [REDACTED], do you know where [REDACTED] is?
- F I heard he's here, but I haven't seen him since he back.
- C Talk about airfare a little bit, about what you know about that. We briefly talked about the lodging over there in Stockton and you...

- F House.
- C ...and you said eight, or nine, or ten, or something like that?
- F Yeah.
- C There wouldn't be that many from here over there at one time, would there?
- F Yeah. Not from here. But I think other Samoan kids but I don't know where, but you know, I don't think all the kids are from here, but they said they had about nine to ten kids and stuff. I'm glad that you are guys are here. If I could find where [REDACTED] is here, because I heard he's here, but I don't know, I wish, this is a big help.
- C Have you ever heard of Jeff Seumaala, an assistant coach at Franklin High School.
- F Jeff Seumaala?
- S It is Seumaala.
- F Seumaala?
- S Yeah. Have you heard of him?
- C We had it reported that he was from here and might have played football.
- F That guy?
- C We don't know.
- F It's the same guy that went to the high school that was here. I'm thinking about he graduated from Leone, played when I was coaching, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- C Are Jeff and Bob's wife are brother and sister?
- F No, Jeff's mom and Bob are brother and sister.
- C Jeff's mom and Bob are brother and sister.
- F That's the same guy that I'm thinking about.
- S Jeff Seumaala
- F Okay.
- S And went to Leone?
- F You need to check.
- C What you've heard about the connection between here and Franklin, it doesn't involve Bob?
- F I don't hear Bob. All I know is Tuiosopopo, Tuiosopopo's name either Tuiosopopo, like I said, \_\_\_\_\_ coach. The only person I heard is doing all this connection is a [REDACTED] lady. I know there is other sources of connection here, I know that. It's got to be Tuiosopopo, because heard Franklin coach up there is Tuiosopopo. I'm thinking about Jeff Seumaala.

- C You've never heard of a connection about Jeff got until we brought his name up, you had never heard of him, you didn't know he was at Franklin?
- F I didn't know. Like I said, it's like I said, all I hear these is a Samoan guy coach over there. I heard it's Tuiosopopo, that's all I heard. He's the one that been doing all this connections.
- S \_\_ mother's \_\_?
- F Yeah, uh huh. \_\_\_\_. That's where \_\_\_\_. [REDACTED], his first name is [REDACTED], that's how they said it, but they called him [REDACTED] when he was playing for us.
- C [REDACTED]?
- S I have here [REDACTED].
- C Is it [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]?
- F [REDACTED]. That's it, but his name when he was in school here was [REDACTED]. A short cut.
- C A short cut?
- F Yeah, a short cut. We'll go find [REDACTED]. I think this another guy will be of big help, because he was the one who went to school there and he didn't like, but they forced him to like it is what I heard. If we find him and we go to [REDACTED]'s parents, we'll be alright.
- C [REDACTED], the last name is [REDACTED]?
- F No \_\_\_\_, I think they are from Polytech. I know him.
- C Do you know where he is now? [REDACTED]s?
- F Graduated this year.
- C He's going to go where?
- F All those kids that went over there, they all say no, couldn't shy off of me, especially.
- C As far where going to go. He went to Franklin last year?
- F Yes.
- C Okay, so you don't know if he's going to junior college or where he's going?
- F Right.
- C Is there a [REDACTED], last name is [REDACTED]?
- F Uh.
- C You heard about the legal status of the athletes when they go over there? Does anybody have guardianship?

- F The thing is, whoever that connection they have of all these kids, I hope they're not. I mean, those kids come down here and we always talk highly about our program here and I hope they're not doing those wrong.
- C Do they have any money available, any type of scholarship money available for the stuff you are hearing from your athletes?
- F Nah.
- C You had a conversation with Mrs. [REDACTED]
- F Yeah.
- C As opposed to getting it through the athletes?
- F Say it, but I've got to say it, \_\_\_ was involved in doing this thing. \_\_\_ JV quarterback tell people that helping others \_\_\_\_. I had nothing to do with it.
- C The letter that, it's on the Department of Education stationary from the Department of Education, is that right?
- F He just started. Like I said, he just started in August last year.
- C Okay, so it's been a year?
- F Yeah.
- C You know Claire? Do you see her signature? Can you tell me whether this is her signature or not?
- F \_\_\_\_.
- C We talked about a couple of these guys, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
- F I know those two.
- C The letter says have not participated in what you call organized football. Would you say [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] play in organized football?
- F Yes. I look at the letter. I'll copy and I'll go and see her.
- C But I want to get your reaction.
- F \_\_\_\_\_.
- C Who can corroborate, who can confirm what you are telling us?
- F The \_\_\_ coaches, Leone High School, like I said, I don't want to call them because of \_\_\_. They go to church.
- C What church do they go to?
- F They are all catholic.
- C What is the name of it? Is there just one catholic church?

- F Holy Cross.
- C Hoky Cross?
- F Holy Cross.
- C Holy Cross.
- F Holy Cross. We going to go Sunday.
- C So then, [REDACTED], [REDACTED]s, who else?
- F \_\_\_ they had \_\_\_
- C That's [REDACTED]?
- F [REDACTED].
- C [REDACTED]?
- F Yeah.
- C Some may say he (you) is doing this, while he's tell you all this because he's upset, he's mad, and you can't believe what Francis says because, you know, he's not, he's not impartial, because he lost something in this thing, okay?
- F I'm not lost because of that, I didn't have much sleep because of that, it's just like I said, I felt sorry for the students, you know. I hated to affect my season, that's how I felt, and sorry for parents. In fact, I worry about them. I worry about the student for the last three years as we were helping them out and then their last year, they take off. But, that's the way it goes.
- C Again, others talk to on trip?
- F On the first that this happen, whoever, I wish I knew, the Governor of California to call down to these high school and do something. I even went to talk to my Congressman two years ago, and the Congressman said, we'll look into it this thing. It's not fair for a program, a Leone High School program, I'm talking about all the program. It's not fair. There's none of any Samoan student that went over there and passed SAT, I know that. No SAT.
- C What was going to happen with the SAT?
- F They didn't pass, the people stood and cheered. They start talking their SAT as a senior. I think SAT cost almost \$100 to take it, I think almost.
- C What's going to happen, how was this California connection, how were they going to help with the SAT? When you mentioned earlier, here's what their supposedly doing, this, this, and this and you said the SAT.
- F \_\_\_
- C They're going to give them instructions on how to improve their grade on the SAT?
- F Like I say, it's tough for the kids here.

- C What else should we know?
- F This is being unfair to come up and bring these lids there.
- C You know that, you told us that [REDACTED]'s mom went over there.
- F Yeah.
- C Who other parents did you know for sure went over there?
- F ??
- C I have a chart here, and of the football coaches at the high school and the coach at Polytech, one of the kids' last name \_\_\_\_ is [REDACTED]?
- F He's a teacher. \_\_\_\_, that's why. \_\_\_\_.
- C We're going to go ahead and turn the tape off.

C = Chuck Smrt  
S = Scott Donald  
F = Francis Tuitele

## INTERVIEW SUMMARY

### California Interscholastic Federation

Report of a June 24, 2007, interview with [REDACTED], mother of Leoni High School student-athlete [REDACTED]. This conversation was held in the parking lot at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Leoni, American Samoa. During a previous interview, the writer was referred to [REDACTED] as an individual who may have information concerning a telephone call she received concerning Franklin High School. Present for this interview were [REDACTED] and the writer. It was not tape-recorded.

[REDACTED] provided her telephone number as [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. Her son would be a senior this fall at Leoni High School.

[REDACTED] reported that earlier this year, her son ([REDACTED]) told her about the possibility of a lady coming by or telephoning to talk about her son playing for a high school in the United States. [REDACTED] said the lady visited her home. The lady mentioned to her that she is the mother of a high school coach in the United States. She described the lady as in her 50s. The lady encouraged [REDACTED] to allow [REDACTED] to travel to the United States. According to [REDACTED], the lady mentioned that the family would receive airfare to attend the school and that the schooling would be free. The writer asked whether Franklin High School was mentioned, and she stated she thought Franklin specifically was mentioned.

At that point, [REDACTED] had to leave as people in the parking lot were waiting for her. She agreed to a telephone interview in the future.

Charles E. Smrt  
June 24, 2007

## INTERVIEW SUMMARY

### California Interscholastic Federation

Report of a June 23, 2007, interview with [REDACTED], mother of [REDACTED], a student-athlete at Fagaitua High School. This discussion occurred outside the home of [REDACTED] on a bench. Aeseli's cell telephone number is 684-[REDACTED] and the home telephone is [REDACTED]. Present for the interview were the [REDACTED], Scott Donald, legal counsel for the San Joaquin section of CIF; and the writer. This was not tape-recorded, as [REDACTED] indicated that she did not feel comfortable being tape-recorded. [REDACTED] provided the following information, although not necessarily in this order, as this summary is organized topically, as opposed to chronologically.

### BACKGROUND

The [REDACTED] family lives in Au'asi. [REDACTED] will be entering his senior year at Fagaitua High School this fall.

### CONVERSATION ABOUT ATTENDING FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL

[REDACTED] reported that in January 2007, a woman telephoned who indicated that her brother was a coach in the United States and that her brother's organization wanted to provide him a scholarship to attend high school. She believed the woman's name was Tuisosopo, and [REDACTED] believed that she worked for the Samoan Government.

They had one telephone conversation in which this lady described what would occur. [REDACTED] did not know she was calling and did not know how this lady received her name. She stated that the lady told [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] had been picked by the organization and wanted her son to attend high school in California. The lady told [REDACTED] that they would take care of the lodging and his education while he was attending the high school. She also told [REDACTED] that they would pay airfare for the athlete and one of the parents to fly to California and provide lodging and meals. They would also assist him in choosing a college.

They wanted him to travel to California in February. The lady also mentioned that [REDACTED] was a good player and also would be going. She believed the conversation lasted about one hour. She was asked if Franklin High School was mentioned, and she stated she did not know if the specific high school was named. Subsequent to that conversation, she talked with her husband ([REDACTED]) and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] did not want to go. They also talked with [REDACTED] brother ([REDACTED]) and said it was their decision. [REDACTED] stated that she did not want her son to go, as she wanted him to finish at Fagaitua High School. (At the time of this interview, [REDACTED] was in the United States on reserve duty).

In response to a question about assistance with the SAT, [REDACTED] stated she did not remember.

[REDACTED] believed that two athletes from Samoa went this past year. One was [REDACTED], but she could not remember the second. She believed the second returned home. [REDACTED]'s mother is [REDACTED].

Charles E. Smrt  
June 23, 2007