



Interview Summary and Index

Interviewee: Barton D. Smith

Interviewer: Melvin P. Thatcher

Date: December 29, 2015

Location: Salt Lake City, UT

Summary	
<p>Barton D. Smith shares his memories of the Edgehill Ward basketball program. He started at the age of 8 (1955) in Edgehill Junior basketball at the age of 8 (1955). He describes the Junior basketball and its history. He tells of his discovery of basketball for older boys and men at the Edgehill Ward and how he became a “gym rat.”</p> <p>Bart talks about the values oriented approach of Dr. Paul Hansen, who coordinated basketball activities at the Edgehill Gym, and the impact that it had on others and himself. He remembers tournament play and some of the outstanding players. And he reflects on the role of the Edgehill Gym as a community center of LDS and non-LDS youth in the neighborhood and around the valley.</p>	

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Time	Brief description
00:00	Introduction.
00:00:43	Junior basketball. Started playing Juniors basketball at age 8 [1955]. Teams for 40-50 boys in 8-9 and 10-11 age groups. Boundaries: 1300 S to 2100 S, 1300 E to 1900 E. Dr. Paul Hansen (“Hans”) organizer. Taught basketball, values, and teamwork. Weekly practices coached by older boys. Junior basketball program and exhibition game staged for parents and friends. Uniforms. (See documents section following this interview for more memories and information).
00:04:56	Junior basketball history. Started after WWII. Baby boom, hundreds of kids in neighborhood. Provided a place for younger boys. Lasted into early 2000s. Describes development of LDS Church basketball structure for various age groups, youth to adult. Neighborhood program done in the Church; religion didn’t matter.
00:09:09	Edgehill gym rats. Bart discovers church basketball for older boys and became a “gym rat.”



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00:10:39	Coach Hans taught values. Coach Hans, coordinator of Edgehill gym. Had boys kept stat sheets on teams in each league. Like the coach in <i>Hoosiers</i> but not abusive. Taught basketball skills, values, and teamwork. George Souvall's (South High coach) value oriented basketball camps based on Coach Hans' approach to basketball at Edgehill.
00:13:58	Coach Hans taught values (cont.). Coach Hans taught values by assigning jobs. Paid "gym workers" (players) to maintain gym, clean locker room, check out basketballs, etc. Diffuses altercation during game.
00:17:12	Assistants. Adults called as coaches and score keepers but most helpers were young men in the program.
00:18:38	Tournament play. Bart was asked to oversee ward athletic program. Recruited non-LDS basketball and inactive LDS players in the neighborhood. Took 2 nd and 1 st place at rising levels of tournament play, lost in quarter final of All-Church Tournament.
00:22:57	Outstanding players. Roger Pearson (AAU player), Lance McKinney (Westminster College).
00:24:53	"Open Hours." Gym open on Saturday afternoons for anyone in the valley to play pick up games.
00:25:49	Gym worker stipend. Converse All Star seconds, socks, pop, candy, sold by boys to raise funds to pay gym workers.
00:28:12	Christmas tournament. Sugar House Lions Club sponsored annual tournaments between Christmas and New Years at Edgehill gym. Teams from Salt Lake and surrounding counties. Business sponsors: Herzog's and Lee Vincent's service stations. Refreshment stand sold hotdogs, pop, popcorn.
00:31:24	Post-season tournament. Held after high school season. Allowed high school players to join community teams.
00:32:05	Church ball vs. school ball. High School Activities Association banned players from participating in community teams during season. Some chose to play for church team instead of school team. Original Edgehill uniforms were red and white colors of East High. 34:31 Coach Richardson of Westminster College scouted Edgehill teams.
00:34:31	College scouts. Coach Richardson of Westminster College scouted Edgehill teams.
00:35:42	Edgehill gym as community center. Edgehill Ward built with small chapel and large gym for young people's activities. Stage in cultural hall for performances. Projection booth for movies.
00:37:58	Building people. Coach Han tried to involve non-basketball players. High schooler Ken Smith built new scoreboard; Bart helped him install it.



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00:41:08	Edgehill gym concept. For Coach Hans, the Edgehill Gym was for building people, youth, and leadership. Nate Wade given as an example.
00:42:48	How Bart benefitted from Edgehill Basketball. Learned work, responsibility, honesty, integrity, acceptance of others – treat everyone with respect, religion doesn't matter.
00:46:55	End time