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Interview with Cid Carvalho

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LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interview #177
CARVALHO, Cid

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Class of 1981, Winthrop's Women's Tennis Coach

At Winthrop: 1986-Present (Coach)

Interviewed: March 23, 2015

Interviewer: Jenna Kasmarik

Index by: Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard

Length: 36 minutes

Abstract: In his March 23, 2015 interview with Jenna Kasmarik, Cid Carvalho shares the story of his coming to Winthrop as a student and his career as head tennis coach. Carvalho details the evolution of the sport at Winthrop from facilities to the decision to break up coaching by men's and women's teams. Finally, Carvalho shares his opinion on Title IX and its change in sports at Winthrop. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keywords: Tennis, Title IX, Physical Education, Coach, Division I, International recruitment, athletics

Interview Session (March 23, 2015): Digital File

Time Keywords

00:00:00 *Start of Interview*/Interviewer's Introduction

00:00:18 *Question:* Why Winthrop as a player? *Answer:* Wanted to play professional tennis. From Brazil. When finishing high school, CC says he was not good enough to play professionally, so he wanted to play tennis in college in the United States. Had to take examinations, but English wasn't good enough to go to schools in South Carolina. CC sent to a junior college in North Greenville. That's when CC met his wife, and his wife mentioned Winthrop. CC was recruited by a Coastal Carolina coach first – CC didn't care for the living conditions there, so he contacted a coach at Winthrop.

00:02:08 *Question:* What were the facilities and coaches like when you got here? *Answer:* In NAIA division – lots of good schools in the conference, lists off schools. Ten courts on campus where the West Center is located now. CC says the facilities were good. The top six courts were good, the bottom four, not so much. Having the facilities on

campus encouraged the players to get out and play more.

- 00:03:55 *Question:* What encouraged you to stay at Winthrop as a coach? *Answer:* CC did not have any intention to stay as a coach. CC wanted to play – he competed in tournaments. CC also gave tennis lessons in the community. CC worked in Fort Mill. Worked with Parks and Recreation in Rock Hill. A job at Winthrop opened. At that time, there was a graduate student who was the men’s coach – his time here was limited. Two years later, the job opened. CC applied and got the position. Hired in 1985.
- 00:05:39 *Question:* How long have you been here and what kept you here? *Answer:* 30 years. CC stayed because he likes Rock Hill and the area to raise a family. CC had the opportunity to leave, but he never felt like it was a right move.
- 00:06:28 *Question:* Selling points for recruits? *Answer:* Area – located near a big city. Students enjoy the climate – they want to stay away from the cold. The size of the school – students get more personal attention. The players on the team have formed a family.
- 00:07:30 *Question:* Do you always look internationally for players or is that a recent development? *Answer:* Winthrop always looks for the best players. Has talked to many American players, but CC says there are so few girls in the US that are on the level Winthrop wants. International players are top players in their country. CC goes into the reasoning behind recruiting more international players than American players. CC coached a girl who grew up in Fort Mill, she moved to Florida, but she committed to going to Winthrop and playing tennis for CC. CC says Winthrop can get local tennis players if they form a connection with them, otherwise, it is very difficult.
- 00:12:50 *Question:* Why one coach for both the men’s and women’s tennis teams? *Answer:* That was common, possibly a way for the athletic department to save money. Some schools had professors teaching too. People didn’t spend much money on tennis. “They still don’t.” CC coached both the men’s and women’s teams for twenty five years. It wasn’t until five years ago that a new coach was assigned to coach the men’s team. CC stayed with the women’s team.
- 00:14:25 *Question:* Why stay with the women’s team? *Answer:* CC enjoyed working with both teams. Men’s tennis is different than women’s tennis. The main reason CC stayed with the women’s team, was because his assistant coach wanted to coach the men’s team. They only give out 4.5 scholarships for the men’s tennis team to divide up. On the women’s team, there are 8 full scholarships. Money is usually an issue on the men’s tennis team.
- 00:16:15 *Question:* Differences in coaching the men’s and women’s team? *Answer:* The

- women's team is more emotional. They play with more emotion. Coaching men, CC says you have to be more direct. Coaching women, CC says you have to keep the players calm, relaxed, and confident. The women's team at Winthrop has 17 championship titles. The men's team has 6 championship title.
- 00:17:50 *Question:* What factors played into your team's successes? *Answer:* The women's team got in the mindset that they were going to win the Big South. CC says there were a lot of close matches, but they were able to win.
- 00:18:35 *Question:* What is your definition of Title IX? *Answer:* Women have the same rights as men – jobs, scholarships, competition, etc.
- 00:19:05 *Question:* Has that made women's athletics more competitive? *Answer:* Yes. CC says we have to thank Billie Jean King for Title IX. CC talks about his daughter getting a scholarship. CC says it needs to be more prevalent in the working place and the church.
- 00:20:00 *Question:* Do you think because women's sports are more competitive, more girls want to play at the college level? *Answer:* Yes, especially international students. They want scholarships.
- 00:21:00 *Question:* What lead to the split of coaches for men's and women's tennis teams? *Answer:* When there was one coach for two teams, men and women would practice together. The graduate assistant would help CC. The two teams would travel together. It was easy and "fun" to coach both teams. The teams would support each other. As other schools started splitting their programs and Winthrop got nationally ranked, matches and schedules no longer matched up. There were days when men and women were playing at the same time. CC didn't feel like he could work with the men's players. CC thought about toning down the schedule. Campbell is the only team in the Big South that hasn't split.
- 00:26:32 *Question:* Is Title IX negative to men's athletics? *Answer:* Anything that promotes equality is not negative.
- 00:27:20 *Question:* How does Title IX affects the amount of male coaches in sports? *Answer:* In women's tennis, there are a lot of female coaches. CC says he would like to see more women's coaches coach men's tennis. CC lists off some examples. CC says we are coming to an age where we value how good the person is, regardless of sex, age, race.
- 00:28:55 *Question:* Why do you think women are hesitant to coach the male equivalent of their sport? *Answer:* Things are changing. CC says things are not moving fast enough. We need to realize it's not wrong for women to coach male teams. The first coach CC had

was a woman. CC speculates that women may not feel comfortable on a bus full of men. CC sees no problem with female head coaches.

- 00:31:20 *Question:* Was Title IX the reason Winthrop added more female sports? *Answer:* When Winthrop decided to go Division I, there is a minimum amount of sports that need to be men and women – that may be a contributing factor. Some schools will drop men’s sports, instead of adding women’s sports for financial reasons.
- 00:33:44 *Question:* Is imbalance of more women’s sports at Winthrop a problem? *Answer:* No. It’s good. The more sports you add, the more opportunities it offers people. There are financial considerations, however.
- 00:35:15 *Question:* Final words? *Answer:* The facilities are great at Winthrop, not just tennis. There have been very successful coaches at Winthrop – CC lists off coaches and their successes. Winthrop has had a lot of success being a part of Division I.
- 00:36:33 *End of interview*