



2017

## Dave Kindred

Dave Kindred '63

David McMahan

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Index to a 2017 interview with Dave Kindred  
Conducted by David McMahon at the  
Glessner House Museum in Chicago

This document contains a series of questions asked of David Kindred, Class of 1963, when he was interviewed for the Muhammad Ali Film Project, LLC. They were extracted from the transcript of the interview to serve as an aid in identifying the times in the interview that relate to specific topics. The full transcript is available on request. For access to the recording of the interview itself, contact [archives@iwu.edu](mailto:archives@iwu.edu).

The Ames Library has access to the documentary that this interview contributed to. It is available in four parts:

Muhammad Ali. Round one, The greatest (1942-1964) [https://i-share-iwu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CARLI\\_IWU/v238n6/alma997982451105847](https://i-share-iwu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CARLI_IWU/v238n6/alma997982451105847)

Muhammad Ali. Round two, What's my name? (1964-1970) [https://i-share-iwu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CARLI\\_IWU/v238n6/alma997982451005847](https://i-share-iwu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CARLI_IWU/v238n6/alma997982451005847)

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Muhammad Ali. Round four, The rent you pay (1974-2016) [https://i-share-iwu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CARLI\\_IWU/v238n6/alma997982450805847](https://i-share-iwu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CARLI_IWU/v238n6/alma997982450805847)

00:00:07 When did you first hear about Cassius Clay

00:00:37 Why did you feel like that was, uh, as a, as a newspaper man in college where that was a good move?

00:01:05 Did you ever get any feedback, um, in doing this? Did, how do, how are people responding to this young rebel?

00:01:40 at the same time, um, boxing didn't necessarily fall in love with him, did it?

00:02:26 When did you first encounter him and what were your first impression

00:03:46 And what was it like to have a private audience with him? Was he a conversationalist?

00:05:05 And how did people respond to him that day?

00:05:40 Where does the name, back to this name, where does the name Cassius Marcellus Clay come from? What, what's his lineage?

00:07:17 Did young Cassius Clay...was he proud of his name?

00:07:42 Tell me about his father. What was he like?

00:09:03 Is there anything that you think that junior got from his father?

00:09:44 And did you have any encounters with his mother?

00:10:18 Who deserves credit for teaching Clay how to box?

00:11:36 Was he untrainable at a certain point?

00:12:21 And Dundee, did Dundee also have room for the antics, the theatrics that went along with Ali's character?

00:13:06 Can you describe his approach to fighting, and how it was unorthodox?

00:14:13 What did boxing observers in those early days think of this style?

00:15:09 What did, what did people, what did observers think that happened in a fight with Clay?

00:16:42 So, it wasn't the most perfect jab ever landed or whatever it was that sent him ...

00:17:30 And in both cases, the old guard was eager to see him lose for other reasons behind his unorthodox style

00:18:49 Johansson. I wanted to ask you about the sparring session then, what Ali, the sort of, maybe proof of talent that was exhibited in there....I think you wrote about this. Did he do a sparring session with Johansson?

00:19:41 Next I wanted to go back....I've got two questions, both of which have names in them that I have read many times, but I've never pronounced. One, Ingemar, uh, Joh- Joh-<sup>[SEP]</sup>A: Johansson.<sup>[SEP]</sup>Q: Johansson.<sup>[SEP]</sup>A: Johansson.<sup>[SEP]</sup> (This was in the transcript but not in the interview video)

00:20:09 Great. Thank you. Um, and, and tell me about his, Ali's, I guess, the keen sense of, of promotion, of self-promotion

00:21:46 Speaking of, um, keen sense of self-promotion, can you tell that story?

{ Q: One more issue. Okay. I just want to, staying in promotion and, uh ...<sup>[SEP]</sup> Crew: [crosstalk 00:23:08]<sup>[SEP]</sup>Q: For, let me get back to it for one second. Um, I wondered about this story, um, uh, around the underwater photographs.<sup>[SEP]</sup>A: Yeah.<sup>[SEP]</sup>Q: And ho- how do you say his name? Is it Flip, uh, Schulke?<sup>[SEP]</sup>A: Schulke.<sup>[SEP]</sup>Q: Schulke.<sup>[SEP]</sup>A: Schulke.<sup>[SEP]</sup>Q: Is he an American?<sup>[SEP]</sup>A: Yes.<sup>[SEP]</sup>Q: He was, okay.<sup>[SEP]</sup>A: I think so.<sup>[SEP]</sup>Q: Yeah.<sup>[SEP]</sup>A: Yeah. Um, well, I spoke to him and, uh, no ...<sup>[SEP]</sup> Crew: [crosstalk 00:23:30]<sup>[SEP]</sup>A: No discernible accent.<sup>[SEP]</sup>Q: Okay. Yeah. Um, tell me when we're ...<sup>[SEP]</sup> Crew: Uh, we are back.<sup>[SEP]</sup>Q: Okay.<sup>[SEP]</sup> Crew: And we're back and rolling.<sup>[SEP]</sup>Q: So, speaking ...<sup>[SEP]</sup> Crew: And we're back into it } (this was in the transcript, but not in the interview)

00:23:24 And were, did the, did those photographs get used?

00:23:31 Does, does anyone in here know if that was a cover? Silence

00:24:09 Um, I love that story. Um, so, you've got an old guard that thinks a certain way about, uh, how boxes should fight and how they should behave. Um, what is the younger generation up and coming? What are the whispers and the conversations in the younger group of up and coming sportswriters about, about, about this fighter?

00:25:38 So, is he and his behavior and in the way that he's using media, um, and the way he presents himself to the sportswriters and public, is he responding to his environment, uh, in, in times that are sort of moving fast forward, or is he shaping it? Is he out in front doing these things and re- you know, resetting things in a new way?

00:27:27 What about, um, Gorgeous George? What did he learned from another, um, high profile celebrity who had a flare ...

00:28:19 It's a fascinating contradiction because he seems to want to be loved. Um, is it all just theater to him?

00:28:36 Terrific. Thank you. Um, I wanted to go back to the, um, uh, you spoke on this a little bit. Um, what was the state of professional boxing as, uh, Cassius Clay was, uh, climbing the ranks towards a title fight?

00:30:28 Uh, and it seems like the first of, of, of, it's, it's more than several times where his timing is terrific

00:30:38 What you said, that he has a knack for being in the right place at the right time over the course of his professional and public life

00:32:29 When he took that initial stand, um, what do you think motivated it? And he talked about race, politics, and religion all the time, but was, was it about those things at that point or was it something simpler at first?

00:34:37 And that wasn't the on- uh, and there were other costs associated with this, sort of, firm up our sense of his courage. What were other costs?

00:36:31 Can you tell me about his relationship with Elijah Muhammad? How significant a role did he play in Ali's life?

00:37:44 Do you think there was any, um, that fear was a factor in that

00:38:40 Did they ha- did the Nation have positive impact, uh, positive impact in his life? And what, and did that, did it manifest in positive ways for him?

00:39:51 What do you think it was about their message that appealed to him?

00:40:50 And did it have him, uh, for a guy who maybe didn't have too many original thoughts, did it have a message that he could just make his own?

00:41:45 As you talked about, um, lots of famous people have changed their names, stage names, whatever it is. Why was it different, importantly different than, than Ali, that Clay became Ali?

00:43:31 And the, this is all against the backdrop of, um, the Civil Rights Movement, um, did he have a consciousness at all about the, sort of, Minister's King led version of the Civil Rights Movement that was happening?

00:44:46 Great. Um, okay. He and the, uh, Elijah Muhammad drives a wedge between him and his brother Malcolm X, um, but you don't get the sense that he, um, is burdened by that, being forced to go, um, in a separate direction and leave this man who had been influential for some years. What does that say about, about Ali?

{...}

... be in touch because of the suspension, um, I can't, I don't get the sense that he was bothered by that. Uh, and I wondered what that said about Ali, um, this man who had become almost like a brother to him, um, and he's okay. I don't, I don't know. Maybe it says something about Elijah Muhammad's hold on him or something, but I wondered about trying to make sense of how someone could be so unburdened by a ri- a complicated rift that would, that occurred. I wonder what you thought of that

00:47:59 That you, you've, you've touched on this a little bit, um, but there's, there was one particular moneymaking, uh, venture that he involved himself in, while he was exiled. And that was this fight against Rocky Marciano, a computer fight

00:49:01 (laughs) Um, uh, how did the, um, how did his exile end?

00:49:36 And why, why was, why were they able to get

00:50:00 And it seems unlikely that, you know, Lester Maddox run-state that (laughter) he would have made this concession to, um, an African-American, um, but there it is

00:51:26 Did he flash any signs at all that he was going to be a different fighter going forward?

00:52:03 Was the crowd for him?

00:52:22 And given that not long ago he had been the most reviled man in the country, how did it strike you that suddenly now there's a whole arena who's behind him?

00:52:50 Uh, and Atlanta had a, um, had a, um, an active intellectual scene for African-Americans, with the college complex there. Um, in some ways, Atlanta is a good place for him to make his triumphant return, because it is a kind of a seat of, of black culture in this country?

00:53:38 Um, do you know anything about a, um, party that took place?

00:54:00 Perfect. Great. Um, so, um, what was next? What was the main thing that was next in his path after Quarry?

00:55:22 Who was Joe Frazier?

00:56:37 What kind of a crowd did it draw at Madison Square Garden

00:56:58 And did, uh, if, if there's a premium on, on, for fighters on dodging punches, um, was that out the window for Ali at this point? I mean, this is a brutal, was it?

00:58:17 Eddie Futch, what did he tell, or how did he tell Frazier to approach this fight, uh, from a technique ...

{...} Okay. There's something nice in your book about, um, about what he said. Um, maybe you ha

00:58:42 What was, what was, uh, uh, Frazier's approach to fighting?

00:59:46 And, um, did it s- sort of set them both back on the brain cell count? I mean, the, is this the beginning of, for both of them, uh ...

01:01:29 Great. Um, and, and how was Ali and defeat? I mean, for a guy, he, losing was uncharted territory, how did he respond to the initial ...

01:02:53 And that he would often be given the benefit of the doubt in a decision situation, wouldn't he? I mean, what, how, firstly, how did he set it up so that he would get that benefit of the doubt?

01:03:44 And what, when he was saying no contest and you're seeing that close, what are, what are the folks in his corner saying to him?

01:04:19 Great. Okay. Why was the Foreman fight held in Zaire?

01:04:50 Was there anything, um, problematic about, about fighting there?

01:05:30 What did his victory there do for his popularity?

01:06:55 And, um, you mentioned Cosell. Um, where did their, uh, chemistry or were there, where did their thing, their friendship, uh, where did it begin?

01:08:31 Cosell, I mean, a lot of, if, a lot of the press may be, uh, were reluctant to give, some of the old guard, especially the old writers, to give Ali anything. Um, does it, does Cosell kind of come to his defense in a way that other of his plat- of his, that had the voice that he had did not?

01:10:09 What did he bring out of Ali in an interview format or on TV?

01:11:16 Okay. Um, how intense was Ali's cruelty towards Frazier going into the third fight?

01:13:55 What was the setting for the fight? {...} Um, there was something you said though in your writing about, um, it got to a certain point where, um, it looked dire for Ali and maybe he was able to ...

01:17:43 Yeah. Yeah. Did, it, it did seem to me as well that something was upsetting about that to you.

01:18:32 Uh, have you s- has any other athlete ever touched you in that way?

01:20:11 Yeah, I, I can't help but think of that Davey Moore song that you wrote about, uh, the cost, uh, uh, in boxing, um, you know, and, and how we all, you know, it, it's a singular sport for the gladiator aspect, um, and we all condone it starting with the men in the ring, but also the promoters, the ..

01:21:32 And did we turn on a dime in that moment? I mean, of all, if, um, did he ascend to an, you said the saint, but, uh, it was, it was a new level of popularity, um, at that point. I mean, all of the complications about him, uh, dissipate and it's a full body embrace at that point?

01:23:12 I have other things to discuss before that, but you saw him, uh, you spent some time with him that next morning {...} And, uh, you know, what spirits, what kind of spirits was he and then what had that meant to him to do that?

01:24:27 How did you go about covering him? Um, it, he doesn't seem like a guy who you could come arms with eight pages of questions and ..

01:25:27 So, what would be the scene be in his room, uh, when you'd go up there? Would it be, who would be ...

01:25:49 You asked him once about his, um, entourage and what each of their responsibilities were and

01:28:21 Tell me about, uh, Deer Lake. [L] [SEP]

01:29:48 Was the 5th, uh, Street Gym as spartan as Deer Lake?

01:31:03 And, and they weren't charmed by his innocence, I mean, he is down there on his own, a young kid, and there's all this temptation around him, and he's, you know, drinking orange juice and going to bed early and running the streets. Uh, I mean ..

01:31:37 Um, were people around him telling him over the, the last few fights, um, that it, that it was time to hang them up?

01:33:13 What about, um, Herbert? Um, he, it feels to me like he even cut corners on the medical aspect of it, like, uh, when it came to Holmes

01:34:09 Not from the beginning of the fight?

01:36:02 The, uh, okay. Let me say it, just this one. Um, that, so, not getting those chemical hits that you get from being a very famous professional fighter and earning that money and having that entourage around, um, what state did he end up in when he did finally hang up his gloves?

01:37:30 I just want to, before we, uh, I just want to go, before we do some more, uh, post-fighting stuff, um, and you said you stopped covering boxing. Um, was, did you ever find a time where, um, you felt like it was difficult to see, to see him get punched?

01:40:04 And this is the complicated thing about boxing, when Holmes could see this himself, um, yet, the sh- the show in a way had to go on. Um, let's wait one second for [inaudible

01:52:29] here. Um, the biggest complica

01:41:26 Um, did at some point in his retirement through depression or, or darker moments, did he embrace ever maybe through the faith or for any reason the idea that, um, that he had, his mobility had been reduced, and that there was some value in that, that he could use that to ..

01:43:19 Were there a lot of people, were there a lot of schemes and people trying to make a buck off of him in his retirement?

01:44:00 Uh, and was he badly taken advantage of?

01:45:23 And did you see a, um, you talked about the tallying, but was there like right to the end of your relationship with him, did you see a, uh, a dedication and commitment to his faith?

01:46:48 Why did we, and that's successful. Why do we have an appetite for, uh, sanitized Muhammad Ali, uh .

01:48:25 Uh, it's, it's almost, it's, it's as if that's the, it's not the fight. It's, um, it's when he was most reviled is when he was most important to us

01:49:20 Why do you think people, um, uh, and I, I don't think this is, I think this is important because it doesn't have the, boxing doesn't have the profile today that it once did. Um, what, what was the uni- the appeal, the big universal appeal? I mean, he was famous across the world. People knew him in countries everywhere, um, as a boxer. What, what is the, what's the appeal of boxing?

01:51:07 Great. Thank you. I just want to make sense of this, um, the week we're trying to, Buddy, to make sense of, um, how someone, um, the, the sort of play between being most famous and most reviled at the same time in this window. He seems to occupy both of those spaces. Um, I don't know how many people have existed in that space. Um, um, can you talk a little bit about that? I mean, how, how is he able to be all of those things?

01:55:29 Great. Um, and, uh, with all that in mind, the, how, how would you answer, uh, who is Muhammad Ali?

01:56:29 That's great. Um, thank you. Um, last one. Um, what did Ali's, um, entourage mean to him?

01:59:20 One last thing. Um, the, um, as it got in, so, uh, the, celebrities over the years are covered man in a, uh, you know, I think of the [Al Stapps 02:15:57] who procured women for John Kennedy, uh, never wrote about it. Um, the, what was the feeling among the writers around him about what you witnessed with the coming and going of, uh, girlfriends and what to report on ...

02:00:11 And as a, as a writer, a sport, and writing about sports, um, have you seen over the years an evolution in how, um, I mean, today, it feels like, I remember all the headlines when A-Rod was spotted, like, in some proximity to a strip club in Toronto

02:01:36 It seems that way. Um, thank you. Uh, did, did you, did you have a love for him?



02:03:49 Somebody, uh, told you about an encounter you had or, or time you were with him that you didn't remember, but they did