Today is July 7, 1998. My name is Marcus Johnson. I am in the office of Coach Dutch Schroeder in room 214 of the Marrs McLean Gym. This is the second interview of discussing Coach Schroeder’s baseball career here at Baylor as an undergraduate and his days as head coach as well as his subsequent career afterwards. So, last time we—our interview, our first interview with Coach Schroeder—we were talking about your World War II days and also your career at Baylor when you transferred in from UT and were a baseball player here for two years—a two year letterman. Today, I’d like to start with the beginning of your coaching career at Temple High School. What year—you graduated from Baylor in what year?

E. E. “DUTCH” SCHROEDER: In ’49.

JOHNSON: In 1949. And what did you want to do afterwards? And once you walked across that stage what was in your mind?

SCHROEDER: Well, I actually started playing in the Big State Baseball League before I graduated. I had a summer’s work to finish, but I was allowed to take some Saturday
courses and some correspondence courses so that I could play baseball in the—what was then the Class B Big State League in Temple.

JOHNSON: Could you real quick describe the Big State League?

SCHROEDER: Big State League—

JOHNSON: —what was minor league—what was the status of minor league baseball in Texas then?

SCHROEDER: Well, there was—

JOHNSON: —there was no major league teams, of course.

SCHROEDER: No. There was one Texas League team—

JOHNSON: And that’s the legendary league.

SCHROEDER: —in Dallas and then there was one in Houston, one in San Antonio. I believe—maybe Fort Worth had a team at that time, too. But there were six or seven leagues just in the state of Texas because everybody—every town wanted to have their own town team, which is how baseball really got started after the days of Abner Doubleday. So, Temple had a team. It was their first year to play in the state league. I had married a Temple girl, but I had played in the summer leagues here against Temple.

JOHNSON: Real quick, you said—when did you get married?

SCHROEDER: Got married in ’48.

JOHNSON: In ’48.

SCHROEDER: So I had played my senior year as a married man and I guess that’s why I had a fairly good year and was able to be picked up by Temple, which was a town team. There were no teams in the league that year that were—that belonged to a major league farm system—but I knew that coaching is where I was headed. I had a physical education degree with a teaching certificate and had a coaching minor. And Temple was a good place to start for their athletic program was one of the best in the state for football. It had never been really great for baseball, but it was a good, good place to start.
JOHNSON: So you kind—the first—during that summer of 1949, you were playing Big State—in the Big State League. And what was your contact with Temple, as far as coaching wise? Did you go to the athletic department, or did they come to you, or how did that work?

SCHROEDER: I had a real good summer. I probably hit about .340—.330 or .340. And the kids kind of liked me because they all began calling me Dutch because that’s familiarity with all of the players. And when I went out to look for a job I first looked in Temple and talked to one of the members of the school board who sent me on to the head football coach, who was the athletic director. And in turn, they decided they needed to have a little better baseball program and would hire a baseball person rather than just have a football coach do it.

JOHNSON: So the—you were hired in the summer. And I take it you started that fall teaching?

SCHROEDER: Started teaching that fall—had no football duties that fall. And it’s a good thing because I—the teaching schedule I had was a big one and it probably would have been more than I could’ve handled to do seven classes and then try to coach football, too.

JOHNSON: You taught seven classes?

SCHROEDER: That’s what we taught in those days.

JOHNSON: What did you—what courses did you teach?

SCHROEDER: I taught civics and commercial math and physical education courses.

JOHNSON: As far as outside the physical education realm, did anything at Baylor prepare you for that, or was it kind of sink or swim?

SCHROEDER: I think it was one of those sink or swims. (both laugh) I have not had any civics classes other than the one political science that every major has to have. As for the math, I had not had a math course in college, so it was very simple.
JOHNSON: So, you had to just kind of stay just one step ahead of the students.

SCHROEDER: I hope they didn’t realize that. (both laugh)

JOHNSON: Did you do anything in the fall to prepare for the baseball season? Did you all have off-season baseball?

SCHROEDER: No, those things weren’t allowed. You couldn’t even start the baseball programs until the middle of February. Football was king, and of all places in Temple it was the king and the queen because it was their life. It did have a great basketball team that year which helped to prolong the—that season and before some of the players could go back and be a part of the football program. But I was allowed to use the graduating football players on my baseball team that spring. I had known that I would have a good team because Temple had a strong quarterback club and several members told me early in the fall that I would have a good team, except I didn’t have much pitching; that I would have to try to develop it from the players that were there, who were not just outstanding pitchers. When the spring semester began, a fellow came over to me and said he was coming out for the baseball team. I had never seen him before and I’d seen most of the students at Temple High School. Come to find out he had moved in from Jarrell, Texas. His father was the superintendent there, but one of our quarterback club members knew about him and brought him up to us and he was an outstanding pitcher. That spring we had a team that was filled with seniors, but had a couple of young players that were able to be on the squad; one of them even breaking in as the starting shortstop. And I have to add here that ninth graders were eligible for the varsity in Temple sports, because the ninth grade was in the high school. My shortstop was a young man named Doyle Traylor, who ends up being one of the great high school quarterbacks. Came to Baylor. Unfortunately, he was a victim of one injury after another—broken arm, spine problems, broken leg one year—might have, could have lead us to a championship earlier, but as a freshman he was already very mature; he was a shortstop for our team. My first basemen was Tommy Strasburger, who later became a basketball player at Baylor and was the
captain in probably 1954. I had a pretty outstanding team. Unfortunately, Waxahachie had a pitcher named Charlie Rabe who was the out—one of the outstanding pitchers in the state that year. He beat me once and we beat him once, but we got upset by Cleburne, so we ended up in second place in the district. It was an outstanding team that I had that year. I wished I had known as much about coaching then as I knew later. We might even have done better.

JOHNSON: What was the—yeah, this is—you’re a rookie baseball coach, rookie teacher—what was it like that first year, along those lines?

SCHROEDER: I thought they needed to be trained a lot like I had been trained. Was very defensive minded. As I said I played for Tony Burger in Austin and we were a defensive minded team, using the inabilities of the other team to win victories. I played a lot that way. And the pitcher that came up from Jarrell was a young man named Gary Williams, who was outstanding and so we built on his pitching. I had another player named Billy Tutor who was our secondary pitcher, but in those days you weren’t allowed to play on Saturdays and Sundays, so there was no practice those two days. You played Tuesdays and Fridays, and Gary Williams could have pitched probably all of our games. I tried to pick the right one for him, and Billy Tutor did an outstanding job that year, also.

JOHNSON: As far as the coaching profession in baseball in Texas we talked about in the last interview, there wasn’t even a U. I. L. sport at the time. That was before the war—that was before World War II. Now, we’re in the post war boom. Everybody, you said, wants to play baseball, or every town wants its minor league baseball team. How is that changing the face of high school baseball—especially in Texas, where football is king and queen and the whole court?

SCHROEDER: The patrons of schools began to want people with a baseball background to be their coaches. Previous to this, a football coach would hire football coaches and then one of them would have to take track and one would take basketball. One would take baseball. Rarely did they have to pick up the other two sports that were played then,
tennis and golf. But as baseball people began to be baseball coaches, the caliber of high school baseball got better and better. Of course, today it is very, very strong. Their state organization in Texas is about four thousand, two thousand of which come to the annual coaches convention in January that is held here in Waco, Texas. Since we are the heart of Texas we get to host that every year.

JOHNSON: What about your career? You know, you were at Temple for four years—what about your minor league career there? You played—what did you play? You kept playing that, I know.

SCHROEDER: I started playing about June first until the tenth each year, depending upon when school was out. Have to work myself into shape, but I continued to play at Temple, ’49, ’50. In ’51, they didn’t have a place for me by the time I was able to be freed from my duties. Now, I played for Corpus Christi in the Gulf Coast League because there was still plenty of leagues in Texas to play. And I came back to Temple the next year and played there in ’52. And in ’53 I played, but I injured my back and had to retire from the season, and that was the last of my professional career.

JOHNSON: What did you do to your back?

SCHROEDER: The pitcher whirled to throw to first. I was standing on the base and when I saw the ball coming, I turned my body; it was that my body wasn’t ready to turn. The upper part moved and the lower part didn’t and something gave in the lower part of my back. So I went through some rehabilitation for the rest of that season. But I—that was my last—I was twenty-nine years old then; it was time to get on with other things.

JOHNSON: So when you started your professional career in the minor league system, did you—was your dream to make it to the major leagues, or was this more of a fun hobby? That you knew you could play at this level for right now, but you knew that it wasn’t going to be much beyond.

SCHROEDER: It was a summer job. Teachers were not paid during the summer, so you had to find something to do. And it was a—one of the better paying jobs you could have
in the summer. When you hear my salary of $250 and $300, that wasn’t a whole lot of
money then, but it was enough to tide you through the summer with your teaching salary.

JOHNSON: Did all of your kids come out and watch you? I mean—

SCHROEDER: Oh, yes.

JOHNSON: I am sure that created, maybe, a special bond. You know, usually the
stereotypical image of coaches is they’re old and overweight and out of shape and stuff.
Well, you were a young guy and you were out here playing just as hard and better than
they were.

SCHROEDER: And a lot of young people who enjoyed coming and yelling for me. I
don’t think they were yelling against me (both laugh). Their parents and friends might
have been when I didn’t do just real well, but I think the youngsters of Temple—I was
one of their favorites because I did have a——I was visually seen by lots of people in the
town.

JOHNSON: Is there—did you detect a lot of towns kind of have a special bond with
their minor league team or something?

SCHROEDER: Well, it was owned by the town and so it was theirs. Temple was owned
by ten business men. I don’t know how much they put into it, but not a lot. But they
continued to withstand farm systems trying to come in and take over until the demise of
the league, which it lasted probably nine or ten years. So it was probably the mid-fifties
before it vanished with the changing of the times.

JOHNSON: Now, how many teams do you think there were in Texas during this time?
You said there was six or seven——

SCHROEDER: Probably sixty.

JOHNSON: Wow!

SCHROEDER: Well, I can remember little towns—uh, little towns like Midland and
Odessa, Snyder in the west——

JOHNSON: Some long bus rides, I take it, to get there?
SCHROEDER: Most of them in the West Texas leagues—there were a lot of them. There was San Angelo, Abilene, Midland, Odessa, and El Paso was in that league. Wichita Falls was in the Big State League; it was one of our biggest. Gulf Coast League had long bus rides; there were two teams from Louisiana. When you go from Brownsville to Lake Charles, that’s a pretty good night’s ride in a bus.

JOHNSON: What are your fondest memories of minor league baseball?

SCHROEDER: Just a great time in life. People who didn’t have to be the most serious about their job. Most of them were there because it was a fun thing to do. Very few of them moved up the ladder because not many of them where in a farm system where you were moved up the ladder. There were several players, though, that were able to move up and some even make it to the major leagues. There were a lot of awfully good players and opportunities were not there for them to move up.

JOHNSON: I have it down here that you played, or played with or played against guys including Pete Runnels and Don Larsen. What are some major league talent that you were able to play against that later went on and did big things?

SCHROEDER: Don Larsen, of course, pitched a no-hit game in the World Series.

JOHNSON: Um-hm, 1956.

SCHROEDER: He was a pitcher at Wichita Falls. Now, he pitched it for the Yankees, but at the time he pitched at Wichita Falls they were a part of the St. Louis Browns farm system. Of course, they became defunct and somebody moved them, I believe. They may have moved to Milwaukee; I don’t remember just what that was. But Don Larsen was an outstanding pitcher in our league. I do remember hitting a home run off him, so that was a —

JOHNSON: That was a thrill for you.

SCHROEDER: —pretty good thrill. Pete Runnels was an outstanding hitter. Not a power hitter, but hit for a very high average. As I recall, I played against him two years. He played at Texarkana and that was in the Big State League also. He hit around .400
both years and then was able to be bought by some major league system, where he moved up and played in both American and National leagues.

JOHNSON: Now he was a—if I remember correctly, a batting champion for several years.

SCHROEDER: I think maybe he won the batting championship two or three years in the American League. Then he came back to play for the Astros to finish up and I’m not—I don’t believe he ever won the batting championship in the National League.

JOHNSON: Is there any players that stand out in your mind that you played against?

SCHROEDER: Well, there were a lot of players that stand out, none of them who ever made it all the way. One of the outstanding players I played against was Joe Szekely, who played on the same team as Pete Runnels at Texarkana.

JOHNSON: How do you spell Szekely?

SCHROEDER: Since he played at Baylor with me, I ought to be able to spell that one, but it’s S-z-e-k-e-l-y, more like Szekely. He went on to play a couple of years with the Cincinnati Reds. But Texarkana had a way of getting some very top talent in. They were among our toughest competitors.

JOHNSON: When you say a way, is that usually the investors who are willing to fork over the cash to find them, or get them to —

SCHROEDER: You had to understand at that time baseball had salary limits by the classification of the league. There wasn’t talks for individual players as well as a team total. A lot of players were able to pick the top in a Class B league of five hundred dollars, but most of them had to play for the minimum of 250 in order to cover those others. There were some who paid more than that for the team, for the team total.

Several times I played with leagues, once in Temple, once in Corpus, where at the end of the year we were given a small amount of money to pay for the income tax when they reported our true salary. It was felt that you could get away with things in baseball that Uncle Sam wouldn’t let you get away with.
JOHNSON:  (laughs)  The all-American sport.

SCHROEDER:  (laughs)  That’s it.

JOHNSON:  How was—what was it like for your family in Temple those first couple years?  You were a young married guy.  How did your wife—

SCHROEDER:  Well, I had a daughter born the first year I was playing.  I can remember coming home and feeding the baby as I walked in the door from a road trip.  It was my turn (both laugh) since she’d had her turn all alone for maybe up to a week while we were on the road.  Then I had a second child a couple of years later.  I was in Corpus when my second child was born.  I was playing for the Corpus Christi Aces, an outstanding minor league ball club.  We were probably twenty games in front of the pack when I left them to come home for the birth of my second child.  But all went well in Temple.  It’s a great town, a great place to coach.  The town wanted winners in every sport and it just was a great place to be.  It was a kind of quarterback club that I would hope for every town.  It gave you support and most of them left you completely alone with who you were playing and your strategy.  Then when you win most of the time, they don’t have much strategy to challenge.  But it was a great town.

JOHNSON:  Any other highlights in Temple?  What was the—you were there for four years.  Your first year you said you did very well, but nearly lost after Waxahachie as far as the district crown.  What were the latter years like?

SCHROEDER:  Our second year we were rebuilding.  I played mostly seniors.  Had a nice ball club; it was a winning ball club, but we did not—we came in third place in the district that year.  Corsicana was an outstanding team that year, had a couple of football players named Nut and Deadbolt.  They went on to SMU.  I think Nut may have become an All-American quarterback up there, but was an outstanding baseball player.  I had one named Matthews who I think who also went over there.  We just had some real good ball players come together that year.  The baseball program did not win big for me in Temple.  They did not have good youth programs yet, but football wise we did well.  Our two—the
two last years I was there we went to the state finals both years and Breckenridge beat us both.

JOHNSON: Would you use a lot of football players to fill out your roster?

SCHROEDER: Oh, yes. Fortunately, Coach Dawson allowed me to use the other athletes. The football players had to do their football thing first and then they would come to baseball practice. And I got second choice if they were on the track team. Then after baseball practice they went to work out for track. So the athletes there had to do everything.

JOHNSON: You’d have to be in pretty good shape it sounds like to get through—if you wanted to do more than one sport.

SCHROEDER: They were in good shape, but most of them were multi-talented and we just had to use the same athletes. It was not in the big school district, conferences, districts like we have them—like they are today.

JOHNSON: Anything else about Temple before we move on to your career at Austin?

SCHROEDER: Just that they furnished me good opportunities as a start. They gave me a place to play pro ball in the summer. It gave me an emphasis that baseball could be a career for me. And I was fortunate that when the schools in Austin began to be too populated for one high school, they went to three high schools and put out the word they were ready to hire coaches. And that’s when I began to look into other places besides Temple. And one of the reasons was that we had failed to win the football championship two years in a row. And the town was tired of being second fiddle and they wanted somebody who could take them to the championship and not just to the championship game. And it looked like they were getting ready to make a coaching change, also.

JOHNSON: In football?

SCHROEDER: We all began to look, yes.

JOHNSON: So since he’s the athletic director, he knew if his head rolled, there was a very good shot—possibility that other coaches would be replaced, too.
SCHROEDER: The rest of us would be looking.

JOHNSON: Yeah. So you heard about the possibilities down in Austin and you applied for the Travis job I assume.

SCHROEDER: I applied to—Mr. Burger was the athletic director that I had played for in high school. He told me to come in and interview; that there might be a place in their system for me. By the time I got there, they had their three head coaches in football and that was not my sport and I was not going to be a head coach in football. I was interested in a head baseball coaching job and an assistance in football. I had some background in coaching in Temple, as doing a line coach for the B team. When I was able to interview with the principle of the school and the head coach at Travis, they offered me the job of being the ninth grade coach. They would have a little different system than Temple had. The ninth grade was in the high school in Temple, but the ninth graders played in junior high football. So they would have to come back to the junior high to play in that program. In Austin, they were going to have a ninth grade league. So they wanted me to coach the football, the basketball, the track in the ninth grade and then coach the baseball on the varsity. It looked like that was a job that I could handle. They did not hire many coaches. The varsity only had two coaches. Mr. Milam is the head coach and June Davis, who had just finished being the captain at Texas—was a guard there. I was going to be the other coach and they had two—

JOHNSON: Two varsity football coaches?

SCHROEDER: And two B team coaches and me. It was a five coach school. But I was primarily the ninth grade coach, but with baseball duties in high school.

JOHNSON: So you’re hired by Temple—I mean by Austin Travis. You start in the fall of 1953.

SCHROEDER: Fall of ’53.

JOHNSON: How was the adjustment? You’re now no longer a professional baseball player; you moved your family a second time—
SCHROEDER: But I was back home. I’d grown up in south Austin—that’s where Travis High is located. I thought I would be free from any of my former teammates and classmates in Austin putting pressures on me because most of them did not have children old enough yet to be a part of the athletic programs. It was a great time. We opened the Travis High School; it was not ready to open, but we opened it. The football program in the junior high—I had some really fine athletes. We had a good season. I think we played a seven game schedule against the other Austin schools—

JOHNSON: Just one second here. Let me flip the tape.

(tape 1, side 1 ends; side 2 begins)

JOHNSON: This is side two of the first tape of the second interview with Coach Dutch Schroeder. You were talking about the football program at Austin Travis and how you were—they were getting that going in it’s first year.

SCHROEDER: I was talking about the junior high program. The high school program could not cope with the other schools. You remember now, the city of Austin is now divided into three and so the talent is not just half divided; it is in thirds. Austin High had a very good team the previous year and they still had most of the players who were available in fall ’53. Our varsity team just won a couple of ball games, but they played well. The junior high program was a success. We had some outstanding ninth grade players who looked like some of them might be able to help the varsity in the future years.

JOHNSON: So we are getting ready for baseball here. Baseball season is coming up—

SCHROEDER: Well, I have to coach—

JOHNSON: What was that like?

SCHROEDER: I had to coach the basketball in junior high first. We were not very competitive. Basketball was not a sport of south Austin. But baseball was a sport of south Austin.
JOHNSON: Had the league system grown? The new system had grown since you were there, so there was a talent-level pool?

SCHROEDER: Yes, it began to have some youth leagues in the summers besides just the American Legion program. So it had grown to a degree that players were there. In 1953, Austin High School had been the runner up in the state championship game. Every member of that team, other than the pitchers, were just juniors, so they were all eligible. The high school in north Austin, McCallum, got one of the players and I got one of them. All the others went to Austin High School. They still had the nucleus of the team. So, they had six starters back from their championship—from their runner-up team. I got one of them, a big Latin—he was a Mexican boy, Joe Guedea, who was old for his time and was so settled that he was the settling influence on our team. The McCallum team got the center fielder, but all the other players were at Austin High. I did have a player who would have been the backup catcher, who was my first string catcher and I had a pitcher who would probably have pitched some for them to come and play for me. But I had two junior pitchers who were outstanding. These players came together—I selected fifteen players to be on the squad: one sophomore, three juniors and the rest were seniors. So they were old, whether they were old in baseball or not. We began the year by losing our very first ball game.

JOHNSON: Inconspicuous start.

SCHROEDER: And we played a local Catholic high school, St. Edward’s. We were tied coming at the last inning, but my second baseman let a ball go through his legs without touching it. And can you believe the center fielder let the ball go through his legs? And the batter made a home run on errors and we lost the ball game 5-4.

JOHNSON: Would you attribute that to their baseball inexperience?

SCHROEDER: One of them should have put their body in front of it. It was the greatest lesson they could have learned, that they don’t have a game won until the last out is made. Several times we were able to use this to not quit and keep coming. But most of
all, I had some things that were motivators that you don’t have in many situations. Probably three of these fifteen players would have been on the team had Austin not split into three high schools: my third baseman, catcher, and a pitcher. The others would have been finishing up, for most of them, their senior year—I mean just a regular student. But here was an opportunity because of the three schools. We’re going to get to play high school baseball. The second was that Austin—where all the political money is anyway, the state treasury—failed to provide uniforms for us the first year. In their planning they had not made arrangements for us to have uniforms. And they did not have the money to do it when we finally got around to baseball season. And this team had to play in borrowed uniforms from the local American Legion team. And that also was a motivator. The town doesn’t care enough about us to even give us our own uniforms. So, those two motivations helped me, and when we lost that first ball game they were willing to work. And I did work them. I did not think I worked them as hard as they later told me I worked them. But we began to have a spirit of unity that I don’t know that I had many times in my coaching career. We lost one game. My pitcher was going great guns, had not lost a ball game all year. His father bought him brand new shoes. He wore the new shoes. Before we knew it, we were behind in a ball game. We went back to the old shoes—the team did not score any more runs, but we didn’t score as many as he let score with his new shoes. He did not wear the new shoes again that year. Now we are very superstitious. That’s the only ball game we lost in our district. We played in—by district as a preliminary to going to the state. We did lose a game to the Houston team, but came back to Austin winning two and played in the high school championships. At that time, there was only one play-off between district and state. There were eight teams in the state tournament, so you had to win three games to win it. And we were fortunate that I had junior pitcher that came on very, very strong. My senior pitcher pitched the first and third games and my junior pitcher pitched the middle game. And we did not have any—well, all games are close, but not like in today’s metal bats situations where you can make
a lot of runs in a hurry. I think we won but like 5-2 and 5-1 and 5-3. They were—we felt comfortable coming into the last innings every ball game.

JOHNSON: What were the strengths of this team? You said it had a lot of character, it had a lot of unity, willing to work hard.

SCHROEDER: Not one single player on that team played professional baseball in the United States. My pitcher was able to catch on in the Mexican leagues and played several years in the Mexican league. Was not—did not have an outstanding success down there. My junior pitcher was a freshman pitcher at Texas, but signed to play pro ball and then hurt his arm and did not play. Tried to help coach at The University of Texas with Mr. Falk while he was still coaching there. Other than that my players had a hard time. I had my left fielder signed to play one summer. Just did not have what they needed to stay in the minor leagues. It was a team whose great accomplishment was the high school championship. It is a team that meets every ten years to relive it. We’ve lost three of them now and we are at forty-five years coming up. We were going to meet next year because some are getting old. I’m the only one who’s staying young.

JOHNSON: Coach will always be able to take them out.

SCHROEDER: We usually have a picture made in the same position that we were when we had the—when we won the championship. There are three empty spots now. The bottom three on the left are the ones that are gone. And perhaps before next year we’ll lose another, but I hope not. We have a good time reminiscing.

JOHNSON: Well, that picture—there’s a picture on Coach Schroeder’s office wall here of that state championship team. Those three that you are pointing out in the bottom left look like the youngest ones.

SCHROEDER: Well, they were—they were all seniors that year, but they are—they do look—

JOHNSON: You said you had one sophomore—
SCHROEDER: One sophomore standing next—sitting next to me—Joe Guedea. And the juniors were the one behind me who was the junior pitcher. Then the center fielder is sort of the middle one on this bottom row and the one next to him was a junior. All the rest were seniors. So, I did not have much to bring back my second year.

JOHNSON: What was the—after you won the state championship team—the game, what was the reaction in Austin? Because your team used it as motivation that Austin did not care, that they were considered nothing.

SCHROEDER: The student body at Travis got behind us. They had not built us a practice field. There was a field with rocks on it and they did put some sandy loam for the infield, but the rocks worked up through it quite often. And I did not even suggest it, but someone did, and the student body then had contest a to see who could pick up the most rocks on our field. That was all right for me to let the rocks stay, because if you could handle balls after hitting rocks—there’s no telling which way they would veer—then you could certainly catch when it bounces smooth all the way.

JOHNSON: And it gives you a home field advantage.

SCHROEDER: But it was great motivation for that high school student body to be a part. And at the state championship tournament they used Coke bottles to beat against the bleachers and I understand the school was sent a bill after the tournament for the replacement of the boards that were broken up. (both laugh) So the school was behind us, the faculty was behind us. We had not done well in basketball or football, and baseball became the sport for the area. But south Austin had always been a baseball area.

JOHNSON: What about the community? Did you get a parade or anything like that or any recognition?

SCHROEDER: We get to appear—you’ve got to remember television is just now getting started. We did get to appear on a local sports program and each one of the players was introduced. We didn’t get to say anything, but it took time for fifteen of us to walk across. And it was a highlight of the year that we got to be on television. Really, I guess
no other high school in the city had been recognized in a television program.

JOHNSON: So you win a state championship game. What’s next? You take the
summer—what did you do during the summer time after that, and then of course you start
a new school year in the fall.

SCHROEDER: I worked at a boys camp during the summer, but I kept a tab on the
players that were coming up and went to many ball games to see how they were doing.
And they were ready to make the move to become a varsity player. I had a real good
team the second year, also. We won our district, but we lost in bi-district. The pitcher
that had been my ace—ace’s backup the first yea—came on very, very strong.
Unfortunately he kicked a trash basket, a wire trash basket and broke his toe and was out
a lot of the season. And my other junior came along very strong. A sophomore came
along to help us. We were able to win our district without real problems. Then in the bi-
district, though, a team from Houston beat us out 2-1. So, we did not get to go to the
state meet the second year.

JOHNSON: That’s still pretty good—that seems to be a very strong accomplishment
because you did not have any—hardly any returning lettermen. Since your state
championship team is senior dominated, I guess maybe part of south Austin, you know,
they know baseball, so there’s more kids coming up through the system and they’re
willing to work. Is that the way it worked out?

SCHROEDER: They were willing to work. We were fortunate to have young people
who wanted to be baseball players. South Austin was a middle-class area. Lots of
Mexicans. Of course, blacks were not allowed to go to the white schools at that time. So
I had always had a mixture of several Mexican boys and they are—they are not very big,
but they are wiry and agile and play good baseball.

JOHNSON: So you—how many years were you at Austin Travis?

SCHROEDER: I was there four years. The third year we tied for the district and got
beat in the play-offs for the district, but had a outstanding year. Won a couple of
tournaments. The football program never got off at Travis. We just had a hard time getting—one year on our thirty-six man squad, we only had four or five over 150 pounds. So, you can see what we were up against. They were small of stature in that area, but that’s all right for baseball. It’s not good for basketball; it’s not good for football. Our basketball programs were not real strong. Baseball had to stay our dominate sport. We did well in track because our wiry kids could run and most of those in our track program were not in our baseball program. Those were our two strong sports.

JOHNSON: How was your teaching career coming along?

SCHROEDER: I was the physical education teacher there. The only one. I taught all the men’s classes. Everything was going well. I even started taking some courses towards a master’s degree at The University of Texas during the summer. The reason was because on Saturdays, really not so much during the summer. They told us they’d give us some more money if we had some more courses. So that’s always a motivator, money. But I—my fourth year at Travis, we changed the districts a little bit. Waco was in our district. They had not been. We’d been in the San Antonio district previous to that. And we lose to Waco in an extra inning game, 2-1. Then when we had to play Waco again in Waco. It was the year that the tornado hit, but that was the year—

JOHNSON: Actually—

SCHROEDER: I’m sorry, that was not the year of the tornado—

JOHNSON: Nineteen fifty-three was the year the tornado hit—

SCHROEDER: —but they were so scared of tornadoes that we came up here to play and Katy Park had been damaged in the tornado but had been rebuilt. But we were going to play a night game for them, so it was going to be a big ball game. It was for the district. They had—we had one defeat, they had none.

JOHNSON: Is that where Waco High normally played, was at Katy Park?

SCHROEDER: That’s where they play, too, I guess. That’s where we were going to play. May have been because it had lights. It may have been that, I’m not sure. But the
coach came to me—there hadn’t been a drop of rainfall—and he said, “Dutch, the weather man tells me that we are going to catch it within the next hour.” He said, “Do you want to try to start?” He said, “If we start, you know, there’s no other time we can play the game.” I said “Well, I’m going to trust you. Do you want your players out here?” And he said, “I really don’t,” and I said, “Well, let us get back in the bus.” And, well, it was not a bus; we were in station wagons. Before we got out of town rain began and before we could get to Temple this area was in a deluge. It was a good thing we did not try to play that game. It was dangerous. The lighting and all was ferocious. There was no tornado in it, but we were never able to reschedule the game and so they were the district champs. So, I did not get to play them a second round. That was the only year we did not win the district when I was in Austin. The next year I was planning to coach there again. We had a nice group coming back to build a program on.

JOHNSON: Sounds like you were really beginning to establish tradition.

SCHROEDER: I did some things that the other high school coaches were not willing to do. I made sure my players played in the summers. I did not coach them, but one of my former players would coach them and each year they would be a strong representative for the American Legion Junior program. That helped us build up our tradition. The other two coaches who were graduated from high school the same year I did were good friends of mine, but they had other things to do. So, in south Austin they knew that they were going to have to play in the summer to play on the varsity team. So, I had good teams in the summer that were not mine. But in the spring of ’58—in the fall of ’57—the Baylor baseball coach had a heart attack and died.

JOHNSON: And who was that?

SCHROEDER: His name was Jelly Sorelle. I knew Mr. Sorelle when I was playing in the Gulf Coast League in Corpus Christi. He was a player/manager of the Laredo team. And I had got to know him because of our Baylor connection. We had lots of good visits. And he was selected to come up here and be the Baylor baseball coach. He was also the
business manager of athletics. Baseball coaches did not have full-time jobs, but it was really an attempt—

JOHNSON: Full-time pay.

SCHROEDER: Full-time pay, yeah. It was really an attempt of Baylor to put a baseball person in charge of the program. Baylor had Mr. Jones, who was a football/baseball man. They had Vic Bradford, who was strictly a football man who just had to coach the baseball. One year Chuck Devereaux, who was—played with me at Baylor—was the baseball coach. He was on the staff as sort of an assistant to the business manager one year. So, they had a baseball person there. But bringing in Jelly Sorelle during the midfifties was a real boom to the Baylor baseball program. But he had the heart attack in December and passed away.

JOHNSON: Wasn’t that in ’57?

SCHROEDER: In ’57. I was planning on having a good baseball team that spring at Travis High, but there was an opportunity to—at Baylor. I did not apply for the job because I was satisfied with where I was at Travis, a baseball high school.

JOHNSON: What position did—let’s see, you said you did not apply for a baseball position at Baylor. Who came to you then?

SCHROEDER: Lloyd Russell was now Dr. Lloyd Russell, chairman of the P. E. department and he wanted to take the baseball program for a few years. He had been a baseball player at Baylor, a football player, ran track, probably could have done anything else if he would have had a little bit of more time. Had to work to go through school. Scholarships were not like that—free rides in those days. He also had an opportunity to be with the Cleveland Indians in the major leagues for a season. Had already coached at North Texas, was the head football coach there. And just had a varied career so—till Dr. White asked him to run this program here in the P. E. department. So, he stopped all of his playing. Came here to run the P. E. department. Had to go to Texas to get his doctorate. And he did this—really took off a year or so to get that, but he —while he was
still playing, I had played against him in 1940—I guess it was ‘46—when he was pitching for the Waco Dons, which was a semi-pro team and had luckily got a couple of hits. He’d asked me then to come up here and be a player. With the success I had had in the high schools he called me and asked me if I would be willing to come up here and be his assistant. So I said I’d certainly want to talk about it. So that’s when I came to Baylor to discuss with Mr. Sauer, who was the coach, who was the athletic director—

JOHNSON: —and football coach wasn’t he?

SCHROEDER: Well, he was no longer the football coach. Mr. Boyd was the football coach. But that’s when I came up to visit in early January, I guess. We decided that we’d be a fit. So I would teach in the P. E. department and I would help him coach the baseball, being available when he wasn’t available and then coach the freshman team.

JOHNSON: What was Lloyd Russell like? I’ve heard of him before as almost a legendary figure at Baylor.

SCHROEDER: Well, he is—he’s a legendary—as an athlete he was the—I think they called him the singing quarterback. His father had been a preacher. Came to Baylor because of his Baptist ties. Was just—he was a legend. He could just do so many things. He was very intelligent, had exceptional physical skills, was very competitive, never liked to lose. He was a person that you could follow and know that if you were doing things his way you’d probably come out on top. The first year he had some very strong players and thought they might have a chance to take a run at the conference championship. There was an unfortunate incident in—at A&M in which—

JOHNSON: What always seems to happen—

SCHROEDER: I don’t know, A&M just brings out the worst in all of us. In which there was some discipline measures taken and the team was pretty well torn up after this and they had a hard time getting back on a winning track. On the freshman team there were four players who were getting some kinds of financial aid, who would at one point—at some points make great contributions to the Baylor baseball program. Had a first
baseman named Mel Corbo, who was just an outstanding first baseman. Defensively, he was a power hitter; he could run. As a sophomore he was the starting first baseman. He led the league in home runs, which was four at that time (laughing) and led the league in stolen bases with either six or seven, as I recall. So there was not a lot of stealing, but he led the league in two categories. And the Dodgers felt so good about him they signed him to a pro contract, so we didn’t get a lot of him. Jerry Funk was our second baseman. Outstanding young man. In his sophomore year he moved up and became the starting second baseman for the varsity and was the starter for all three years. He was on the varsity and ended up signing with the Red Sox and playing in the minor leagues a couple of years. We had a pitcher from Waco named Barnett who had beaten me the previous year. Barnett, we’re not sure what he had on the ball, but he was a winning pitcher. He was not as fast as a lot of them; his curves were not as outstanding as some of them, but he could win. When he went to the mound, he was a winner. Those three were the nucleus. There was a fourth player, a catcher from Waco High who had hit me awfully good and I thought he was going to be an outstanding player, too. But we were able to put together a good freshman team. A lot of the players were from the football team, though, who in between their football workouts would come and play baseball. But it was a good freshman baseball team. I think we were like eight and four for the year.

JOHNSON: What was it like—

(tape 1 ends; tape 2 begins)

JOHNSON: This is tape two of the second interview with Coach Dutch Schroeder on July 7, 1998. Before we flipped the tape, you were taking about the transition from going from Austin—the head coach at Austin Travis to a very quick move to Baylor and Waco. Within a matter of weeks, you had to put together a team, a freshman baseball team, and assumed the duties of assistant coach at Baylor.

SCHROEDER: I first had to work with the varsity until Dr. Russell could get free. Now, you have to understand Baylor was on the quarter system at that time. So in February, I
worked out the varsity as he was finishing up his winter quarter. And we were not going to start the freshman team until the spring quarter, which started around March 1st. So after working the varsity out for so long, Dr. Russell came then. I began to work with the freshman and as I said he—there were some players available. But because Baylor had not won a single game on their freshman schedule the previous year, every freshman in school, I think, thought they ought to be on the freshman team this year, not recognizing that Mr. Sorelle had brought in some nice players. I think I had something like ninety players come out for the team. I quickly had to find a way to reduce that. So I worked out with, it seems like six different groups, for a period of about forty-five minutes, depending upon the schedule when they could come out there. And in time reduce the squad down to twenty-four players. A lot of these were football players, as I mentioned, who also had to go do some football duties. But there was not an off-season training like we have today. There were no weights in those days. They only trained with medicine balls, but they had to do a lot of running and agility type work. But quite a number of those players stuck it out with me until the end of the season. But I had some players who had been in the state tournament the previous year, other than the two that were from Waco. There was a Garland player which had been in the final—down to four now is the way they were doing it. One from Pasadena, that I remember. We had a nice freshman team that year. The pitching did well. Barnett was a winner and I had a pitcher named York come up that was able to be a winner.

JOHNSON: On pitchers like Barnett that maybe don’t have the best of stuff on paper and statistics. Is it just character, or just the inner desire that—or maybe intelligence that they just win? What makes a pitcher like that?

SCHROEDER: I think that—I think some people are just grown winners. They grew up to win and they’re going to be a winner. Just like a leader. They grew up to be a leader, they’re a leader here, they’re a leader. I know what some of the players told me. They said, We knew we were going to have to make lots of runs when Barnett was pitching
because he was going to let them make it, so it just made us play harder. So, I don’t know.

JOHNSON: So they weren’t quite willing to give him the credit.

SCHROEDER: No, because there’s—inner squad scrimmages they hit him well. Of course, they got to see him a lot of times. Other pitchers didn’t do that. But it was an interesting freshman year. Dr. Russell wanted to bring in a lot of players the second year, which is really the first year that we did any recruiting. It was an interesting summer. He and I went to the very first Junior College World Series, was that spring of ’58. It was Miami of Oklahoma, Northeastern Oklahoma. We went there to scout and see what we could bring in to help him in a hurry. Then I was on the road quite a bit hunting players. We wrote lots of letters that summer. The budget was not so big that we could just go see everybody, but we did bring in about fifteen players of which one or two had scholarships of some sort or another. I did get a pitcher out of San Antonio named Garnett Steubing, who was one of the hardest throwers that we had in school. Did well as a freshman, but signed on us immediately after his freshman year. There was no draft in those days and players could sign at any point. But an unusual thing happened when the Red Sox signed him. They also gave us a thousand dollars for taking him away from us.

JOHNSON: Wasn’t that nice of them—

SCHROEDER: As far as we know that’s the first time that ever happened. It’s happened lots of times since where the university would be given some sort of remuneration for having brought the student this long and have given them some financial aid. It was kind of like paying back for them.

JOHNSON: You mean the political, you know, one and two’s. Like so the next time they might be a little more welcome around.

SCHROEDER: I’m sure that’s a lot to do with it because there were a lot of scouts who were not welcome by me because they were just interested in signing and not letting you talk to the players. But this one was as above board as anybody could be. And so
Garnett signed. He didn’t make it big, but he was still a outstanding product. We had a nice freshman team that year. Many of those did go on and become members of the varsity. The team was beginning to win. We had moved up to about a fifty-fifty season. We only played twenty-five, twenty-six games in those days. So we did play lots of baseball. In 1960, though, Dr. Russell’s talent for the varsity began to show off. We finished high in the league that year. Seems like we finished probably as high as third, or maybe even a tie for second, but ‘60 was the year in which we made the turn to begin winning. Our ‘60 freshman team had a number of outstanding players who went on to play varsity—Audie Cox, Ronnie Goodwin, Dick Couey—who made significant contributions to the varsity when they were eligible.

JOHNSON: What about freshman teams now? We don’t have freshman teams in today’s—

SCHROEDER: In the late nineteen—

JOHNSON: —in college athletics. Can you describe a little bit the purpose and role of a freshman team and why—maybe the structure of college athletics and why it was that way?

SCHROEDER: It was felt that freshman students needed a year to learn about college and make that transition from being high school to a varsity college. Boy to man. In the late 1960s, it was a change in the understanding of growth in which many college freshman could step right in and mature enough that they could compete with two and three year older students. So that NCAA changed their rules. They had changed their rules back during the war when there was not enough men around. But as soon as I think ’40—

JOHNSON: Well, you talk about your were the first one that was—

SCHROEDER: Well, now that was a change of schools—

JOHNSON: —change of school, yeah, yeah.
SCHROEDER: But we had freshman teams. I guess ’47 was the first year we went back to having—the freshman were not eligible anymore. But they had to play on a freshman team first. For many schools, it was just a place to let players—

JOHNSON: Kind of a—
SCHROEDER: —practice.
JOHNSON: Kind of a minor league system for colleges.
SCHROEDER: But at Baylor we used it as our teaching year. Often we did not do as well in our won/loss column because it was teaching and finding out who could make the adjustment in the future on to the varsity team. Reduce the amount of teaching-coaching on the varsity so that we could do more practice preparation for ball games.
JOHNSON: What was your feeling on—when they dropped that? There’s no more freshman teams.
SCHROEDER: We continued to have a freshman team at Baylor, but some freshman played on the varsity. Baylor let me keep enough money to have uniforms and bats and balls, where we could play a freshman schedule. Thus, it was a learning, but what came in to replace that was fall training. We had no fall training in baseball. The fall was an off-season training program. This is where Baylor jumped ahead of other schools. Baylor was the first school in the Southwest Conference to have weight training. When I came to Baylor they had 150 medicine balls and that’s what they trained with. That was the resistive force. But I had been studying the Iowa program that had developed during the second war as a rehabilitation process where you use light weights, many reps to improve the condition—especially the strength of muscles groups. And it was working. Prior to this, any use of weights was thought to make you what is called muscle-bound—the inability of muscles to react completely. And the fibers would be shortened—
JOHNSON: Become slower and more bulkier—
SCHROEDER: —more bulkier. It was always thought that if you were a weight lifter that you worked on your biceps and that you could not reach over your head and touch
the opposite ear if that muscle got so big. But the people at the University of Iowa found that was not always true. And the coaches there used the weight training to improve their athletic programs. LSU began to use it in the South. And I think Baylor got started about that same time. But LSU’s outstanding football and basketball program was the late fifties and early sixties. But they were already on the weight program big time. But we began to have a program. In fact, that was one of the questions I asked Coach Sauer when I came to interview for the job, “Can I have a weight program?” He didn’t know what I was talking about. Of course, during his coaching days everybody trained with medicine balls. So, he wanted to know how much it would cost. I told him probably twenty dollars a set. So, he let me have two sets; that’s how I started the weight program. Football team was still not on it, but some of the football players, seeing what was happening to the baseball players wanted to go on weights. And, of course, in time everybody went on the weight program; we were not alone. Baseball scouts thought I was ruining (phone rings)—

JOHNSON: Let me turn the tape off real quick.

(pause in recording)

JOHNSON: All right, we are back. You were talking about the scouts, the baseball scouts thought that you were crazy for putting your players on a weight program.

SCHROEDER: That was because they thought I was making them muscle-bound. They did not recognize that what it was doing was making them stronger. And that by playing handball, which I forced them to do, was going to keep those muscle fibers long and they could continue doing just what they been doing.

JOHNSON: Did you learn this—you were finishing up your master’s at this time, weren’t you?

SCHROEDER: I had finished my master’s by this time. I had done a study on—I had to use some dynamometers. I really didn’t know much about it, but the head of the P. E. department at The University of Texas had me do this. And I learned quite a bit from
what—from the research that he had me do for that. But weights were just waiting to be used; we just did not know enough about them at the time. And we were scared until somebody else did it.

JOHNSON: And you finished your master’s in 1960, correct?

SCHROEDER: I believe that’s right, 1960.

JOHNSON: So, it took you probably eight years to do that?

SCHROEDER: It sure did. (both laugh) When you do just one course at a time it takes you a while.

JOHNSON: So you said about third year—by Dr. Russell’s third year, I think it was 1960—

SCHROEDER: ’60.

JOHNSON: They were starting to come together. The talent that he had brought in was becoming a good team. The freshman—Baylor’s philosophy was to use as a teaching time, not necessarily a win time or practice time. So, it sounds like the Baylor program is progressing.

SCHROEDER: We were moving in the right direction. Dr. Russell had only planned to coach two or three years on the varsity, but he got the itch because the program was getting better. He got the itch to win the championship. In 1961, he brought in a number of junior college players to augment what he already had in the hopes that he could challenge Texas for the championship. Of course, he did and this is the infamous year in which Baylor had to play Texas a doubleheader on the very last day we could play games. The rules stated that you cannot play once finals at your school have started. Our games with Texas had been rained out. We were playing single games, but because ours had all been rained out we were going to play them a doubleheader. I remember a couple of times trying to get the fields ready after rains and hoping we could get them, but it was a struggle. But we finally got a dry day to play them and it was the day—the last day we could possibly play. In the first game we defeated Texas. We are now at a point where a
victory over Texas would tie us for the championship, not win it, but we were a half game behind is what we were. And in the second game we—Barnett had beat them in the first game. He’s still the guy who wins. He wins. In the second game, though, we started some pitchers and they’d get out ahead, we’d counter, we’d get out ahead. At the end—it was just to be a seven inning game. But at the end of the seventh it was tied and it was getting dark and there were no lights at the Dutton Street park.

JOHNSON: So you weren’t playing at Katy?

SCHROEDER: I failed to mention that we played two years, ’58 and ’59, at Katy. Then we built a fence at Dutton Street so that we’d have a baseball field there instead of just a rodeo grounds. The—it was so dark really I don’t know how we continued to play, but in the ninth—

JOHNSON: So this would be May?

SCHROEDER: This was about the tenth of May.

JOHNSON: May of 1961.

SCHROEDER: As I recall.

JOHNSON: In 1961.

SCHROEDER: Sixty-one.

JOHNSON: So what time probably was this? It was getting dark then about 8:00, 8:30.

SCHROEDER: No, it’s not that late. This—it was 7:00. It was getting dark, though we were just hoping we could score. But they scored in the ninth. Made two runs. Seems like one of their players hit a home run. I don’t know how he saw the ball to hit it, but he did. And when we came to bat, for some reason we were able to make two runs also. It was now so dark the umpires called the game. It was 9-9 as I recall. And what we wanted to do was to take it to Katy Park, where there were lights, and play. And, of course, the other coach said, “No, we’re not going to go anywhere to play, that’s the end.” So we said, “We’ll play tomorrow.” He said, “You’ll not play tomorrow because you’ve already said that your finals will start tomorrow.”
JOHNSON: Just like, watch how fast that one phone call will change that.

SCHROEDER: Dr. Russell said, “Let me—Dr. White is my special friend. I’ll see if he’ll postpone finals one day.” (laughing) Of course, we couldn’t do that. So Texas—of course, Baylor fans were ugly and mad at the Texas players for dressing and leaving when we could have gone to Katy Park to finish the game. But they were right. We did not have a right to ask them to change parks after the game had started in one place. So, we ended up a half game behind because of the tie, but it was a great season. Sixty and ’61 really were the beginnings of a period of Baylor baseball history when Baylor didn’t have to hang their head to anybody. As I pointed out to you earlier, the clipping that I’d taken out of the collegiate baseball paper where Baylor was the number eighteen team in the first five years of the ’60s. I took over in the spring of ’62—

JOHNSON: —just one second. So Russell—we’d talked about Russell earlier as wanting to have just a couple of seasons. What was he like as a coach?

SCHROEDER: Well, of course, I liked the way he coaches because he was a winner. But as assistant coach I had to be the buffer in-between. It was a time when the players—the relationship I had with the players was more like a buddy. I did not make the final decisions. Of course, those who were not playing came through me to see why. I think I kept most of them from ever having to go to Dr. Russell. He was a man who played those who were doing best at this time. There were some good players who were not getting a lot of time who were going to have to wait their turn. Was not a time when baseball had a free substitution rule in which there were things like designated hitters. When you substitute for a player you can send the player back in. Those were not available. So he usually played nine players in a ball game. Someone had shown that this is the time in their life when they’re the hottest and they play. So, there were a lot of players who were not real happy because they were sitting on the bench, but hopefully that’s the way a player ought to feel when they’re on the bench, that they ought not to be happy about it. They ought to be for the others just like they ought to want everybody to
be for them when they’re in the line up. I think, in general, after his first year when players now understood what he stood for, that they knew and they respected him for it and knew how he would react if they performed in some manner different from the way that he expected. Now, you’ve got to remember he was my mentor. He got me to come to Baylor first and then he brought me back as a coach. So, I have only the good things to say.

JOHNSON: Dr. Russell is getting the itch. He sees he has potential in the conference so he wants to stay on a little bit longer. What was his—what kind of told him it was time to pass the torch on to you?

SCHROEDER: When we didn’t win it in ’61, he was ready to move on and take care of the department full time because he had had to take some of his time away to run the department.

JOHNSON: I imagine he had to delegate a lot to run everything.

SCHROEDER: It was very fortunate to have Dr. Ted Powers. Dr. Powers—

JOHNSON: —who still here to this day.

SCHROEDER: Still here to this day. That’s true. Dr. Powers had been a fellow student with Dr. Russell at Texas. They were both in the doctoral program there. Of course, I knew Dr. Russell, but had not known Dr. Powers until he came to visit student teachers in my physical education classes when I was at Travis in Austin. So, I got to meet him before he ever came to Baylor. But I knew he was coming to Baylor to be Dr. Russell’s second in charge. But Dr. Russell then backed out and I became the head coach. But I still taught anywhere from a fourth to a third of the time as a part of my duties.

JOHNSON: So when you came to Baylor in 1958, you were the freshman baseball coach, the assistant varsity coach, and you also had a teaching load.

SCHROEDER: Taught two-thirds to three fourths of the time. I taught full time in the fall when we didn’t have any baseball, then a third to a half depending upon how Dr. Russell could work the schedule.
JOHNSON: What courses did you teach?

SCHROEDER: Well, I taught the coaching of baseball. I taught weight training. I taught in the service program bowling. I taught some in the methods courses of the sports in which I had some skill; the ball and bat sports and the racket sports.

JOHNSON: What was Baylor like during this time the late fifties, early sixties? What memories stand out to you?

SCHROEDER: What stands out, this gym was still the mainstay of the northern part of the campus. We did have a school of business that was built about 1960. I remember going over and looking at the hole with Dean Lang. I would go over and visit with him. We’d see the hole they were building down there for the basement. And then later they continued to remove the big boarding houses—two stories—that were here on the whatever side of Fifth you call this. And later came in with the—in the early sixties the Morrison Constitution Hall where the law school is located. But the school still ended at Fourth Street. It was still the economically depressed people on the other side of Fourth. Was not until—it was still early 1960s that the urban renewal program began and the land was bought from Fourth Street to the river. And the thoughts began to change to build science buildings. In 1958 when I came to Baylor, I saw the plans of Baylor’s new gymnasium with a big basketball court.

JOHNSON: We had plans even back then for it?

SCHROEDER: Plans were completed. Dr. Russell and Dr. Powers told me how they had visited many gymnasiums in the South and East. Came back here, told the architects; they had it all together and that was to be the next building that Baylor would have.

Before the business school—

JOHNSON: Were they playing basketball in Marrs-McLean at the time?

SCHROEDER: Oh, yes. This was our home court. But something happened in ’58 which changed the world and Sputnik went up in the air. When that revelation hit the American public, the government asked colleges to put more emphasis on physics and
JOHNSON: That’s a lot of money back then.

SCHROEDER: Was a lot of money. The people who had raised the money was Mr. Morrison—was that his name? The one we named this building after and Mr. Martin, who we named the hall after and it was here. There were three men—

JOHNSON: Let me flip the tape over real fast.

(tape 2, side 1 ends: side 2 begins)

JOHNSON: This is side two of tape two of the second interview with Coach Dutch Schroeder. You were talking about the money that was designated for the gym, a new gym to be built in the late fifties at Baylor. You were describing kind of what happened to that.

SCHROEDER: Baylor accepted the mandate that came down from our highest government officials that we needed to put more emphasis on physics and math. And because of this, Mr. McLean, who had given the money for this building in the mid thirties and who was a partner in this group who decided what to do with these millions. There was a vote—I understand the vote was two to one. I don’t know who one was, so then I don’t know who two. But that we needed to put the gym on hold and that we needed to build the science building to help create an atmosphere for scientists who could help us in the space race. That’s why the building directly behind us now is the McLean Science Building in which we have first physics and chemistry. Then later it was the home of our computer department. But that’s the reason we did not get a new gym at that time.

JOHNSON: I bet HHPR was just sick.

SCHROEDER: Well, Dr. Russell was sick. Dr. Russell did not live very long after this. Dr. Russell burned the candle at both ends. He had more projects; he was a leader in the
First Baptist Church here. He was always involved with committee work there. He had been the president of the physical education teachers of the state of Texas. He was a leader on the national scene in physical education, that’s health physical education and recreation. He was the person who had the state association begin to meet separately from the other teacher associations, even having the first—being the convention manager for the first Texas Association of Health Physical Education and Recreation now there dance on the end of it too, in Waco, Texas and Baylor could not host it—we did not have the facilities, but the First Baptist Church did. That’s where the first one of those was. He was always being called upon to speak in behalf of physical education and/or health and recreation. But his next big project at Baylor was a camp—Baylor Camp. He was able to get, I believe it was fifty thousand dollars from Dr. White to go buy a parcel of land in the China Springs area that was adjacent to the—I guess that’s the North Bosque. Yes, the North Bosque River, in which he began to develop plans to make a camp site out of it, a youth camp. Unfortunately, he wasn’t given any more money. He was able to get some people to give him some housing that had been in the area of the lake that was going to be put underwater when the dam site was raised. I know there was the Lacys and the Woods who gave him some housing because there was Lacy houses and Wood houses out there. He was able to get enough money and on a shoestring build a gymnasium, cafeteria, built a couple of other buildings, but mostly his housing was things that he was able to get built—owners to give to him, and then get some house movers to come and move them out and put them on the land out there. But probably this was his thing that just overcharged his heart, because he did open the camp and was there three or four years when he had a heart attack. But I saw him work many times at the camp property and I know it was beginning to tell on his body. He had done a lot of things in his life. One of Baylor’s most distinguished alumni.

JOHNSON: What year did he die?

SCHROEDER: In ’68.
JOHNSON: He died a relatively young man it sounds like.

SCHROEDER: Very young. Let’s see. (counting in the background)

JOHNSON: If he was in college at Baylor—

SCHROEDER: Fifty years old I believe. About fifty maybe fifty-two at most. You
might—a little off baseball now, but his wife ended up marrying Dr. McCall, who was
our president.

JOHNSON: Wow, I did not know that.

SCHROEDER: And she’s still living. Both of those have passed away. She’s a very
lovely lady. But she’s been a part of the Baylor scene in major roles for probably fifty-
five years. And she stills looks young. Back to baseball.

JOHNSON: I’m sure she’d love to hear that. Actually, let’s just cover real quick about
your succession of Dr. Russell and then we’ll call this a day. We’ll start again with your
beginning of head coaching responsibilities.

SCHROEDER: In ’62 I took over as head coach. I still had the players from my ’61
freshman team, which we brought in some pretty good players that year.

JOHNSON: We’ll save all that information for the next time. So your all—you’re pretty
much the designated heir apparent to Dr. Russell. There’s no real question of your
succession, right?

SCHROEDER: When Mr. Sauer brought me in he is the one who told me—he backed
up Dr. Russell—Dr. Russell is just going to coach a couple of years and then we want
you to take over. We’d like to have a little interim period here for you to get a taste of
what college coaching is like. Then you move in. I never signed a contract. I never
signed one as an assistant coach, freshman coach, or a varsity coach. We just didn’t do it.
We shook hands and that was it. When Mr. Henderson took over as athletic director
when Mr. Sauer left to go into—he became the general manager of the New York Jets, I
believe is the title he had. Mr. Henderson was our former basketball coach who was
made the athletic director. I’m not even sure how it all came about. Everyone knew that
Dr. Russell was going—this was his last year. It was in all the papers, Dr. Russell’s swan song, was going to make a big run for it, and he did. When Mr. Henderson called me in to say the day after the Texas—we still call it a fiasco here—he said, “Dutch, as you know, you are our head baseball coach. As you know you are our head baseball coach, and as far as we’re concerned”—he didn’t say “I,” he said, “we’re concerned”—I don’t know who “we” were— “you can be the baseball coach as long as you want it.” So, I’m the baseball coach as long as I want it.

JOHNSON: Nice handshake agreement there.

SCHROEDER: That’s the way we handled it, so I figured I was going to be the coach as long as I felt that I was the right one for the job.

JOHNSON: Real quick, what did—why did Dr. Russell want to do it for a few years in the first place? Was this just—a man this creative he, like I said, got that itch, he wanted just try this for a couple of years. Because it sounded like he was overloaded already.

SCHROEDER: Dr. Russell and I were quite close, but I don’t believe he ever told me the real reason. Although I had been told that I got the baseball salary while he got was the privilege of his daughters getting to live in Baylor’s dormitories free.

JOHNSON: Oh.

SCHROEDER: Faculty members get free tuition for their students.

JOHNSON: But they don’t get free dorm.

SCHROEDER: But no free dorms and no free board. So this is just what I was told by others, but I don’t know that that’s right. I have to feel like he got something besides just the good feeling that he was going to get from trying to help Baylor win a baseball championship. He did have lots of things to do.

JOHNSON: All right, well, this concludes this interview. Thank you for your time and when we get together next time we’ll go into your head coaching career and whatever stuff we can dredge out from the dark corners and recesses there. Thanks a lot.

( end of interview)