

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Chester "Chet" Walker

Overview of the Collection

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| Repository: | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com |
| Creator: | Walker, Chet, 1940- |
| Title: | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Chester "Chet" Walker, |
| Dates: | October 14, 2019 |
| Bulk Dates: | 2019 |
| Physical Description: | 10 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:35:52). |
| Abstract: | Basketball player Chester “Chet” Walker (1940 -) played seven seasons with the Syracuse Nationals/Philadelphia 76ers where he was named to the NBA All-Rookie First Team, was a three time All-Star, and the 1967 NBA Finals Champion. Walker then played six seasons with the Chicago Bulls where he was a four time All-Star, before retiring to produce films, later winning an Emmy. Walker was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 14, 2019, in Los Angeles, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| Identification: | A2019_109 |
| Language: | The interview and records are in English. |

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Basketball player Chester “Chet” Walker was born on February 22, 1940 in Bethlehem, Mississippi to John and Regenia Walker. He attended Benton High School in Benton Harbor, Michigan, where he played basketball and graduated from in 1958. Walker then attended Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois where his basketball team won the 1960 NIT Championship and he was named a two time All-American before graduating in 1962.

Walker was selected by the Syracuse Nationals in the 1962 NBA Draft as the twelfth overall pick; and in his first season, he was named to the NBA All-Rookie First Team. In 1963, the Nationals moved to Philadelphia and became the 76ers. Walker played in the 1964, 1966, and 1967 All-Star Games before winning his only NBA Finals Championship in six games in 1967 against the San Francisco Warriors. After two more seasons with the 76ers, Walker was traded to the Chicago Bulls in 1969. He played six seasons with the Bulls, playing in four more All-Star games in 1970, 1971, 1973, and 1974. He led the NBA with a free throw accuracy rate of 85.9 percent in the 1970–71 season, and ranked among the top ten free throw shooters five other times. Walker retired from professional basketball in 1975 after the Bulls refused to raise his salary or release or trade him. During his career, he scored 18,831 points and only twice did his scoring average drop below fifteen. He joined the short list of players appearing in more than 1,000 games, never missing the playoffs or more than six games in any season. After retiring from the NBA, Walker began producing films through his firm, Chet Walker Productions. His works include a 1980 NBC miniseries called “Freedom Road,” starring Kris Kristofferson and Muhammad Ali; a movie titled *The Fiendish Plot of Fu Manchu*, starring the late comedian Peter Sellers in 1983; and a 1989 made-for-TV movie called *A Mother’s Courage: The Mary Thomas Story*, which detailed the life of the NBA Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas’ mother and their struggles on the West Side of Chicago, and later won an Emmy. Walker also wrote a memoir called *Long Time Coming: A Black Athlete's Coming-Of-Age in America*, which was published in 1995.

In 1996, Walker was named amongst the NBA's list of the fifty greatest players in history in honor of the league's fiftieth anniversary. He was later inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts in 2012.

Walker resides in Los Angeles, California.

Chester "Chet" Walker was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 14, 2019.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Chester "Chet" Walker was conducted by Larry Crowe on October 14, 2019, in Los Angeles, California, and was recorded on 10 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Basketball player Chester "Chet" Walker (1940 -) played seven seasons with the Syracuse Nationals/Philadelphia 76ers where he was named to the NBA All-Rookie First Team, was a three time All-Star, and the 1967 NBA Finals Champion. Walker then played six seasons with the Chicago Bulls where he was a four time All-Star, before retiring to produce films, later winning an Emmy.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Walker, Chet, 1940-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Walker, Chet, 1940---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Basketball Player

HistoryMakers® Category:

SportsMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Chester "Chet" Walker, October 14, 2019. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Chester "Chet" Walker, Section A2019_109_001_001, TRT: 1:29:04 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Chester "Chet" Walker, Section A2019_109_001_002, TRT: 2:28:55 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Chester "Chet" Walker, Section A2019_109_001_003, TRT: 3:28:41 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Chester "Chet" Walker, Section A2019_109_001_004, TRT: 4:28:37 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Chester "Chet" Walker, Section A2019_109_001_005, TRT: 5:29:08 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Chester "Chet" Walker, Section A2019_109_001_006, TRT: 6:31:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Chester "Chet" Walker, Section A2019_109_001_007, TRT: 7:28:28 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Chester "Chet" Walker, Section A2019_109_001_008, TRT: 8:30:27 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Chester "Chet" Walker, Section A2019_109_001_009, TRT: 9:28:57 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Chester "Chet" Walker, Section A2019_109_001_010, TRT: 10:12:15 ?