

Interview with Kalman "Buzzy" Hettleman
Session 1 (2/14/2020)
Timed Log

[00:00:00.00]

Born in Baltimore, near Druid Hill Park. Tennis courts in Druid Hill Park. Starting playing at about 8 or 9 years old. Kalman was born 1935. Started playing tennis in the 40s. Describes the courts at Druid Hill. Courts were segregated by race (At first de cure then de facto). Kalman was not aware of the Black courts until the early 50s. Did not play on the Black courts.

[00:02:15.07]

Describes the neighborhood surrounding the courts. Attended segregated schools all the way through college. His neighborhood was an enclave that became a Jewish neighborhood. To the South was a lower income White neighborhood. A few blocks to the West was the African American neighborhood. He remembers very little interaction between the neighborhoods.

[00:04:25.10]

The neighborhood schools were also segregated. Does not remember whether there was a local school for African Americans, but believes that there must have been.

[00:05:08.10]

Kalman's father played a little tennis. At age 9, Kalman started to attend a camp in Maine where he played tennis. In Baltimore, he would play at the Druid Hill Courts. Was taken under the wings of Maury Schwartzman, a tennis pro. Played his first tournament at age 14 during his time at camp in Maine. Started playing in more tournaments after this game. Played for his high school team. Started playing in national tournaments at 15, later played for Duke and was nationally ranked in juniors and mens. Graduated high school at 16.

[00:08:00.02]

Kalman's first love was basketball, but his age and size directed him toward tennis.

[00:10:48.15]

Segregation and the tennis courts in Baltimore. Described the Black courts at Druid Hill as "out of sight" for players playing on the White courts. Kalman was not aware of other local Black tennis players until he played the integrated tournaments. Remembers the Koger family as standout tennis players. Does not remember any African American players from Baltimore who played the regional circuit.

[00:12:07.29]

Describes the first time he played in the integrated tournaments. He won the city championship at age 16, so playing in the integrated tournaments was noted. He played Ashe on the hard courts in the early 50s. Kalman played in tournaments sponsored by the American

Tennis Association. Does not remember who sponsored the match that he played with Ashe. But the game was played on the White courts.

[00:14:28.14]

The protest at Druid Hill in 1948. Kalman did not partake but knew the woman, Mitzi Freishtat, who initiated it.

[00:15:50.00]

First meeting Arthur Ashe. They only played one match together. They did not socialize. Remembers that Ashe was 8 years younger than him when he played him. He was 20 and Ashe was 12 and he remembers barely beating him. Kalman reflects on the impact of Ashe's career. Admired Ashe's activism.