

George Hess

Lacrosse/Finney.

Hess: Yeah. And that was for sure with me. I mean, I had an extraordinary relationship with Redmond Finney on the lacrosse field.

Barrett: Please tell me about that.

Hess: As the world probably knows too well, he was a super jock: All-American football player, All-American lacrosse player, and the captain of the wrestling team at Princeton. But, when he came back here, the sport that I got to know him in was lacrosse, and that was kind of an extracurricular activity, although it was part of our day here. I mean, extracurricular activities probably that you're referring to, Mac, probably aren't athletics, but I guess I'm taking it for that as well. I was a goalie and Reddy, Mr. All-American, was back here to help coach the JV his first year.

Barrett: George Chandlee, the varsity coach?

Hess: That's right. And Mr. Finney would stand beyond the restraining line. I remember we didn't have STX sticks then; we had gut sticks, so you couldn't throw the ball as accurately, nor as hard. But, his bet with me was an ice cream cone. If he could score a goal from beyond the restraining line, I owed him an ice cream cone. There was nobody between me and him. If I stopped his shot, I owed him an ice cream cone. Well, he threw the ball so hard that if I was unfortunate enough to get in the way of it, I ended up with a monster bruise somewhere. And after what seemed like hours of doing this every day, I was ahead a few ice cream cones, but not many.

Barrett: You were keeping a running tally.

Hess: Oh, yeah. Yeah. But, he was a superb teacher in his own way, Mr. Finney. And so it was a kind of a curious relationship. When I became the head of the board, first of all, I went on the board at the same time he became the head of the school. But when I became the head of the board and he told me very early on that he was going to retire, and it was up to me to orchestrate his retirement in a way that was most advantageous for the school. That was typical Finney. He wasn't worried about doing it most expeditiously for himself, he wanted it to be right for the school, the way we would handle it.