

Spirit of competition lives on during Sports Day



Lt. Col. Frank Misurelli, Army War College Public Affairs Office

"Spirit of the Carlisle Indian School competition lives on with Jim Thorpe Sports Day"

March 3, 2009 -- "The Carlisle Indian School spirit of competitiveness and winning lives on with the Jim Thorpe Sports Day competition," said George Yuda, whose father, Montreville Speed Yuda, played baseball with Jim Thorpe and graduated from the Carlisle Indian School in 1913. The 86-year-old Yuda spoke about his memories of meeting Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School as if they occurred yesterday.

"Dad played second base and Thorpe played the outfield for the Carlisle Indian School baseball team called the "Outlaws" but Jim loved the contact sports like football," said Yuda.

Yuda will return to the site of their athletic glory April 24 for the opening ceremonies of the Jim Thorpe Sports Day, which pits students from the Air War College, Naval War College, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National War College, Army War College and the Marine War College in an annual match up of the nation's senior service schools.

"Dad and I know Jim Thorpe felt they had a place in their hearts for the Carlisle Indian School, it feels like a homecoming," said Yuda.

Yuda said he was amazed on the endurance and stamina that his father and Thorpe must have had to play baseball and especially football. "Dad and Thorpe took a beating with very little or no protective equipment if any, but they both had a lot of spirit," exclaimed Yuda.

Yuda met Thorpe when he was ten years old in 1933. "Thorpe would drop in unannounced to see my dad on his way to New York City," he said.

Yuda reflected on how Thorpe loved the school and his coach Glenn "Pop" Warner.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Thorpe being named first team "All American"

As for Thorpe's title as "All American", Yuda said, "Thorpe was the greatest football player on the playing field."

Yuda said he thinks that the competition is a continuation of athletic excellence at Carlisle.

"The Carlisle Indian School was noted for its great sport teams and the Army War College carries on this great tradition.

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