

Spirit of the Carlisle Indian School lives on



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

March 10, 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 recently 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 felt like a homecoming," said Yuda.



The Indian Field Grandstand was packed for a visit by Jim Thorpe to Carlisle Barracks in this undated photo. The spirit of athletic excellence that dates back to the days of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School lives on at Carlisle Barracks during the Jim Thorpe Sports Day. The event will take place April 23-25. File photo.

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 10 in 1933. "Thorpe would drop in unannounced to see my dad on his way to New York City and talk with dad," he said.

Yuda reflected on how Thorpe loved the school and his coach Glenn "Pop" Warner. Thorpe, who this year marks the 100th anniversary of him 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."

JTSD background

During the three –day series of sports competitions, student athletes participate in 14 sporting events to include ladies one-mile relay, men's two-mile relay, ladies 5K run, men's five- mile run, men's and women's bowling; men's and women's golf; racquetball; basketball; soccer, softball, tennis, and volleyball.

In addition to individual medals in each event, the college that accumulates the most points will be awarded the Commandants Cup which maintains the trophy until next year's competition.

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