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Published by Ronald Caplan on 1991/6/1

school. I was full of the devil. It's a wonder I wasn't killed or punchdrunk. 'Cause all the kids used to pound me. You know. I'd be always in trouble and fights. The older kids'd pound me. I was right mischievous and saucy. So it's a wonder I survived, 'cause I used to get some awful poundings in school.... (But your father didn't like boxing?) Oh, God. He never went to one of my fights. That was one of the hard points of my career. And I tried so hard, and I tried to be the best I could. Which I was. I was no punk, like, you know. But he wouldn't go. He wouldn't go to a fight. He wouldn't let my mother go. My sister went to every one of them around here. And then my aunts and uncles, and my grandfather--my father's father--oh, yeah, they all went to see them. My mother's sisters. That was the one disappointment, that he--I mean, if it was my son, I'd say, "Hey!"--I'd be so proud, have my chest out. bust all the buttons on it. You know, I had some big fights, and I won them.

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(What did he want you to become?) I don't know. He wanted me in track or ball or something like that. I started playing English rugby when I went to the Academy. Oh, God, that was a brutal sport, you know. I was only six all. about 150 pounds. And I thrived on what. Well, I loved that thing. The harder the going and the smaller my chances were, the more determined I was. Oh, yeah, I was a real spitfire. The tougher the going got, I'd dig down a little more. More spunk. Guts, lots of guts. I had a heart big as that fridge, bigger than me, you know. That's what kept me going. I ran in track, you know. My father and a man up the road, they'd race on that jogging track they made up in a field up in the woods. I used to go up there and run around it all the time. That's how I started to road racing. When I entered a road race my father said, "You're crazy, you'll never win." First race I ran, I ran in Baddeck. Ran the mile, I won it. Oh, yeah. If you said, "You can't do it," I'd be damned, I'd do it. I ran here in the Cape Breton championships--2 or 3 years. I ran in the 24th of May road races down in the Pier. I ran in the Antigonish Highland Games. Oh, yeah, don't tell me I couldn't do it. or I'd do it. If you'd say I couldn't jump off the high piers down there, I'd do it. (What do you think your father would have liked you to become?) I don't know. I

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