

Edwin Pope  
FNP 60  
Summary

Edwin Pope begins by describing his childhood in Athens, Georgia, particularly his involvement with the college football and high school sports (1-2, 4-5). He attended the University of Georgia and wrote for the school newspaper. He discusses the relevance of a degree in journalism to pursuing a career as a reporter (2-5). After college, Pope worked for the United Press, covering news and sports from around the South (5-6). In 1950, he began working for the *Atlanta Constitution* as assistant sports editor, covering a variety of sports in the area. He briefly talks about editor Ralph McGill. He left the Atlanta paper due to frustration with some of the management practices of the paper (6-9). In reference to his 1955 book, *Football's Greatest Coaches*, Pope talks about several legendary football coaches (8-10).

In 1956, Pope moved to Miami, Florida to work for *The Miami Herald* as assistant sports editor and began writing a sports column five days a week. He discusses other sportswriters, such as Jim Murray and Bill Stern, and the qualities that make a good sportswriter. Pope states that he does not wish to pursue a management or high editorial position because he prefers writing (10-14). Edwin Pope discusses his reaction to winning the Red Smith Award and his election into the National Football Hall of Fame. He talks about sportswriters winning the Pulitzer Prize (14-15).

Pope discusses sports fans and television. He believes that owners, teams and players should cover the costs of new stadiums, not the general public. He discusses Wayne Huizenga and the economic benefits of sports teams to cities, particularly the Miami Dolphins and other professional Miami teams (15-18). Pope talks of changes in sports, including ticket prices and the atmosphere at the games (18-19).

A variety baseball topics are covered, including Pete Rose, aluminum bats and college coaches. Pope discusses basketball player Rick Barry (20-21). Pope believes athletes' behavior has changed negatively over the years, particularly in professional sports. Athletes' bad behavior is more tolerated now, both by schools and society (21-25). The financial aspects of and various problems in college and professional sports are discussed, including salaries, college players quitting to turn professional, admission standards and graduation rates (25-30). Pope talks about several University of Miami coaches, including Lou Saban, Howard Schnellenberger, Jimmy Johnson and Dennis Erickson and several Miami players. He also talks about Steve Spurrier's career at the University of Florida (30-33).

Pope has attended about thirty Kentucky Derbies and discusses horse racing in general and the racing and breeding of horses in Ocala (33-34). He talks about major sporting events he has covered, such as the 1980 Lake Placid Winter Olympics, the Masters and U.S. Open golf tournaments (34-36). He discusses boxing and NASCAR (36-38).

Sportswriting standards have risen, in terms of writers' knowledge and behavior. Audiences have changed as well, and Pope now tends to include more analysis in his writing. He dislikes color photographs and the effect they have had on newspapers (38-40). Pope talks about two problems he has had with publishers Knight-Ridder in regard to something he wrote (40-41). He talks about women and minorities in sportswriting (41-43). The interview concludes with a discussion of Don Shula, Dan Marino, and Pope's satisfaction with his career accomplishments (43-45).