

**Interview Records of Everette Stutts
Completed for the Black Lives Matter Oral History
Project**



**Everette Stutts was interviewed By Cameron Thornton
02/19-3/12/2024**

Website:

www.blmohp.sewanee.edu

Contact information:

blmohp@gmail.com

Prepared by Andrew Quinonez

Table of Contents

Abstract	3-4
Field Notes	5-6
Transcription	7-

ABSTRACT – Stutts Everette

Narrator: Stutts Everette

Interviewer: Cameron Thornton

Interview Date: February 19 and March 12, 2024

Location: Humphreys Hall, Sewanee, TN and Hyatt Hotel, Durham, NC

Length: 27 minutes and 24 seconds

Stutts Everette was born in 2004 in Birmingham or Mountain Brook, Alabama. Stutts has lived in Birmingham his entire life, one of five siblings. Stutts had a very typical southern upbringing, playing a variety of sports including lacrosse which he now plays in college and participating in typical outdoors activities. Stutts noted that he grew up in a supportive and connected household. Stutts made the decision in early high school that he hoped to stay in the south in college and beyond, influencing his decision to attend the University of the South. Once he made it onto the mountain he fell in love with the school, immersing himself in the culture and various groups on campus. He is an active member in the Sewanee lacrosse program and is currently rushing the Beta Omicron chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity. Stutts notes multiple times through his interview that his background and geographic location limited his information and knowledge about the Black Lives Matter Movement, but that it was a movement he strongly supported and understood. He pointed out that although he perceived its conception as somewhat chaotic, he thinks that the emergence of social media has allowed it to grow into a powerful and strong movement and organization that will continue to grow and flourish. He also pointed out that aside from social media, much of his information about the Black Lives Matter Movement was from famous athletes. Which goes to show the importance of athlete figures and their thoughts. It was here that he developed his thoughts and perceptions of the movement. Stutts briefly spoke about what he thought to be the future of the BLM movement: an organization that retains the same goals as it does now but is more powerful, recognizable, and able to drive forth more physical change. He believes that everyone is created equal, and that society is changing for the better but still has a long way to go. This interview is a part of the Sewanee Black Lives

Matter Oral History Project.

Field Notes – Stutts Everette

(Compiled March 12, 2024)

Narrator: Stutts Everette

Interviewer: Cameron Thornton

Date: February 19 and March 12, 2024

Location: Humphreys Hall, Sewanee Tennessee

NARRATOR: Stutts Everette is a freshman at Sewanee: The University of the South from Mountain brook, Alabama. Stutts is a member of the men's lacrosse team which is how he met the interviewer. He spent his entire childhood in Alabama in a predominantly white neighborhood with a fairly sheltered upbringing. Stutts has an extremely supportive and involved family. Stutts also grew up immersed in sports and sports culture, receiving much of his news about race relations and the black lives matter movement through the sports figures he looked up to and idolized. Stutts knew fairly early in his high school career that he wanted to stay in the south for college and immediately became interested in Sewanee. He committed to Sewanee his junior year and ever since has been a passionate tiger and has loved his Sewanee experience.

THE INTERVIEWER: Cameron Thornton is currently a undergraduate student at Sewanee: The University of the South studying Finance and Business. He is researching the effects of the Black Lives Matter Movement on the public.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERVIEW: The interview was conducted in two parts, the first on February 19, 2024, in Humphreys hall in Sewanee, Tennessee. The interview lasted between 16 and 17 minutes and was uninterrupted. The interview was performed in the interviewer's room with no distractions through the voice memo app. The interviewee was eager to participate and relaxed due to their relationship with the interviewer. He answered all the questions to the best of his ability although his responses were brief and too the point, leading to a short primary interview which was followed up with a secondary one. The second interview was performed on March 12, 2024, in Durham, North Carolina in a Hyatt hotel office space. It was a quiet and

uninterrupted interview. Stutts was happy to participate in a follow up interview, but we struggled to schedule a follow up which led to the delay. However, once we started the interview Stutts remained eager to answer questions, this time more thoughtful and deliberate in his responses as he was able to reflect upon his prior responses. Something that I think was highly beneficial for the interview. The second interview lasted just over 11 minutes but covered all the information the interviewer aimed to cover.

NOTES ON THE RECORDING: This was recorded using the Voice Memo app on an iPhone.

This transcript was exported on Mar 17, 2024 - view latest version [here](#).

Cameron Thornton (00:05):

This is Cameron Thornton from Sewanee, the University of the South. It is February 18th, 2024, 9:30 PM I'm with,

Stutts Everett (00:18):

I'm Stutts Everett and I'm from Birmingham, Alabama.

Cameron Thornton (00:23):

Thank you Stutts Everett for being here. Okay. Now to get into some of the questions, first to have a broad question, but where do you find community today?

Stutts Everett (00:37):

I find community within my school and within my family and along with that in my sports team. I feel like it's a great way to come together as one group and work together as a community.

Cameron Thornton (00:54):

What's your occupation and what was your journey to this role?

Stutts Everett (00:58):

Currently my occupation is as a student and to get here it was a lot of work within high school studying tests and such.

Cameron Thornton (01:10):

Sweet. Kind of to look at your global perspective, what traveling have you done and then to combine another question with that, what's your favorite type of food and culturally its significance?

Stutts Everett (01:24):

I've traveled outside of the states just to Canada, but inside of the states mostly everywhere. I might say my favorite food that's cultural is Mexican food. I'm a big fan of Mexican food.

Cameron Thornton (01:39):

Me too. Kind of a tough question, but who inspires you and what traits do these individuals have?

Stutts Everett (01:47):

I'd say my parents inspire me. They are kind and loving, but they also know to tell me to do things I shouldn't do.

Cameron Thornton (01:55):

That's a good balance. That's important to get into maybe some of the interview questions more specifically, looking at the Black Lives Matter movement, how did you receive the news and how did that kind of come across your mind or maybe come into your view?

Stutts Everett ([02:18](#)):

02/21/24)
Page 1 of 7

Stutts Everette-Cameron Thornton (Completed

Transcript by [Rev.com](#)

This transcript was exported on Mar 17, 2024 - view latest version [here](#).

I would say that I received that news as kind of confusing at first. I'd say I wasn't really sure what was going on, but once I understood it I kind of was like, oh, I can get behind this. This makes sense. I like where they're coming from.

Cameron Thornton ([02:39](#)):

Looking at your local community, obviously every community has a different perspective and reaction to it. How did your community react?

Stutts Everett ([02:49](#)):

I think Birmingham reacted well as soon as it started. There was a lot of change and I think it benefited the city very well.

Cameron Thornton ([02:59](#)):

Do you think that was across the whole city or do you think it was sort of divided?

Stutts Everett ([03:03](#)):

I'd say across the whole city. I can't really be specific on something. I don't really know what all that happened, but it was definitely helpful.

Cameron Thornton ([03:14](#)):

It maybe, so you said it came across, you said your initial reaction was maybe confused, maybe, but eventually positive. What swayed your perspective or maybe your view?

Stutts Everett ([03:31](#)):

I think what swayed is that I feel like people at the beginning reacted to it as negatively and thought that it would be somewhat violent, but then when it calmed down I saw it as just something that people wanted to make a change and they weren't trying to hurt anyone or do anything wrong or they just wanted to get their mind out.

Cameron Thornton ([03:54](#)):

Okay. Maybe looking at, obviously we're in a very digital age and social media is super prevalent, especially in the Black Lives Matter movement. How do you think that affected the movement and then what is your experience with social media?

Stutts Everett ([04:08](#)):

I think that it definitely helps spread the message through social media. I'd say my personal thing with it

in social media is things like the NBA. They always talked about it and talked about history behind it, just random sports things. Maybe the NFL? Yeah.

Cameron Thornton (04:27):

You think is sports a big passion of yours? Is that something that you grew up with or kind of developed later in life?

Stutts Everett (04:34):

No, I've always liked sports. It's always been something that I've enjoyed throughout my life.

02/21/24)

Page 2 of 7

Stutts Everette-Cameron Thornton (Completed

Transcript by [Rev.com](#)

This transcript was exported on Mar 17, 2024 - view latest version [here](#).

Cameron Thornton (04:41):

Maybe looking at generationally, do you think there was a particular generation that was most affected by the movement or maybe looking at the reactions based on generations? What are your thoughts on that?

Stutts Everett (04:52):

I'd say that my generation may have taken it as a way to learn from and maybe grow towards the future and be more welcoming and be more equal as a whole, and I'd say it affected mainly those who are in the working class age and maybe not the older ones. It's just to get better at being equal and try to fix what they've been doing. I guess.

Cameron Thornton (05:25):

Do you think maybe there's older generations, obviously everybody has a different perspective. Do you think that there's room for change or do you think it's going to be tough to sway people who don't have as much of a, maybe not perspective, but maybe don't know as much information and aren't as familiar with social media?

Stutts Everett (05:44):

I think it's probably going to be harder with the older generations just because they've already gone through a lot and they might not want to change their mind or perspective since they're so old and they don't really care as much anymore.

Cameron Thornton (05:57):

Do you think that social media has been a barrier? I mean especially our generations growing up with social media, but there's obviously generations who don't have that same experience.

Stutts Everett (06:09):

I think it's definitely hard to comprehend if you don't know what you're doing on it and you could see it as different than how we see it. I think it's easy for them to see it as negative or confusing and maybe hateful, but it can be used for good.

Cameron Thornton ([06:26](#)):

How has the Black Lives Matter movement impacted your life specifically?

Stutts Everett ([06:32](#)):

I would say specifically I just saw a lot of change in my own community with people becoming more and more just open-minded and stuff like that.

Cameron Thornton ([06:49](#)):

Do you think being from Birmingham, do you think maybe geographically, do you think the South potential has a different perspective than people from different areas of the country?

Stutts Everett ([06:58](#)):

I'd say Birmingham's tough in the sense that it was big in the civil rights and it's still kind of, there's not tensions. People are more calm, but when stuff like that happens in Birmingham, people are still confused or they're trying to work on it and maybe make it a little bit better.

02/21/24)

Page 3 of 7

Stutts Everette-Cameron Thornton (Completed

Transcript by [Rev.com](#)

This transcript was exported on Mar 17, 2024 - view latest version [here](#).

Cameron Thornton ([07:19](#)):

But you think that past history has definitely affected the way the Black Lives Matter movement kind of spread throughout the area?

Stutts Everett ([07:27](#)):

Yeah, I think so. I think that it was like now since it was happening, it was definitely more open-minded in Birmingham than they were back during the civil rights. It was definitely easier for them to start making somewhat of a change.

Cameron Thornton ([07:43](#)):

How has the Black Lives Matter movement changed how you interact with people of other races?

Stutts Everett ([07:51](#)):

I don't really think that I've changed. I don't think I negatively interacted with people of other cultures, so I'd say it's definitely made me think more about it, but nothing crazy.

Cameron Thornton ([08:04](#)):

Do you think other people that you've maybe viewed or noticed, do you think it's changed their interactions?

Stutts Everett ([08:11](#)):

Can you repeat that?

Cameron Thornton (08:12):

Do you think it's maybe changed other people's interactions maybe that you've viewed or seen in your community?

Stutts Everett (08:18):

Yeah, it's definitely made people think more about the Black Lives Matter movement, but nothing too specific.

Cameron Thornton (08:28):

Do you think looking out as a whole, do you think the movement succeeded?

Stutts Everett (08:33):

I think it definitely did succeed. I think that it definitely helped bigger companies or organizations and maybe the country as a whole be more open-minded and equal.

Cameron Thornton (08:45):

Why do you think it succeeded? What kind of factors do you think went into that?

Stutts Everett (08:49):

I think how it succeeded was just being, I guess, so popular maybe with social media. It was always talked about and just continued and it didn't really die out.

02/21/24)

Page 4 of 7

Stutts Everette-Cameron Thornton (Completed

Transcript by [Rev.com](https://www.rev.com)

This transcript was exported on Mar 17, 2024 - view latest version [here](#).

Cameron Thornton (09:02):

How do you think you see it maybe being successful moving forward? Are there certain things that you think might allow it to be more successful and continue to stay on that path?

Stutts Everett (09:13):

I think that if it continues, it will continue to get better and word will continue to get out on how it works. As long as things aren't violent or too aggressive. If people take it not negatively and positively instead they'll do well.

Cameron Thornton (09:33):

You mentioned aggressive. Do you think that there's a mentality that people feel almost attacked reading online? I see people feel that, especially white people feel like the movement's kind of coming after them and do you think that's a mentality that is going to change or do you think people are pretty stuck in that mindset?

Stutts Everett (09:53):

I think it's really easy to misconstrued and assume that all white people are racist when a lot of the times

the things that are violent that are happening are because of white people doing violent things towards people of color and I think that if it was more focused on trying to make change together rather than being like, this is what's violently happening, yeah, it's probably a good thing to be like, this is happening, we need to stop it, but if it wasn't as focused on that, maybe it would be taken more positively.

Cameron Thornton ([10:27](#)):

I talked about how it's been successful. In what ways do you think that the movement has failed?

Stutts Everett ([10:36](#)):

I think that stuff like the NBA and stuff like that, we'll do a lot of advertising on social media or within their league and stuff like that, and I think it can come across as kind of cheesy and maybe not as serious as it should be.

Cameron Thornton ([10:59](#)):

Obviously sports is important in your life and has played a critical role in the Black Lives Matter movement. How do you think it can be successful outside of those spaces and those events?

Stutts Everett ([11:12](#)):

Can you say that again?

Cameron Thornton ([11:14](#)):

Maybe kind of rephrase it? Obviously the Black Lives Matter movement spread a lot, especially in part of organizations like the NBA and the NFL. How do you think it can grow outside of those arenas?

Stutts Everett ([11:28](#)):

I think that if other things take it over maybe like news sources and stuff like that and the news sources talk about it positively and not talk about bad things that are happening or things that might go wrong and just try to spread awareness.

02/21/24)
Page 5 of 7

Stutts Everette-Cameron Thornton (Completed)

Transcript by [Rev.com](#)

This transcript was exported on Mar 17, 2024 - view latest version [here](#).

Cameron Thornton ([11:44](#)):

Kind of a tough really broad question, but what do you think is the state of race relations in the United States currently?

Stutts Everett ([11:54](#)):

I think that it's depending on where you are within the United States, I'd say that it's still kind of tense and maybe sometimes taken wrongly, but it's definitely overall better than it was in the past and I think that the Black Lives Matter movement has definitely made it less.

Cameron Thornton ([12:16](#)):

Do you think it's changing for the better or do you think there's still a lot of work to go? I

Stutts Everett ([12:20](#)):

Think it's changing for the better, but I think there's still a lot of work to go

Cameron Thornton ([12:25](#)):

Maybe looking at the future of the movement, what do you think is the future of the Black Lives Matter movement?

Stutts Everett ([12:31](#)):

I think the future is that it will continue to grow as long as people accept what's happening and go with what the movement sees.

Cameron Thornton ([12:43](#)):

Do you think that it's an expanding movement or by that I mean do you think the role of the movement will grow maybe farther outside of just spreading awareness and educating people and do you think it'll grow its scope and maybe work on helping out different communities and making action more physical change or do you think that it's critical that its role remain the educational and informative kind?

Stutts Everett ([13:19](#)):

I think that it will expand and grow beyond what it is right now. I think that that would probably help the best expanding to different parts of culture and the United States as a whole.

Cameron Thornton ([13:32](#)):

What do you think that you can do personally to contribute to the movement and maybe help grow the movement?

Stutts Everett ([13:44](#)):

I think just being more aware and being more understanding to people who are having a tougher time due to their race.

Cameron Thornton ([13:58](#)):

Do you think, obviously history plays a huge role, especially geographically as you mentioned and is always kind of prevalent in our minds. How do you think that has affected the acceptance of the Black Lives Matter movement?

02/21/24)

Page 6 of 7

Stutts Everette-Cameron Thornton (Completed

Transcript by [Rev.com](#)

This transcript was exported on Mar 17, 2024 - view latest version [here](#).

Stutts Everett ([14:14](#)):

I think depending on where you are, kind of like your environment, new raises, you might have trouble accepting something like that due to maybe older family members having negative effects on you due to their experience with racial. Things like that. They might be very negative towards it just because they're older and they never were taught to be kinder and more equal.

Cameron Thornton ([14:42](#)):

Do you think for you specifically, how has that affected your acceptance?

Stutts Everett ([14:49](#)):

Not really at all. I don't think that I've had a problem with that really.

Cameron Thornton ([14:53](#)):

Do you think moving forward, how can people help solve some of those issues? Looking towards the next generation and beyond?

Stutts Everett ([15:04](#)):

Maybe not make the same mistakes that their older relatives did and definitely teach the newer generations to be not negative towards other races. From the start

Cameron Thornton ([15:23](#)):

Coming back, looking at your first encounter with the Black Lives Matter movement, maybe thinking back, what do you think you could have done to help spread the movement and make people more aware in the initial stages with social media spreading the word?

Stutts Everett ([15:42](#)):

I don't know. Maybe going to more events could have helped that, but I don't think there was too much I could have done.

Cameron Thornton ([15:51](#)):

Okay. That's about it I have for you. Do you have any kind of questions or maybe thoughts besides that? Not

Stutts Everett ([16:01](#)):

Really.

Cameron Thornton ([16:02](#)):

Okay. Thank you for taking the time to meet with me and I appreciate your thoughts.

Stutts Everett ([16:09](#)):

Thank you.

02/21/24)
Page 7 of 7