

Basic Detail Report



Title Interview with Devin James

Date 2023 February 23

Primary Maker Felicia Pilewski

Medium born digital audio file

Description (a) Audio file of interview with Devin James. He was interviewed by Felicia Pilewski on February 23, 2023 in New Haven, Connecticut. (b) Photograph

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of Devin James taken at his interview. He was interviewed as part of the

Connecticut Historical Society's Community History Project discussing his

experience during the COVID-19 Pandemic. At the time of the interview Devin

James was a 17-year-old high school student living in New Haven, Connecticut.

In March of 2020, Devin was in 8th grade. He described the transition to online

learning as very difficult, and at first, he struggled with the motivation to

complete his work. However, at some point he decided he might as well try to

keep up, and by the time of his 8th grade graduation, he had won an award for

his academic improvement. Devin recalled struggling with weight gain at the

start of the pandemic, but upon entering high school, discovered a love for

sports. He started playing football during his freshman year and lost a lot of

weight from exercise. He described this period as meaningful because he was

getting a “new start to a new life of being an athlete.” Devin described the

increase in violence in his community, which he attributed to the pandemic and

people being “locked up.” He noted that it was especially affecting young

people and attributed this partially to the impact of social media as well. When

asked about his mental health and whether his approach to mental health

changed, Devin responded that he became much more aware of it. In fact, he

discovered a love of psychology and expressed the desire to study psychology in

college and one day become a therapist.

Dimensions Duration: 18 Minutes, 6 Seconds