

GS: Some competitors are more outspoken publicly. Like Eddy Streeper when he said you were washed up. Then you came back and won again.

GA: That was good for the sport. I liked it. He took a whipping, but I believed it did dog racing a lot of good. I laughed it off. What can you say? I didn't say anything. I didn't have to say anything. The papers wrote up their own stories.

GS: How friendly were you with your competitors? Like Doc Lombard, would you guys go out for dinner?

GA: We would stay at the same hotels, and train in the same spots. We weren't 100% friendly all the time. At least I wasn't. I liked to play head games. I was always trying to say things to get him mad at me, but he would never lose his temper. And Charlie Belford, he would get mad at me. He would scare me sometimes. He would get right in my face. I knew I could get to him. I watched people from other sports and how they could self-destruct. I learned from that. My favorite athlete was, and is, Muhammed Ali.

GS: Have there been times where you've been able to leverage your historic, celebrity status in Alaska to get things done, or for special causes?

GA: I used to do that a lot. Even today, especially in Northern Canada. It's amazing how well known I am over there. Because all the sprint races were televised, I became a sports figure. Now for the last 7 or 8 years, I've gone over there almost every year to speak.

GS: It would be nice to get the races covered in real time on TV again. It's amazing to me that it's not. I mean it is an exciting sport. I guess folks would rather watch some other supposed reality show. I mean, people are tuning in to watch dogs trot around a a show ring, or jump off docks into water. I think we have something more exciting than that. Now with helmet cams, and sled cams, the footage can be amazing. Imagine if we had that kind of footage when you were battling Doc Lombard.

GA: Back then, we didn't know who was going to win-Lombard or I. The TV coverage did a good job of covering it back then, and creating the drama. Things fell into place to be able to do that kind of production. Hopefully they will discover more oil, then there will be more money to be spent!

GS: Thanks for spending the time with me George, it has been an absolute pleasure.

GA: You're welcome. It was fun. •

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