

Welcome to the DiploSport podcast. As part of the international affairs fellowship through the Council on Foreign Relations, I've been afforded a year to build a knowledge base from which I will theoretically be able to draw from the rest of my career.

The proposal that I put forward to get the International Affairs Fellowship I focused on sports diplomacy, something I had done with the State Department the previous two years.

I've spent this last year in the private sector seeing how different pro sports leagues focused on engaging a worldwide audience

Throughout the year I've seen firsthand the importance of the interplay between sports and government and how the two entities benefit from working together. Sports journalist and I guess now noted multimedia Mogul Bill Simmons often talks about the concept of America having a sports czar. Something like an advisor to the president who would drive like a common-sense sports policy. Simmons even discussed this concept during an interview he conducted with President Obama last year.

At a recent sports security held in New York, I saw two former cabinet officials speak about the connection between sports and government. The first was former Attorney General Eric Holder who said that the one job he would return to government for would be if they created a Minister of Sport for the U.S.

The second cabinet-level official I saw at this conference was actually the inaugural guest on this podcast and I'll introduce that person in a second.

So far, as part of my fellowship research I have been able to interview dozens of journalists and athletes who have shared with me their experiences the values taught to them by sport. They've told me about their experience on the fields of play or covering the fields of play. And most importantly for the purposes of the fellowship and this podcast the globalization of athletics

As I've continued my research throughout the year, instead of simply just jotting down notes on the interviews, I figured that I would record these discussions as part of a podcast series. That's what you're listening to right now. And my goal with the podcast is to share stories of inspiration, to make you laugh and to discuss sports policy at the federal level.

The inspiration part is probably one of the most important aspects because sports, you'll hear time and again throughout the series, sports are a universal language and it doesn't matter where you're from or what your background is, you learn certain values of the game that aren't just American values but can be Afghan values or Congolese values or Brazilian values. They're transcendent. That's why we talk about the aspirational aspect of athletics how they make us want to be better and strive to be better. That's why the Olympics mean so much more than just getting that medal and standing on the podium at the end

It's everything and everyone who leads up to that point.

I should mention that in addition to athletes and sports writers I've also interviewed policy makers from government and academia. Along the way, we've discussed their feelings on the role that the feds should play sports at all levels, from youth through college to the Olympics and pros.

And that's what brings me to today's guest. Dr. Condoleezza Rice is a professor currently at Stanford University where she holds a number of chairs and a number of positions including as a senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, she teaches at the Business School and Poli Sci Department.

She was the 66th Secretary of State, where she was the second woman to hold the position after Madeline Albright and first African American woman to hold the Post. She was also National Security advisor to President George W. Bush, the first woman to hold that post and She's held a number distinguished career in government and university. And in 1986, she was a CFR International Affairs Fellow, like me.

What made her the perfect first guest on this podcast was that she reinvigorated the sports diplomacy program during her tenure as Secretary and I think that she'd be the first to say that she saw the value of sports as a tool of diplomacy thanks in large part to a healthy dose of athletics throughout her upbringing

Today, she is a fixture throughout the sports world, serving as a member of the College football selection committee. She was one of the first two female members at Augusta National Golf Club and she's constantly in the buzz whenever there's a discussion about the next commissioner of the National Football League.

I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to sit down with Dr. Rice in her office at the Hoover Institution on the campus of Stanford University where we discussed Sports Diplomacy.

I was a huge fan going into the conversation and our discussion exceeded those expectations, those lofty expectations.

I'm very proud of the interview and I hope you enjoy my conversation with Dr. Condoleezza Rice

(Music)

Morgan: Ok, are we ready to go.

So what my first question is regarding what we were just talking about before the mics went on. Before...well the United States doesn't have a sports ministry or minister of sport. You in the position of Secretary of State decided 'hey this is a great portfolio, I'd like to, to take it on.' How did you get to the conclusion that sports were worth the investment of time, energy and resources of the U.S. government and the State Department?

Dr. Rice: Well I believe that public diplomacy, as people call it, is very important, but the United States Government isn't really the best...the best element to carry out public diplomacy. It's getting Americans who can go and represent the country in ways that are unusual, that don't have to do with politics that don't politicize everything and what better ambassadors than athletes to do that? They're renowned and admired worldwide. I remember when Michelle Kwan, who was one of my first sports ambassadors, was on the cover of the Chinese equivalent of Sports Illustrated. A Chinese American showed the United States -- a country of immigrants -- so I just thought that athletes were of terrific benefit in public diplomacy.

Morgan: What is it about athletes that attract the admiration of the world? Why are sports more than what happens between the lines?

Dr. Rice: Well, we are all attracted to great athletic performances, mostly because we can't imagine doing them. These are people of high skill, these are people who are the embodiment of the kind of human spirit overcoming difficulty training hard, running hard and everybody admires them. I think the movements like the Olympics and the fact that they're world games, it gives it a kind of international character and the fact that some sport is played in every country in the world makes it really universal.

Morgan: Now, there's a flip side to every coin and we're just learning now that well, Brazil is hosting the Rio Games coming up; two years ago there seems to be some credible information coming in that there was a systemic doping regime that the Russians pulled off during the Sochi Games to say nothing of that fact that between the Winter Olympics and Winter Paralympics, the illegal annexation of Crimea occurred. Going back, you look at Athens and the \$11B that they laid out for those Games certainly couldn't help their current financial situation. And then we can also talk about Munich '68, Berlin '36 and we can also talk for an hour about the FIFA scandal. What about the negative side of sports?

Dr. Rice: Look, sports are not -- sports like human beings are not perfect. There are many positive elements and many not positive elements and obviously in terms of terrorism, like the Munich Olympics, one of the really horrible moments in human history. When one talks about what has happened with FIFA, I'm glad that the United States used its extraterritorial power to pursue this with FIFA and it's well known that FIFA's had these problems for a long time and now they've been exposed and hopefully the organization will be cleaned up. But you're going to have scandals and people behaving badly in any area of human life. It doesn't for me diminish what sports can do on the positive side but it really does say be careful on the negative side.

Morgan: And that's ultimately what I was trying to lead you towards there, was that ...like you just said, so the positives outweigh the negatives. So we've touched a little bit on sports diplomacy, a little bit on the U.S. being a leader in the world on rooting out corruption and the integrity of sport. You also were a collegiate athlete...

Dr. Rice: Well I was a competitive figure skater, yes, right in college.

Morgan: And you were a gymnast, too.

Dr. Rice: I was, well that was a pathetic effort to extend my athletic career after I quit skating.

Morgan: How did you raise funds for team travel and to keep the team going.

Dr. Rice: We were one year before Title IX and so we actually had to have a bake sale to travel. It just shows how far women's sports has come. As it turns out I think the University of Denver only had two teams for women at that time. One was gymnastics and one was tennis. I didn't play tennis so I knew that I'd done a little bit of gymnastics to train for skating. But it's just wonderful now to see what Title IX has done for women's teams, that are just on par or equal with men's teams.

Morgan: Which is great you've also seen it first hand as an administrator. You were the provost here at Stanford.

Dr. Rice: That's right and athletics reports to the provost. That's right.

Morgan: Going from a student athlete pre-Title IX to somebody that was overseeing one of the top flight if not THE top flight athletic departments in the country, what kind of impact did that legislation have?

Dr. Rice: Well, it made it possible to have young women to have all the marvelous experiences that come from playing college athletics--the leadership opportunities, the opportunity to get up, work hard, fail, and have to get up and work hard the next day. Life is a lot like that. The opportunity to represent the university in very positive ways. As we speak, the Stanford women's tennis team won the national championship.

Morgan: Congratulations.

Dr. Rice: Our golf team is defending national champion. We've had extraordinary women athletes here and the great thing is I watch, I go to the games, and I see the male athletes there supporting them. So, I think its been great for universities and its been especially good for women. And it's moving back. So it's not just in college, but now in high schools you get really great organized teams because college scholarships are available. It goes back so girls can play on equal footing with boys.

Morgan: So far what I've heard us touch upon are Department of State, Department of Education, Department of Justice and the list can go on and on. I'm sure you're aware of the Warrior Games, the Invictus Games, things that involve the DoD and the VA. Sports are cross-cutting and there isn't one spot that you could necessarily...which is why I think they are so valuable. The US will never have a Ministry of Sport or Department of Sport, but as somebody who has been on the inside do you think the Chief Executive would benefit from having an advisor, or for lack of a better word, a czar on hand to help advise on stuff like this?

Dr. Rice: Well, I generally don't favor czars in the White House because the Secretaries are the duly constituted officers to conduct American policy. If you are going to do something like that, it probably would have to rest in one of the Departments. On the international side, I think State is perfectly positioned maybe to expand the role of sports diplomacy, but not just the sports diplomacy part of it to deal with nettlesome and difficult issues like how to respond to the fallout of the FIFA scandal or something like that kind. And you can always use an office like that to coordinate the federal government if need be, but I'm not generally one to keep creating federal offices. I think we have enough of them.

Morgan: I had the opportunity to work for Ambassador Richard Holbrooke when he was the Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan and in my mind's eye that would be...and even that got a little big, but I thought that was a fantastic way of leveraging the interagency from State to be able to address needs.

Dr. Rice: Well, because you need it with Afghanistan and Pakistan and it wasn't an all of government effort that had to be done in a really focused way with an awful lot at stake. I think you could certainly increase the reach of the office within the State Department, but I don't think you need a czar for it. If it gets to the place that need coordination across agencies, then the National Security Advisor could do it, the Homeland Security Advisor could do it, or the Secretary of State can call people together to get it done.

Morgan: So, your career at State actually started at the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.

Dr. Rice: It did.

Morgan: As I was thinking about that, your parents are both educators and they clearly put music, culture, and sports in your path growing up. The first question I want to ask is when you became Secretary of State, did you benefit from having that inside experience of how ECA functioned?

Dr. Rice: Yes, I definitely benefited from having been an intern at State Department and I used to speak to the interns every year and I used to tell the interns that I would tell everyone to be good to their interns because you never know where they might end up.

Morgan: God's honest truth, they still mention that. That one day the intern could be the Secretary of State.

Dr. Rice: I had a wonderful experience in Education and Cultural Affairs and at the time it was less about the educational side and more about the cultural side. I think now it has balanced those in very important ways. But that's another place that one could think of doing more on the sports diplomacy side. That is where it's launched but you could do more there.

Morgan: I know one effort was to make it more of a sports policy office. The programs are fantastic, but you see more and more the IO Bureau would come and ask about UN resolutions that that involved sport.

Dr. Rice: Exactly. And I think that a sports policy area could be very important because these are really tough issues and how to respond to some of the problem areas of sport. How should the US Government respond? Should the US Government respond? On balance, the US Government should back off and take a back seat on some of these issues, but even the question of should the US government respond and how could be lodged with an office of that kind.

Morgan: Continuing to work backwards here, why did your parents decide to emphasize sports and music in your formation?

Dr. Rice: Well I'm an only child. My mother was a musician and my dad had been a football coach so my mother didn't emphasize sport and my father didn't emphasize music so I got it from both sides, but I loved it. I studied piano from the age of 3. I think I started my first athletics when I was 4. I think my parents just believed in giving you enrichment activities that can make you a broader and more balanced person. I really appreciated that but it was really music with my mother and sports with my dad.

Morgan: And your name means "with sweetness".

Dr. Rice: Condoleezza means "with sweetness". It's a musical term from *con dolcezza*.

Morgan: And do you still play piano?

Dr. Rice: I do. I even play concerts from time to time.

Morgan: Really?

Dr. Rice: Yeah, yeah

Morgan: When was the last time?

Dr. Rice: The next time is next week. I play benefit concerts with a string quartet out of Boston and we benefit kids programs putting instruments in kids' classrooms.

Morgan: How cool is that? And what is your favorite piece to play?

Dr. Rice: Well, anything written by Brahms. I'm a huge Brahms fan.

Morgan: I remember watching when you inducted Van Cliburn.

Dr. Rice: I did and it was really exiting. First of all, he's a wonderful man and as I said I wanted to be Van Cliburn. He was just such a tremendous talent and talk about the effect of the arts and the culture. This skinny, tall Texan who goes to Moscow and wins Tchaikovsky. It set the world on its ear and it was never quite the same with the Russians. I think they understood how really powerful American culture was.

Morgan: Sure. I think the Cold War gave us a bunch of examples like Van Cliburn but then also what happened in Lake Placid.

Dr. Rice: Yes, the miracle on ice -- absolutely. I laughingly tell my students though that the thing about the Soviet Union was it was pretty clear cut. What was good for them was bad for us and what was good for us was bad for them and everything was a test of their system so when we defeated their hockey team the Big Red Machine. Capitalism had triumphed.

Morgan: USA! What lessons did you learn on the sports side growing up? You mentioned you were a figure skater.

Dr. Rice: I learned how to work really hard at something. I wasn't a naturally talented figure skater. I'm 5'8" and I've got 5'10" legs. It was probably the wrong sport, but I would get up, I would practice, I would go to the rink at 5:15 in the morning, I would practice, I would compete. Sometimes it wouldn't go very well. I had to learn to get up and get keep going the next day. It taught me perseverance in a way that I think nothing else quite does. It also teaches you to perform. I was giving a big speech once and I was a little nervous before it. This was many, many, many years ago. And suddenly some little voice said, "well, at least you can't slip and fall." It gave me a way to hone my skills at presentation and getting control of your nerves and a lot of the things you have to do in life sports will teach you.

Morgan: You were very fortunate in a pre-Title IX world and, I had to look this up. I was wondering how many ice skating rinks there were in Birmingham...

Dr. Rice: There were none in Birmingham. Every summer, my parents and I would go to Denver and when I was six we went to Denver for them to go to graduate school and we were passing by the ice skating rink and I said that is what I want to do, I want to be an ice skater. They were delighted because it was high priced child care. They could drop me at the rink and I could skate all day and then they would pick me up after they were done with school.

Morgan: Oh gosh, wow. Would you come back and regale your friends in Alabama?

Dr. Rice: I would come back and I would practice skating on the floor. Then we moved to Denver when I was 12 and I started skating full time.

Morgan: What about other little girls? I can imagine when you were growing up in Bull Connors, Birmingham, the experience there must have been...

Dr. Rice: I grew up in a very supportive middle class family in a very supportive middle class neighborhood where faith, church, education, and family was everything. The parents were determined that Bull Connors and Birmingham were not going to limit their kid's horizons. I remembered my childhood as incredibly happy. Once in a while there would be an incident and then in 63 with the bombings and the violence.

Morgan: You lost a classmate.

Dr. Rice: I lost a classmate. A kindergarten classmate in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing, but for the most part our parents didn't let other people's racism affect us and I remember it as a really marvelous childhood.

Morgan: Are there lessons that can be taken from your upbringing and spread around the world? Are there other little girls in Afghanistan or Saudi Arabia or Congo that could benefit?

Dr. Rice: Well, I think in those places it's much tougher. I grew up in relative comfort. My parents were educated; our house was nice. But that one year of 63, I remember at the end of the Annapolis Conference with the Israelis and Palestinians, I remember putting my notes aside and saying I think I know what its like for an Israeli mother to put her child to bed not knowing if their child would survive a terrorist attack because I think my mother felt that way and I know what its like for a Palestinian mother to tell their child they cannot go on that road just because they are Palestinian because my parents had to tell me I could not go into that movie theater because I was black. I do think it gave me a sense of what its like to live in an environment that is not totally fair and free and to recognize that you have to recognize that you cannot control your circumstances but you can control your response to your circumstances so never see yourself as a victim. That is the way my parents were and that is what they taught.

Morgan: Would it be fair to say that sports played a role in building that character?

Dr. Rice: Sports played a very big role in building my character. It played a very big role with my father who was a 3-sport athlete in college--football, basketball, and tennis. Sports has been a way out for so many people that do have any other way out. Sports play a big role and play a big role in our country's history. Not always a positive role, but there have been very positive elements of sports too.

Morgan: The Jackie Robinson's of the world.

Dr. Rice: The Jackie Robinson's of the world.

Morgan: Even Bear Bryant

Dr. Rice: Bear Bryant and what happened. When I first was growing up in Alabama, we could not go to a University of Alabama football game and I remember going to my first University of Alabama football game in 1966 thinking this is really kind of fun. I had been to many football games, but you couldn't go to an integrated football game so country has come a long way.

Morgan: We are short on time so I have a couple lightening round questions for you. One my brother wanted me to ask. He's a DS agent and was on Secretary Clinton's detail.

Dr. Rice: Please give him my thanks for his service.

Morgan: He's an '04 Notre Dame grad and he wants to know why does Dr. Rice sit on the Stanford side when Notre Dame plays Stanford?

Dr. Rice: Well, I've been at Stanford for more than 30 years and I'm actually a professor at Stanford.

Morgan: But you are Fighting Irish!

Dr. Rice: Well, you know what...as a member of the college football playoff committee and we check our loyalties at the door except that I cannot vote on Stanford because I am Stanford employee so I can't vote on Stanford. Tell him I'll always sit on the Stanford side but tell the Irish to earn it on the field.

Morgan: Ohhhhh....he said he can get you one of the half-and-half jerseys.

Dr. Rice: Yea...thanks a lot.

Morgan: His follow-up was you have one game to win. Who is your quarterback, Montana or Elway?

Dr. Rice: Ohhh...that is tough. That is tough. I think I'll go with Montana.

Morgan: Oh wow...well you can get away with saying he's the Bay area guy.

Dr. Rice: Yea..he's the Bay area guy, San Francisco 49ers but both of them were...you know it goes back to the question about what does athletics teach you? Those were two guys who were never out of it. I don't care what the odds looked like, they always believed they could win.

Morgan: You recently became one of the first two female members at Augusta. What is your handicap?

Dr. Rice: I am an 11 index.

Morgan: Ok, what is that as?

Dr. Rice: Makes me a 13 or so on most courses. But at Augusta which is pretty long because we only play from the member's tees.

Morgan: That was my next question.

Dr. Rice: I don't really know my handicap at Augusta, but I have broken 90.



Morgan: Oh wow! And I did look this up. President Obama I couldn't pin down, but he's been 17 and 20 handicap but Vice President Biden is at an 8.

Dr. Rice: Vice President Biden is a really good golfer. He is a very good golfer. I don't know...maybe when the President is done, he'll want to go out and test his 17.

Morgan: Have you ever played with Stanford alum, Tiger Woods?

Dr. Rice: I've never played with Tiger although I know him very very well. We have communicated off and on from time to time. I consider him a friend. We've just never had an opportunity to play.

Morgan: And Michelle Wie is a Stanford.....

Dr. Rice: Michelle Wie I have played with. Michelle's great. She's a Stanford alum as well, as well as Tom Watson.

Morgan: Great guy. Jordan Spieth is not a Stanford alum. What advice would you give him after the Masters this year?

Dr. Rice: He had already won one and I would say to him put it away. Go on, he's young. I'm sure he's going to win more Masters and a lot of majors so it's over and done with. Next time don't go right on number 12.

Morgan: Muirfield this past week or I should say recently to keep this ever green, voted not to admit women and they are going to lose the Open Championship for it.

Dr. Rice: Well I think this was a matter for the RNA to decide and it seems to me that the decision for inclusion was a good one.

Morgan: Two other quick questions to wrap up on. With the Zika outbreak in Brazil, specifically with the Rio Games coming up, what advice and what kind of policy formulation would go behind?

Dr. Rice: Well I assume the State Department is going to be issuing guidance and it's a very thorough process that is carried out with proper medical advice with some input from CDC and probably from the Institute of Health and I'm sure State will have guidance.

Morgan: That is all I have. Is there anything else?

Dr. Rice: No...this sounds like a fun project.

Morgan: Thank you for your time.