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Title: Junji Sarashina Interview
Narrator: Junji Sarashina
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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<Begin Segment 5>

JS: And then the grade school started, and then I became pretty active in sports. From 5th grade on, I think it was volleyball, and then, on the 6th grade, I think we took the grade school champion. Anyway, continued in . . .

NW: In competition, you mean.

JS: In Hiroshima-ken.

NW: Prefectural, yeah, right.

JS: And it comes to swimming, I think from the first grade on, fourth grade on, I think I was either trying for the champion or what not, because . . .

NW: [laugh].

JS: . . . when you were born in Lahaina, that's all you can do, before you walk you do swimming . . . [laugh].

NW: [laugh] Well, probably not that.

JS: But anyway, I enjoyed swimming, and then became a champion, you know, in Hiroshima-ken. How come you are good swimmer? That's the reason. So, my grade school I enjoyed, you know, later on, second grade I had a hard time, but after that, you know. And the funny thing about it is that, 5th grade, I represent the school, at the send out, *sotsugyō-shiki*, the graduation time, I was the person who gave the speech to the . . .

NW: Valedictorian?

JS: Yeah, to the kids going up, kids graduating. When I was 6th grade, no, no it was the 5th grade sending up,

NW: Oh, yeah, yeah. I got it.

JS: 6th grade, I was saying, again, they elected me to speak to the, say goodbye to the . . .

NW: Quite an honor.

JS: So, my problem is things that I learn, the grammar I learn, really helped me, so. Of course, my, as I said, I think I owe it to my mom and my brothers and sisters, and they helped, they're older than them, whenever question I had, if my sister didn't know, my brother was there, well,

mom, my mom might not be able to help too much on the grade school, but at least I had my brothers around. So they were a help.

NW: Do you think that your mother might have been worried? How well you, or her children, may be able to adjust to a Japanese school? Because you were saying that . . .

JS: No, I don't think that they were worried. They were, they were always concerned about, you know, the kids, but not worried.

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