

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Calvin Davis

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Sports Stories - IHSA Oral History project

Interview # SIH-A-L-2017-034

Calvin Davis, Director of Athletics for the Chicago Public Schools who discusses his relationship with the Illinois High School Association, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Sports Stories – Illinois High School Association Oral History project*.

Interview dates & location:

Date: May 22, 2017 Location: Proviso West High School, Hillside, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:09 + 0.48 / 1.15 + 0.8 = 1.95 hrs.

Session 01: Role as Director of Athletics for Chicago Public Schools

Session 02: Notable accomplishments

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on September 12, 2017.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Calvin Davis, Sports Stories-IHSA, SIH-A-L-2017-034

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Calvin Davis was born in Chicago, Illinois on April 6, 1958. He grew up on the south side of Chicago in the Douglas area where he attended Stephen A. Douglas Elementary School (K-8). He graduated from Dunbar High School in 1976, competing in football, basketball, track, and baseball while there. He then went to William Penn University in Oskaloosa, Iowa, earning a BS degree in Education (with concentration in history and physical education) in 1981, while also competing on the William Penn basketball team. He began his teaching career at Beethoven Elementary School as a social studies and physical education teacher and later as coach. He also coached basketball for four years at DuSable High School. Davis received a Masters of Arts in Educational Administration from Chicago State University in 1997. He moved to the Central Sports Office as an interim in charge of basketball during the 1997-98 season. In his five years at the Sports Office he was responsible for stadium elementary school sports, baseball, and 16 inch softball. After two years at Bogan High School as assistant principal, he returned to the Central Sports office and become its director from 2003 to 2013, as well director for physical education and driver education. At the time of the interview he served as Director of Athletics and Activities at Proviso West High School. He is the author of *Intercity Hoops: A History of Chicago Basketball*.

This interview looks at Chicago Public League sports through the eyes of a former high school athlete, an assistant director of basketball operations, and a Director of Chicago Public School Athletics. Davis shares his favorite memories, challenges Chicago public high schools face, the importance of the Prep Bowl and winning the Shield, the success of Chicago teams in the state tournaments, the organization of the city basketball tournament, and its relation to the Illinois High School Association. Davis also discusses dividing Chicago teams into various divisions due to geography and ability, developing an elementary school sports program, adding new sports, creating cooperative teams and issues of residency/eligibility. The impact of Title IX and civil right compliance was also discussed.

Subject Headings/Key Words: high school athlete in the Chicago Public League; duties of the Central Office Sports Department for Chicago Public League schools; Central Office Basketball Coordinator; history of Chicago Public League Basketball; *Intercity Hoops: A History of Chicago Basketball*

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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