

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Ron McGraw

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

Interview # SIH-A-L-2016-051

Ron McGraw, a high school coach, athletic director, principal, and later the Assistant Executive Director of the Illinois High School Association (IHSA), was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Sports Stories –IHSA* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Oct 24, 2016

Location: Illinois High School Association offices, Bloomington, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 1:38 / 1.63 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on March 14, 2017.

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

Transcript  
being processed

© 2016 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

## Abstract

Ron McGraw, *Sports Stories*– IHSA, SIH-A-L-2016-051

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Ron McGraw was born in March, 1957 in Galesburg, Illinois. He graduated from ROWVA (Rio, Oneida, Wataga, Victoria and Altona) High School in 1975, then attended Morrison Institute of Technology. He worked as a land surveyor for three years, then went to Western Illinois University in Macomb where he earned a degree in industrial education in 1984, followed by a Masters in Industrial Technology in 1985. Ron taught at Sherrard High School from 1984 until 1992, where he also coached. He then returned to Western Illinois, receiving a Masters in Educational Administration in 1992. This led him to Monmouth High School, where he served as Athletic Director/Dean of Students from 1992 to 1994, at which time he became the principal at Knoxville High School, where he served for ten years. In that capacity Ron was on the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Legislative Commission and some IHSA sport advisory committees. In 2004, Ron became an assistant director at IHSA. He retired from that position in 2016. While at the IHSA, McGraw was responsible for association's role in overseeing track and field, cross country, swimming and diving, girls' golf, scholastic bowls, and coaches' education.

This interview covers Ron's involvement with the IHSA through the eyes of a coach, athletic director, and principal as well as an IHSA Assistant Director. He discussed the importance of the Legislative Commission, which recommended by-laws agreed upon by all the member schools. In addition, McGraw talks about the format for making by-law changes. He also discussed the challenges associated with holding state events in track, cross country, swimming, and girls' golf. Scholastic Bowl competition included question development, selection of moderators, defining the season, and equipment needs. Coaches' education included the curriculum to be covered and the requirement of all non-teaching coaches to have this training in order to be employed. Finally, McGraw explains how handicapped students were included in the three day state track meet finals.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Illinois High School Association; IHPA by-law changes; technology in swimming and diving; technology for track and field plus cross-country; Illinois's scholastic bowl; coaches classes/training for non-certified teachers; state multiplier for non-boundary schools; sports cooperatives; process for sporting event site selection

**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.

## COPYRIGHT

**The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955**