

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with William (Bill) Laude

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

Interview # SIH-A-L-2016-066

William Laude, a long-serving high school sports official in Illinois, 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: Dec. 28, 2016 Location: Frankfort, Illinois Public Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:58 / 1.97 hrs. .

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on May 17, 2017.

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

Interview being
processed

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Abstract

Bill Laude, *Sports Stories-IHSA*, SIH-A-L-2016-066

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Bill Laude was born on June 4th, 1947 in Chicago, Illinois, and grew up on the south side of Chicago. He graduated from Quigley South high School (now St. Rita) in 1965. After high school, Bill fulfilled his military obligation and then attended DePaul and later Chicago State University, where he earned a BS degree in Accounting Education in 1970. (In 1982 he earned an MA degree in Business Education from Chicago State.) Laude's first teaching position was at Wauconda High School from 1973-74. He then moved to the south suburbs and District 228 (Bremen, Hillcrest, Oak Forest, and Tinley Park) teaching business education until 2010. Bill also did some coaching-bowling, baseball and basketball.

As a youth Bill was interested in sports starting with forming a baseball team at Quigley South. He also umpired youth baseball at the age of 15. His career in officiating extends beyond Illinois as he did one year of Minor League Baseball for the Appalachian League and one year of Canadian Football (1994-1995). Bill also has worked games for the Olympic baseball teams in 1984, 1988, and 1992. In the summer of 1997, Bill was sent to Germany by Major League Baseball to organize and present baseball umpire clinics. At the time of the interview Laude was a replay official for the MAC and Big 10 conferences since 2005.

Bill's high school officiating career began in 1967 (baseball and basketball). He then added football in 1971. His career in those sports have led to working three state finals in basketball from 1985-1987, five state football championships, and three state baseball championships. Bill has a long affiliation with the IHSA, serving as a football rules interpreter from 1988-present, on the IHSA committees to improve rule knowledge and mechanics and the IHSA Train-the-Trainer program in 1999. He served as head official for the IHSA football finals multiple times, and was also the voice of IHSA for the 1A-2A baseball finals (2010-2012). He is one of five officials who wrote the Part 1 and Part 2 football tests for the IHSA. Bill has received many recognitions for his officiating.

Laude talks at length about the duties of an IHSA sports official in baseball, football, and basketball. He also discusses crew membership, keeping up with evolving coaching strategies, conduct at the games, litigation potential, rule knowledge, playoff selection, the impact of turf versus grass, changing conference membership and crew selection. Some of the challenges in football rule enforcement are covered, including pass interference, rugby style punters, false starts, blocking rules, and rules dealing with player/coaching ejections. Since the interviewee has worked eleven state championships in three sports, he addresses how working a finals compares with working earlier rounds. Finally, Bill also covers his work as a bowling coach.

The role of the IHSA (Illinois High School Association) in his duties as an official was discussed. Laude discussed licensing requirements, clinic requirements, the concussion protocols, the IHSA's emphasis on training, the passage yearly rules tests, uniform requirements and the coaches rating system.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois High School Association; officiating high school football in Illinois; officiating high school basketball in Illinois; officiating high school baseball in Illinois; assignment of officials for high school sports; rules changes in football, basketball and baseball; coaching high school bowling; multiplier for determining conferences for private schools

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