

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Charlotte West

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Women's Basketball in IL* Oral History project

Interview # DGB-V-D-2005-009

Charlotte West, a prominent figure in women's basketball and the coach at Southern Illinois University, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of Ellyn Bartges' Masters Capstone project for Western Illinois University entitled *What about the character of the girls?: Girls and Women's Basketball in Illinois 1968-1977*, and donated to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

Interview dates & location:

Date: March 13, 2005	Location: Estero, Florida
Date: June 11, 2009	Location: Carbondale, Illinois
Date: June 12, 2009	Location: Carbondale, Illinois
Date: August 6, 2011	Location: Carbondale, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Ellyn L. Bartges, 2005 Masters Capstone project at Western Illinois University and 2013 Ph. D dissertation material University of IL Urbana Champaign

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Ellyn Bartges

Transcription by: Nina Weldon, professional transcriber, Boston, Virginia

Edited by: Elizabeth Wells

Total Pages: 200      Total Time: 1:26 + 01:03+2:20 /1.4+1.05+2.33 = 4.4 hrs.

Session 1: Charlotte West's career in women's athletics and coaching at SIU

Session 2: Reflections on the 1972 National Championships and the DGWS-AIAW Championships

Session 3: The writing of Title IX and Charlotte West's efforts to advance girls and women in sports

Session 4: Charlotte West's early life

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 4, 2014.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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# Abstract

Charlotte West, *Women's Basketball in IL*, DGB-V-D-2005-009

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Charlotte West was born on September 19th, 1932 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She graduated from St. Petersburg High School in Florida in 1950. During high school West played with the R.H. Hall Industrial Basketball League in her hometown and she also played volleyball, softball, and was a swimmer for her high school's interscholastic teams. After high school, West earned a bachelor's degree in math and physical education from Florida State University. She went on to earn her master's in dance and physical education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) and her doctorate in measurement and educational psychology from the University of Wisconsin.

Prior to pursuing her graduate education, West taught for two years at Boca Ciega High School in St. Petersburg, Florida, and coached girl's swimming and volleyball. Upon completing her master's degree at UNCG, she began teaching physical education at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIU) in 1957. Along with teaching, West was the women's basketball, swimming and golf coach (winning a national championship in 1969). West participated in the National Sports Institute in Bloomington, Indiana during the 1960s, was a nationally rated official, an active member of the Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance, and also became the director of women's athletics at SIU. Her interests and passion for athletic opportunity propelled her into leadership positions as President of the AIAW in 1978 and eventually as a leader in the NCAA where a room was named in honor in 2012 for her work and lasting impact she has had on the organization. She has a true love for the game and identifies herself as a feminist, advocate for women's equality and a lifelong fighter for justice. This series of three interviews over a six year period were the foundation for the dissertation, *Circle More Before You Land* by Ellyn L. Bartges, under the supervision of Dr. Synthia Sydnor of the Kinesiology & Community Health Department at The University of Illinois.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Amateur Athletic Union (AAU); Industrial basketball League; The Division of Girl's and Women's Sports (DGWS); Christine H.B. Grant; Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW); Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (IAHPERD); National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA); Title IX; NACWAA; St. Petersburg High School; Florida State University; University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG); University of Wisconsin; Boca Ciega High School; Southern Illinois University.

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