

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Rich Piatchek

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

Interview # SIH-A-L-2016-056

Rich Piatchek, long-time high school athletic director and coach at Andrew High School, 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: Nov. 21, 2016 Location: Tinley Park, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:46 / 1.77 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.

Transcript
being processed

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Abstract

Rich Piatchek, *Sports Stories* – IHSA, SIH-A-L-2016-056

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Rich Piatchek was born in August, 1953 in St. Louis, Missouri. After the family moved to Springfield, Illinois, Rich attended parochial grade and high school, graduating from the all-boys Griffin High School in 1971. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Illinois in 1975, majoring in physics education. He later earned Master's Degrees in computer education and educational administration, both from Governors State. Rich worked for thirty-nine years in education, beginning at Fairbury-Cropsey High School from 1975 to 1978, then at Griffin High School from 1978 to 1985. He then moved to the south suburbs of Chicago, working at Hillcrest High School from 1985-1997 and then Andrew High School from 1997-2014, serving first as an assistant athletic director and then athletic director. His teaching responsibilities included physics, computers, and math. In addition, Rich served as president of the state's Athletic Directors Association (ADA).

This interview covers the duties of a school athletic director running thirty-one sports with over 120 coaches. As an athletic director, Rich worked under Illinois High School Association (IHSA) by-laws, and discusses several issues: cooperative teams (swimming/gymnastics), sports medicine/concussion protocols, class championship site changes, additional class championships in most sports, football playoffs and seeding tournaments, changes in sport seasons/practice requirements, safety matters on heat/weather and game security, and transfer/eligibility requirements. As president of the ADA, he provided feedback to the IHSA on new laws and rule changes. Rich has worked at state championships in baseball, football and basketball, and also worked with the baseball and competitive cheer/dance advisory committees, helping to establish by-laws for those sports.

Other topics discussed included facility upgrades, gym sharing, sport offerings, eligibility/residency requirements, employment of trainers/doctors at games, conference affiliation, issues in providing both male/female sports, school funding, security at games, scheduling/rescheduling issues, coach hiring and training, and referendum support. Rich also discussed the impact of technology and the student survey taken every five years that led to the addition of bass fishing, competitive cheer/dance, and lacrosse.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois High School Association; responsibilities of a high school athletic director; impact of technology on high school sports; conference realignment for football; IHSA by-laws and their impact on local schools; Griffin High School; Andrew, IL High School

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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