

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Bradley (Brad) Stearns

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

Interview #SIH-A-L-2017-076

Bradley Stearns, IHSA official for high school football and baseball, 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*.

Date: Aug 11, 2017 Location: ALPL, Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:36 / 1.6 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on September 28, 2017.

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

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Interview being
processed

Abstract

Brad Stearns, *Sports Stories-IHSA*, SIH-A-L-2017-076

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Bradley Stearns was born in April, 1940 in Los Angeles, California. Growing up and living in several California communities, Brad attended two high schools (Taft and Hanford). At Taft, Brad competed in football, basketball, and baseball. While at Hanford High School he competed in football and baseball. Brad enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in his junior year. After graduating from Hanford in 1958, Brad attended college for one year and then served two years on active duty with the Marines. He then moved to Wyoming (Shirley Basin and Laramie) to finish his education. Brad attended the University of Wyoming in Laramie, while also working as a pharmacy intern while attending the College of Pharmacy, graduating in 1966.

Leaving Wyoming with a Pharmacy License, Stearns moved to Galesburg, Illinois, then to Springfield, Illinois where he worked as a pharmacist at St. John's Hospital until his retirement in 2006. Stearns' officiating career started at age thirteen when he did Little League Baseball. In the early 1970's, Brad started working kid baseball and then high school and college-age summer leagues. In the early 1980's, he was invited to umpire in San Jose, California with the Pony League Palomino Division (ages 17-18). In 1978 while working a Khoury League baseball game, he became a high school football official and began his association with the Illinois High School Association. At the time of this interview, Brad has worked as an IHSA certified football official for forty years and a certified baseball official for thirty-eight, working multiple state championships in both sports. He also is the umpire-in-chief for the IHSA State Baseball Tournament (since 2003), an IHSA baseball and football clinician (since 2000), and the football assignor for the Central State 8.

Stearns discusses his experiences as a successful IHSA baseball and football official and explores his duties as an umpire-in-chief at the IHSA state baseball tournament and the IHSA state clinician in the two sports. He shared his favorite memories as a high school athlete in California and as a sports official in Illinois. He talked about how he became interested in officiating, the importance of mentoring, and Illinois's playoff system.

Subject Headings/Key Words: officiating baseball for the Illinois High School Association; officiating football for the IHSA; playing high school football, baseball and basketball; duties of the baseball Umpire in Chief; IHSA clinician for baseball; IHSA clinician for football; safety rules for Illinois high school baseball;

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