

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Kevin Corbin

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

Interview # SSB-V-L-2016-040

Kevin Corbin, who worked as a batboy for the St. Louis Cardinals in the late 1990s, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Sports Stories* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Sep 12 & Sep 30, 2016 Location: IIS Studio, CMS Bldg. in Springfield,
IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History

Technical Support: Mark Suszko, Anthony Bateman, Tom Craven and Bobby Troesch,
Illinois Information Service videographers, IL CMS

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:11 + 1:25 / 1.18 + 1.42 = 2.6 hrs.

Session 1: Youth and years as a St. Louis Cardinals bat boy from 1995-1996

Session 2: Experiences as a St. Louis Cardinals bat boy from 1995 to 2000

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

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

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Abstract

Kevin Corbin, *Sports Stories*, SSB-V-L-2016-040

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Kevin Corbin was born in August, 1978 in St. Louis, Missouri, and grew up in the St. Ann neighborhood of St. Louis, near the international airport. He attended Ritenour High School, a racially diverse school, and participated in sports and other extra-curricular activities. One of his teachers, Don Thompson, encouraged Kevin to try out to be a batboy for the St. Louis Cardinals, and in the spring of 1995 he began working for the Cardinals. This was Joe Torre's last year as manager for the Cardinals, and it was a difficult year for baseball, as the 1994 season ended early when the players went out on strike, having failed to reach an agreement with the owners. Kevin discussed the many responsibilities of a bat boy in detail, providing several interesting vignettes in the process.

In the interview's second session, Kevin discussed the 1996 through 2000 seasons for the Cardinals, a period when the team experienced several good years, and some off years under their new manager, Tony LaRussa. In the fall of 1996 Corbin enrolled in St. Louis University, majoring in business. That decision allowed him to continue as a bat boy. Two years stood out for him, the first being 1998, when Cardinals Mark McGwire and Chicago Cubs Sammy Sosa finished the year with a very memorable home run race. The other year was his last with the team, in 2000, when the Cardinals made the playoffs and beat the Atlanta Braves in the National League Division playoffs before being beaten by the Mets in the National League championship series. Corbin shared many colorful stories about the players, managers and sportscasters he encountered during his years as a bat boy, including Ozzie Smith, Willie McGhee, McGwire, Cal Ripken, Jack Buck and several others. When he graduated in 2000, Kevin found work in Springfield, Illinois with the investment firm, Edward Jones.

Subject Headings/Key Words: St. Louis Cardinals; duties of a major league bat boy; Tony LaRussa; 1998 home run race; Mark McGwire; Sammy Sosa; Ozzie Smith; Willie McGhee; Jack Buck; St. Louis Cardinals' 2000 season; 1994 baseball strike; Cal Ripken, Jr.; Jack Buck; Urkel on *Family Matters*

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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