

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Tim Schweizer

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

Interview # SIH-A-L-2017-087

Tim Schweizer, a sportscaster, broadcaster and radio personality in Central Illinois, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois High School Association* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: 2 May 2017 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Tom Murgatroyd, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 2:01 / 2.02 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on November 8, 2017.

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

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Abstract

Tim Schweizer, *Sports Stories - IHSA*, SIH-A-L-2017-087

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Tim Schweizer was born in March, 1958 in Joliet, Illinois. He is a graduate of Springfield, Illinois High School, then attended Illinois State University in Normal, and Sangamon State University in Springfield. He is a long-time radio personality and sports broadcaster in Springfield Illinois and in central Illinois. His day-to-day occupation is as a public service administrator for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, but he covers and broadcasts numerous high school and college ball games throughout the year on nights and weekends.

In 2015, Tim was honored by the Illinois High School Association with their *Distinguished Media Service Award*. His distinctive voice is enjoyed throughout central Illinois by thousands of listeners, and his background, historical knowledge of many school athletic programs, and lively, factual accounts of the action on the field and court place him in the top of his field in sports reporting in the state. He eagerly agreed to be interviewed for the *Illinois High School Association* Oral History Project. This interview covered not only Tim's personal history and his road to the radio booth, but also his perspectives on high school teams, programs, coaches, athletes, official, and other broadcasters with whom he has worked and covered during over thirty-five years in broadcasting. He touched not only on dynasties in the local area, state championship teams and athletes, but on the evolution of rules, tactics and rivalries within the central Illinois sports world. He offered his perspectives on the class system, school consolidation and its effect on sports, notable rivalries (e.g. the *Leonard Bowl* between father and son coaches), and anecdotes about some challenging broadcasting, team venue, and crowd situations. Finally, Tim offered his thoughts and perspective on the absolute need for interscholastic sports and their worth in growing the whole person through teamwork.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois High School Association (IHSA); Springfield Senators; Sacred Heart Griffin (SH-G) Cyclones; Lanphier High School (Springfield) Lions; Southeast High School (Springfield) Spartans; WTAX radio; WFMB radio; Ken Leonard; Derek Leonard; Rivalry between Rochester High School and SH-G; Ed Horton; Andre Iguodala.

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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