

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Joan Streit

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

Interview # DGB-V-D-2005-007

Joan Streit, the former girls' basketball coach for Joliet West High School in Joliet, Illinois, 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: Feb 6, 2005

Location: Homer Glen, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Ellyn Bartges, 2005 Masters Capstone project at Western Illinois University

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Ellyn L. Bartges

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

Edited by: Elizabeth Wells

Total Pages: 59

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

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# Abstract

Joan Streit, *Women's Basketball in IL*, DGB-V-D-2005-007

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Joan Streit was born on September 9, 1948 in Spring Valley, Illinois. She graduated from Amboy High School in Amboy, Illinois in 1966. During high school, Streit took part in Play Days and also in the Girls' Athletic Association (G.A.A.). Her sports included volleyball, basketball, track, Bombardment, Speed-a-Way and fast-pitch softball during the summer. Streit earned her bachelor's degree in physical education from Illinois State University (ISU) and her master's from Governor's State University in health science. During her undergrad years, Streit played basketball and softball at ISU.

Following college, Streit began her teaching career at Bradley Bourbonnais High School where she worked from 1970-1975. While there, she started their first girls' basketball team. Through officiating girls' basketball games, Streit was offered a job at Joliet West High School as the girls' athletic director, girls' basketball coach, and physical education teacher. She felt marginalized while growing up because she was not allowed to participate in sports the way boys did. Therefore, Streit took it upon herself to learn everything she could about the game. She ran basketball clinics, attended coaching clinics, and spent her free time trying to perfect all aspects of her physical and strategic game. Streit was ambitious, focused, and driven. Coaching was her entire life and it paid off. Her 1977 girls' basketball team made it to the first Illinois High School Association (IHSA) girls' state basketball tournament. While the team was upset in the first round by Centralia, Coach Streit's 1978 Joliet West team captured the State Championship. Future basketball Olympian Cathy Boswell played on both of these teams coached by Streit.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Girls' Athletic Association (GAA); Amateur Athletic Union (AAU); Title IX; Amateur Softball Association (ASA); Illinois High School Association (IHSA); girls' basketball; coaching; Amboy High School; Illinois State University; Governor's State University; Bradley Bourbonnais High School; Joliet West High School; US Women's Basketball Olympic Team.

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