

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Bob Sakamoto

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

Interview # SIH-A-L-2017-043

Bob Sakamoto, long-time Chicago Tribune sports writer and personality covering the high school scene, 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: May 26, 2017    Location: DePaul University, Chicago, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 1:41 / 1.68 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on July 12, 2017.

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

Transcript  
being processed

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# Abstract

## Bob Sakamoto, Sports Stories-IHSA, SIH-A-L-2017-043

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Bob Sakamoto was born in Chicago, Illinois on December 5, 1953. He grew up in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood, and graduated from the all-boys school, Lane Tech in 1971. Bob competed in high school wrestling and basketball while there. He also was active in the school's newspaper and served as a bat boy for the Chicago White Sox. He attended MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Illinois, graduating with an English major in 1975. While at MacMurray, Bob also did an internship with the Chicago *Daily News*. Bob then earned a Masters Degree in journalism from Northwestern University in 1976. While at Northwestern, he joined the Chicago *Daily News* on a part time basis. Once he earned his degree, Bob continued on with the *Daily News*. In 1977 he joined the Chicago *Tribune*, where he continued on for a thirty-two year career. While at the *Tribune*, Bob was assigned to cover the Chicago Bears for four seasons and the Chicago Bulls for four seasons. Eventually, he moved to the high school sports section. This included the unique 'Preps Plus' section of the paper. Later, he had his own TV show on CLTV called 'Preps Plus Extra.' This show ran for a decade and included coaches, players, and special guests along with prep game highlights. Bob's predictions on the 'Top Games of the Week' drew major public interest. In 2009, he joined the DePaul University sports department. Bob is a member of both the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association and the Chicago Public School Coaches Association Hall of Fames. In 2015, he received the IHSA Distinguished Service Award. Best known as "Sako," Bob has played a major role in telling the story of high school sports to the Chicagoland population.

Sakamoto discusses his life as an Illinois high school sports broadcaster over a thirty year period. He talks about the creation of the Tribune's 'Preps Plus' and the CLTV weekly 'Preps Plus Extra,' both of which helped promote high school sports in the Chicagoland area. In addition, Bob shares his insights on eligibility, football playoff games and personal stories describing the influences for young athletes. He also talks about the challenges sports writers face, including meeting deadlines, printing procedures, the impact of revenue decisions, and competition with professional and college sports.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** sports journalism at the high school level; Prep Plus (newspaper section) in Chicago *Tribune*; Prep Plus Extra on CLTV; Chicago *Daily News*; challenges of newspaper sports writers; Chicago Bears; Chicago Bulls; IL High School Assn

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