

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Lindsey Willhite

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Tumultuous 2020 Oral History project

Interview # T20-A-L-2021-034

Lindsey Willhite, public relations director for the Chicago Wolves American Hockey League Club, discusses the impact of the COVID 19-Pandemic upon the AHL and the Chicago Wolves from March 2020 to August 2021.

Interview dates & location:

Date: August 20, 2021 Location: Santori Public Library, Aurora, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

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

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Abstract

Lindsey Willhite, *Tumultuous 2020*, T20-A-L-2021-034

Lindsey Willhite was born in 1967 in Murphysboro, Illinois. He grew up in Champaign, Illinois, and graduated from Champaign Central High School in 1984. At Central, Lindsey participated in baseball, track, and cross country. He attended Illinois State University where he earned a B.S. in finance in 1988. His first jobs were in finance before he shifted to the field of journalism. As a journalist, he worked for 22 years with the Daily Herald, covering Chicago area sports. He has been the director of public relations for the Chicago Wolves, an American Hockey League Club affiliated with the Carolina Hurricanes, for the past 10 years.

Willhite discusses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Chicago Wolves, which included the termination of the season in March 2020, right before the Calder Cup playoffs began. Unlike the National Hockey League season, the rest of the Chicago Wolves' season was then cancelled. Willhite also discusses the impact of COVID-19 and the adopted protocols, including a limited season beginning in February, elimination of the Calder Cup playoffs, as well as the inclusion of Milwaukee Admirals players. Willhite also details the history of the Wolves, starting in 1994, as well as their affiliation with NHL franchises and team ownership. Willhite addresses the impact of the pandemic on revenue, the Wolves' support of charities, and the cost to the local economy. He also described plans for the 2021-22 AHL season.

Subject Headings/Key Words: History of the Chicago Wolves (AHL); local owners; NHL affiliate; impact of pandemic; pandemic protocols; corporate sponsors

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