

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Steven (Steve) Tucker

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

Interview # SIH-A-L-2017-018

Steven (Steve) Tucker, a high school sports reporter with the Chicago *Sun-Times* from 1984 to 2011, 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: Apr 3, 2017 Location: Arlington Heights, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:23 / 1.38 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on July 24, 2017.

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

Transcript
being processed

© 2017 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

Steven (Steve) Tucker, Sports Stories-IHSA, SIH-A-L-2017-018

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Steven Tucker was born on December 5, 1949 in Chicago, Illinois. As a boy, he went to many White Sox games, including the 1959 World Series. Steve graduated from New Trier High School in 1967, the last graduating class from New Trier prior to the creation of a second high school. Steve earned a BA from the University of Iowa in 1972, where he developed an interest in writing through the Iowa Writers Program. Returning to Chicago, Steve worked for the Mercantile Exchange. In 1984, he became a stringer for the Chicago *Sun-Times*, often covering area sporting events. Eventually, Steve became a supervising editor for the *Sun-Times*' high school sports section. He also was assigned to cover many state tournament events. In addition, Steve was involved with an AAU (Amateur Athletics Union) high school girls' basketball team, which competed from April to July. Steve became well known in the sports world for his knowledge of Illinois girls' basketball.

This interview covers Tucker's life as a high school sports journalist and editor over a twenty-seven year period. His work included features on coaches, players and schools, and managing reporters for area high school games. His material was often in competition with the *Sun-Times*' college and professional sports sections. In addition, the interview discussed Illinois High School Association (IHSA) matters such as the non-boundary school multiplier, football playoffs, Chicago Public School participation, the expansion of girls' sports, the increasing number of championship classes, and the selection of the *Sun-Times* All Star teams. He also discussed the paper's weekly school ranking for football, basketball, baseball, and softball, and several other topics.

Subject Headings/Key Words: sports reporting for Illinois high schools; Illinois High School Association (IHSA); Amateur Athletics Union (AAU); impact of Title IX on girls' sports; notable Illinois high school football players; notable Illinois high school basketball players; expanding the number of classes for competition in basketball; locating state championship games

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.

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955