

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with James (Jim) Woodward

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

Interview # SIH-A-L-2017-023

James Woodward, former board president for the Illinois High School Association, 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: Mar 24, 2017    Location: Mt. Vernon High School, Mount Vernon, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

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

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

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 1:51 / 1.85 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 23, 2017.

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

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Transcript  
being processed

## Abstract

### James Woodward, Sports Stories – IHSA, SIH-A-L-2017-023

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** James (Jim) Woodward was born in East St. Louis, Illinois on June 30, 1958. He grew up in the Metro East St. Louis area attending Granite City High School, and then moving to Collinsville for his senior year, graduating in 1976. At Granite City and Collinsville, Jim participated in football, basketball, and track. While at Granite City, Jim played in the first Illinois football playoff when there were only sixteen teams in five classes. Woodward attend Southern Illinois University (Carbondale), where he played football, both as a linebacker and tight end, as well as back-up punter. He graduated from SIU in 1981 with a physical education major. Later, he earned an administrators endorsement through SIU, which allowed him to serve as a principal and later as a superintendent. Jim began his teaching career at Mt. Vernon High School, where he also coached football, track, and girls' basketball. He then moved to Eldorado High School where he taught and coached football and track. Leaving for Anna-Jonesboro, Jim taught and coached football and track. Jim then became athletic director and coach for football and track at Murphysboro High School. Returning to the Jonesboro area, Jim served as the Jonesboro Elementary Principal and later become principal and superintendent of the Anna-Jonesboro High School. Woodward's first experience with the IHSA was in an advisory role. In 2004, he was elected to the IHSA Board and became its president from 2005-2012. Jim also was President of the Illinois Football Coaches Association.

This interview covers the life of a high school and collegiate athlete, high school coach, and high school principal/superintendent. Woodward discusses his experiences on the IHSA Board, serving as its president for seven years. He discusses several issues facing the IHSA, including summer practices, the non-boundary multiplier, expansion of sport classes, safety protocols, drug testing expansion, adding handicapped sports, adding additional boys/girls sports, adding bass fishing, and challenges of cooperative teams. He also explored some laws/rules knowledge, and turnover of principals, athletic directors and coaching staffs. Finally, Woodward discusses future challenges facing organizations like the IHSA and high school activities/sports in general.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Illinois High School Association from 2005-2012; extra-curricular activities for high school students; non-boundary multiplier in Illinois; residency requirements for participating in sports; IHSA Advisory Committee; handicapped track, swimming and bowling in Illinois high schools; bass fishing as a competitive sport; dance and cheer as a competitive sport; Illinois state drug testing policy for high student athletes

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