

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Jim Taylor

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

Interview # SIH-A-L-2016-058

Jim Taylor, a sports announcer for WRMJ Radio in Aledo, Illinois, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Sports Stories-IHSA* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Nov. 28, 2016 Location: At WRMJ studios, Aledo, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:45 / 1.75 hrs.

**Transcript
being processed**

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on April 25, 2017.

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

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Abstract

Jim Taylor, Sports Stories– IHSA, SIH-A-L-2016-058

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Jim Taylor was born in 1967 in Silvis, Illinois. He grew up in Hampton, Illinois and attended parochial grades schools, then graduated from Rock Island Alleman High School in 1985. He earned his Associates Degree from Blackhawk College and a BS in Mass Communications from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville in 1990.

Upon graduating, Jim joined WRMJ radio in Aledo, Illinois as a news and sports broadcaster. In this capacity he has broadcast local high school sports in football, baseball, softball, basketball, wrestling, and volleyball. Jim also has a Saturday sports talk show that runs for one hour during the school year. In addition, Taylor is a news reporter for the Quad City *Times*, a market/business reporter for the Illinois Farm Bureau Radio Network, and an Illinois Radio Preps Reporter. Jim has received numerous awards in broadcasting including the IHSA Media Service Award (2015), Illinois Basketball Coaches Medal (2007), Friends of Athletics (Athletic Directors in 2008), the Illinois Broadcasters Silver Dome Award (nine years) and the Illinois Broadcaster Award (nine years).

This interview covers the role local radio stations play in covering athletic and school activities. Taylor discussed challenges in covering live sports, memorable tournament and state championship games, radio/broadcasting equipment upgrades over twenty-six years, the role of the internet platform and its impact on radio, and revenue sources for the radio station. He also discussed how Illinois high School Association decisions have impacted local teams, for example, siting of state championships, the number of state class champions, the seeding of teams, rule changes, conference affiliation, the role of sports cooperatives, parochial/public school debate, team offerings in girls/boys sports, practice restrictions and sports seasons, sports safety/medicine upgrades, and the status and shortage of sports officials.

Subject Headings/Key Words: radio sports reporting; WRMJ radio (Aledo, IL); equipment challenges for broadcasting sports events; Saturday Sports Talk shows; Sportsline with Jim Taylor; Illinois High School Association (IHSA) and National Federation of High School Associations (NFHS) rules; rules changes in softball pitching distance; concussion protocols/sports safety; new pitch count in baseball,

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.

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