

Interview with Joan Streit

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Interviewer: Ellyn Bartges

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Bartges: It's February sixth. I'm in Homer Glen, Illinois, and I'm interviewing Jo Streit, who was the coach at Joliet West High School during the timeframe that we're studying. Good morning and thank you for agreeing to be interviewed. Where did you go to high school?

Streit: I went to high school at Amboy High School in Amboy, Dixon [Illinois] area.

Bartges: Dixon area? Was that a four year school?

Streit: Yes.

Bartges: How big was your school?

Streit: We had slightly over five hundred total in the high school, and I think our class—our graduating class of 1966 was the largest graduating class ever at one hundred and five. (laughs)

Bartges: Did you play sports in high school?

Streit: Well, we didn't have much offered. We had GAA after school, the Girls' Athletic Association. We had a few play days during the time I was in high school.

Bartges: How were those two things different for you play days versus GAA days?

Streit: A play day was where you invited other schools and them—you didn't compete against the other team or school per se. They would take kids from both schools and they'd put you together with them, and then you would make up a group or a team or what have you, but you were never, ever—it wasn't like it was Amboy girls against or versus other schools. It was everybody kind of got together, formed a team. And it wasn't very organized, to be honest with you. It was on a Saturday.

Bartges: Who was in charge of that?

Streit: The physical education teachers from, like, our school and maybe a surrounding school. I can remember two, I think, in the four years I was in high school.

Bartges: What sports did you do on the play days?

Streit: Archery. They were all outdoor sports as a matter of fact. I think speed-a-way¹, and those are the only two I can remember at the moment—oh, some track—we had some track and field events (unintelligible).

Bartges: I haven't heard speed-a-way in a long time.

Streit: Speed-a-way.

Bartges: How many girls participated in the play days?

Streit: There might have been fifty, seventy-five.

Bartges: But it wasn't required, though, for your physical education class, it was voluntary?

Streit: No, voluntary.

Bartges: For the GAA days, those would have been contests that you played against your peers from your own school?

¹ Speed-a-way is a team activity that combines elements of football, soccer, and basketball. teacherweb.com/IL/SpringWood/.../03-04-7th-Speedaway-S.-G.docm

Streit: Correct, right after school.

Bartges: Did you practice for either the play days or for the GAA days?

Streit: No, not at all.

Bartges: I'm going to go to GAA days. When you had a GAA day, what types of things would you play?

Streit: Basketball. Sometimes it was Bombardment, (laughs) volleyball.

Bartges: A physical educator's nightmare.

Streit: Exactly. Just the kind of things that were offered in the physical education classes. And you would get together enough kids for a team, or you could form your own teams from a list of kids that were posted.

Bartges: Signed up?

Streit: Yeah, signed up, there you go. Good job.

Bartges: Did you have uniforms?

Streit: We all wore our PE [physical education] uniform.

Bartges: And how many GAA days a year might you have?

Streit: Maybe a couple of times a week.

Bartges: That frequently?

Streit: Um-hmm. Yeah, correct. And, of course, then we all had to catch the bus, catch our rides home. Whatever we were doing in physical education classes tended to coincide with what we would do in GAA.

Bartges: How many PE teachers did you have?

Streit: One (unintelligible).

Bartges: A man or a woman?

Streit: Woman.

Bartges: So she would be in charge of this?

Streit: Right.

Bartges: When you played basketball, was it five-player or six?

Streit: At the high school level?

Bartges: Yes. For your GAA days, for your—

Streit: We played six-player. But then there were days she would let us play five, which was interesting. We would talk her into it. We could only play boys basketball, we would call it, and she'd let us.

Bartges: When you played six-player, was it with a rover²?

Streit: Yes.

Bartges: What position did you play?

Streit: Rover.

Bartges: What was the teacher's name?

Streit: Cathy Chaney.

Bartges: Do you know where she went to school?

Streit: Yeah, in college in Pella, Iowa.

Bartges: Oh, okay. Central College?

Streit: Yes. And she would take anybody that was interested—and I always was, of course—out to the Iowa Girls' State Championship in Des Moines. What a neat experience. And I would have to say that was probably the one influencing factor. We used to watch it at home on TV. We always got the Iowa channels where I lived.

Bartges: Right, because Amboy is pretty far west in Illinois.

² In the 1950s and 1960s women's basketball was often played with two stationary guards, two stationary forwards, and two "rovers" who were allowed to run the entire court.
<http://www.ncweb.com/biz/sherock/history.html>

Streit: Exactly. Exactly. So we would always get that, and I would watch it, our whole family would. And then Miss Chaney took a group of us one time out to the state tournament. Wow, was that neat. And I just remember sitting in the stand saying, "I'm going to—I am going to have a state championship sometime." I said that to myself. (unintelligible).

Bartges: History works in strange ways, doesn't it?

Streit: (unintelligible)

Bartges: And so you never had any extramural or interscholastic competitions when you were in high school?

Streit: No.

Bartges: Other than the play days?

Streit: Correct. But I played summer softball, fast pitch.

Bartges: Okay. I've got some questions about other types of leagues. What is the highest level of education you have?

Streit: I have a master's degree.

Bartges: Where did you get your bachelor's?

Streit: At Illinois State University.

Bartges: In?

Streit: It was in childhood physical education.

Bartges: And where did you do your master's?

Streit: Well, I started at the University of Arizona in Tucson, ended up in a variety of other places accumulating hours, and then finished—then finally got my degree at Governors State University, and that was in health education, actually health science.

Bartges: So that would have been Master of Science?

Streit: Correct.

Bartges: And a Bachelor of Science?

Streit: Yes.

Bartges: In your undergraduate experience, did you play any kind of ball?

Streit: Right. At Illinois State I played basketball and softball.

Bartges: And I'm going to sort of stick with basketball. You said you graduated in 1966, so you started college in the fall of 1966?

Streit: Correct.

Bartges: When you played basketball at Illinois State, how did you find out about basketball at Illinois State—since you really didn't play organized sports in high school?

Streit: Right. Well, we were all active and expected to be active in PEM Club, the physical education majors and minors' club. And there were all these things, hootenannies and gatherings, over at McCormick Hall.

Bartges: Is that a gym or—

Streit: Yes.

Bartges: Okay.

Streit: And what they did was all the new incoming physical education majors, everyone was assigned a big sister. And that big sister was responsible for not only contacting you prior to your arrival at Illinois State, but meeting you and showing up at the PEM Club gathering, first month, first thing at Illinois State. And so they showed you where everything was located, all the tryouts and (unintelligible) learn about tryouts. Plus, when we had some of our majors classes, they'd always announce when this try out was.

Bartges: Was this just for the women's PE side?

Streit: Yes.

Bartges: Did the men's side do anything similar to that?

Streit: I don't know because we were not—everything was separate, I mean, women's department from the men's. I think it's all combined now.

Bartges: Yeah, but I'm not sure. I don't know about how it is these days. So when a tryout was posted for basketball, you obviously went to tryouts. How many people participated in the tryouts that you went to?

Streit: Wow. (laughs) I have no idea. I would say maybe fifty trying out for—now they would choose—they had at least two teams, two levels. And I'm trying to think if they had a third team. I think in volleyball there were four teams. But the first team was considered like the varsity or the best. We didn't call it varsity, junior varsity. It was you were on first team, second team, third team, yeah.

Bartges: So if approximately, in your estimate, fifty people tried out and there were only two teams, even three teams, there were cuts?

Streit: Yes.

Bartges: And were most of the people that tried out physical education majors?

Streit: Yes.

Bartges: Did you have to try out every year if you were—

Streit: Yes.

Bartges: If you had made the team the previous year, you still had to try out?

Streit: Still had to try out.

Bartges: What team were you on?

Streit: I was on second team basketball and then—a couple of times they pulled me up for the first team, but basically I was on the second team.

Bartges: Who coached you guys?

Streit: Oh, boy. We had in basketball—I had—(unintelligible) for a while, coached us. And then Laurie Mabry coached us for a while. Sometimes Laurie Mabry coached the first and the second team.

Bartges: I wondered if there was an assistant coach or—

Streit: No, we only—we never called them an assistant coach. There was just one coach. Sometimes the graduate assistant would kind of get involved.

Bartges: Was—

Streit: But usually it was a staff member. And they weren't necessarily—I mean, it could have been one of the dance instructors, it could have been—

Bartges: Right. It wasn't necessarily a basketball coach?

Streit: Exactly. Exactly.

Bartges: Did you travel?

Streit: Yes.

Bartges: What kind of places would you travel to?

Streit: We went to Southern Illinois, University of Illinois. Did we go to Eastern? We didn't have many road trips. We didn't play many games the first few times.

Bartges: That was my next question. I wondered how many games you played.

Streit: They were state schools, other state schools.

Bartges: Was it always one-on-one, or did you have games where maybe two or three or four teams came in and you played round robins?

Streit: Right. We would do that. Illinois State would host, and then three to four different universities would come and we would have a sports day, they would call it. But you would play as a team against other state universities.

Bartges: And a sports day is different than a play day for exactly that reason—because you got to play with your teammates as opposed to getting together and mixing them up and then having a game?

Streit: Right. But we wore pinnies. (laughs) We did not have—

Bartges: Were they red?

Streit: Yes, they were.

Bartges: Okay, so were there any fans?

Streit: A few, mostly parents and boyfriends or girlfriends and dorm mates and things like that.

Bartges: Did they charge to get in?

Streit: No.

Bartges: And you played all four years?

Streit: Um-hmm.

Bartges: Was this five-player or six-player?

Streit: My freshman year we played six-player with the rovers, then my sophomore year it went to five-player. So three years we played full court.

Bartges: Full court. Was that a difficult transition for some of the people?

Streit: It didn't seem to be. Our conditioning changed a little bit. We got a little more serious about training, and I did notice on our circuit training that we did practice a little tougher conditioning.

Bartges: When you traveled, how did you travel?

Streit: Chartered bus.

Bartges: And at the university, did you ever stay overnight?

Streit: You know, in just basketball? I think we did once or twice during the whole four years I played, but I remember we did in softball.

Bartges: Was it more common in softball to stay overnight?

Streit: Not necessarily so.

Bartges: Okay.

Streit: It's just that when you play that many games and so—where the heck were we? I want—we were way down south. So if it were a particularly long

drive, I remember us staying over. In softball I remember staying when we went out to Omaha to the World Series.

Bartges: World Series?

Streit: Correct. We stayed, of course, but I don't recall maybe once in each sport ever staying overnight. We just—for the most part we came home. We endured the long drive.

Bartges: Did the university buy you meals or anything? And that's a long time ago, you may not remember.

Streit: I believe some expenses were taken care of, but I honestly don't remember.

Bartges: When you practiced, how many days a week did you practice with your basketball team?

Streit: Wow. Are you talking about Illinois State?

Bartges: Yes.

Streit: Okay.

Bartges: As a player.

Streit: As a player.

Bartges: (laughs) But you might gear it up because I can ask you that about coaching too.

Streit: Once or twice a week.

Bartges: For how long?

Streit: Two hours.

Bartges: And where did you practice?

Streit: We would practice usually in McCormick Hall, which is the gym where we played.

Bartges: Did—

Streit: Now we never played in the big Field House³, you know. We always played in McCormick, which was the women's building. It was old. And then there was a large gym and a small gym.

Bartges: In McCormick?

Streit: Yes, in McCormick.

Bartges: Is that building still there? I'm not familiar with that building.

Streit: That's a good question. It's been renovated. I don't know if the gym—if they still use the gym (unintelligible).

Bartges: I'm familiar with Horton, but I've never been in McCormick. And Horton is kind of a catchall anymore.

Streit: Yeah.

Bartges: It doesn't seem like they use it for—

Streit: Well, and McCormick Hall was old brick building (unintelligible). (laughs)

Bartges: Pretty much your old state school.

Streit: Walk through and you see the pipes (unintelligible). Couple times a week at the most.

Bartges: Are you familiar with the Postal Tournament?

Streit: Not at all.

Bartges: Do you have any experience in industrial leagues or outside of school organized ball?

Streit: Are you talking just basketball?

Bartges: You in general, you in general.

Streit: AAU [Amateur Athletic Union]. AAU basketball. And some of us played AAU basketball who played on the teams at ISU [Illinois State University].

³ Horton Field House is the large athletics facility on the Illinois State University campus.

Bartges: And were they pretty much you went from your college team, and you say, Oh we're going to play AAU this summer, or when did you do that?

Streit: I want to say it was actually at the same time. Some of the kids were playing AAU basketball at the same time they were playing at ISU.

Bartges: Did you play in tournaments at AAU?

Streit: Yes, there were some—there were tournaments and there were individual games. And it seemed like just about anybody could go play for anybody at that time.

Bartges: Where was your team out of? Was it out of Bloomington-Normal [Illinois]?

Streit: It wasn't even—no. I played a little bit down in Champaign [Illinois] for a team in Champaign. It was like Hey, you want to play? You'd show up if you wanted to, if you didn't want to show up—it was one of those deals.

Bartges: Just on game days.

Streit: Right.

Bartges: It's not like you practiced?

Streit: Right. Once in a while we would practice, but everybody was out teaching then or employed, and so we'd get together on weekends and play AAU ball. Now at ISU some of the ISU players, I would say some of that first player kids particularly, were playing AAU basketball in Peoria-Pekin [Illinois] area. Because it was something else, more basketball other than what ISU offered.

Bartges: Was that five-player or six-player?

Streit: Five-player.

Bartges: And did you have a coach or did you coach yourselves?

Streit: They had a coach. I didn't play for the Pekin-Peoria group. I often would go and watch though because a lot of my classmates and friends in other majors were playing. But they were mostly the varsity—the kids that were playing varsity, two or three of them.

Bartges: You mentioned when we were conversing before we got started that you played ASA [Amateur Softball Association] or you played a similar type of organized, out of college ball.

Streit: Started with my high school physical education teacher. No, it actually didn't. It started a little bit before that, and then I got more involved with her and her teams and stuff like that. Yeah, a lot of the country, small towns had softball teams. And I remember my aunt told me about it, and the next thing I know, she brought me to a practice and I made the team. I was fourteen.

Bartges: Were you?

Streit: Fourteen, I was playing on this women's fast-pitch team. I was the youngest one on the whole team.

Bartges: Did your aunt play too?

Streit: No. She loved getting involved. She loved the socialization that went on in the stands.

Bartges: So it was essentially a town team?

Streit: Um-hmm.

Bartges: And it was fast-pitch. What position did you play?

Streit: I played third base and shortstop. And that got me going. And then as I—when I got to high school, my physical education teacher would tell us about other teams and so forth. So at one point I played on the same team with her. I mean, there were all these small teams around. We were very competitive against one another. Of course they were all travel teams. We would travel everywhere.

Bartges: And there were fans. You mentioned people in the stands?

Streit: Yeah, a lot of people—quite a few people came to these games.

Bartges: Did they charge admission?

Streit: No.

Bartges: Did you just play on a park?

Streit: Yeah, right. It was somewhere in town. And some fields are certainly nicer than others. We even came up here to the suburbs. We would play—that was like a major trip—we played Rochelle, Rockford. And then when I got into college, I played on numerous fast-pitch teams like the Bloomington Bearcats.

Bartges: I bet you didn't play on the Lettes⁴.

Streit: No, I did not—I played many times against them though.

Bartges: Some of the other people that I've interviewed talked about the Lettes. And with that Illinois State connection—

Streit: Yeah, we would come down and play the Lettes. They played a lot of the smaller community teams. In fact, (unintelligible) who was one of the—turned out to be one of the starters on the Pekin Lettes, came from one of the little rural teams like where I was from.

Bartges: It's a small world.

Streit: Isn't it?

Bartges: (laughs) Did you ever serve in the military or the National Guard?

Streit: No.

Bartges: Were you a Girl Scout?

Streit: No.

Bartges: Did you teach or coach in a secondary school system?

Streit: Yes.

Bartges: And—

Streit: Since 1970.

Bartges: So you started teaching in 1970? Where did you start teaching?

Streit: At Bradley Bourbonnais High School.

⁴ The Pekin Lettes is a fast-pitch softball team in Pekin, Illinois, and is the oldest member-sanctioned Amateur Softball Association team in the United States.

Bartges: Okay. And how long were you there?

Streit: Five years.

Bartges: And where did you go after that?

Streit: Oh, well, during my officiating adventures while I was officiating basketball, I came across some great teams in Joliet. I was officiating, and they were looking for a girls' athletic director and basketball coach. And I had gotten to be good friends with the current coach when I was working. She asked me if I was interested. So then I ended up at Joliet West. There was—as far as I know, no one else interviewed for the job. So I came right in as girls' athletic director, basketball coach, and physical education teacher.

Bartges: (laughs) Wow.

Streit: (laughs) Just like that. I don't think they interviewed anybody else.

Bartges: Who was the coach there before you?

Streit: Nancy Ruby.

Bartges: Ruby?

Streit: Ruby.

Bartges: Is she still alive?

Streit: Oh yeah, good friend. We're still good friends, and she was the department chairman at the time and basketball coach, tennis coach—and back then people coached several things. She wanted someone that could take their teams to a different level (laughs) so...and the teams in the Joliet area—St. Francis Academy and—unbelievable.

Bartges: They have a teeny-tiny little gym too.

Streit: Oh, unbelievable talent.

Bartges: There was a lot of talent in that area.

Streit: In that whole area.

Bartges: And developmentally, it's not like they came up through a system. I mean, they were just athletes.

Streit: Right. They were just good athletes, you got that right. But come to find out, they did have, like, at the fifth, sixth-grade level—they did have some girls lower-level basketball going on. And so they were a step ahead.

Bartges: Was it CYO [Catholic Youth Organization] kind of stuff?

Streit: Good question. I think that might have been part of it, but schools had teams back then that would play other Joliet area teams.

Bartges: Right.

Streit: But it's not like you traveled outside—like (unintelligible) team and they'd play other junior highs and (unintelligible).

Bartges: When you officiated, how did you get started officiating?

Streit: When I was at Bradley Bourbonnais High School, we had some information about South Suburban Board of Women Officials. And I had done some officiating at Illinois State, had gotten involved in officiating there.

Bartges: Was it through the officiating club?

Streit: I don't know if they called it a club or not, but there were officials at (unintelligible) and there were other officials, Jill Hutchison for example, that would rate you, and you could spend some time with them and they would show you the mechanics of officiating. And so when I graduated from ISU, we still hadn't really gotten into basketball yet as a team sport and so forth, so—

Bartges: You were close?

Streit: Yeah. We were—right. You could coach your couple games there. They allowed you. A lot of us were officiating. I don't know, you just got some information on the South Suburban Board of Women Officials, and a couple of the gals and I went up. A lot of us (unintelligible) high school (unintelligible). That name ever come up?

Bartges: No, I've never heard that one before.

Streit: And—

Bartges: Is that a male Bobby or a female Bobby?

Streit: (unintelligible). I can't believe I'm even remembering.

Bartges: (laughs)

Streit: That really kind of got it going in the south suburban area because they were trying to get more women into officiating.

Bartges: Did you have a state grade?

Streit: I had a national rating. And I end up doing college state tournaments and whatever high school I could. You had to keep being reevaluated to go to the next level to get that national.

Bartges: Right. Did you continue to referee once you started coaching?

Streit: Not after the basketball schedule changed. Once we started to play ten, twelve, fifteen, I could not do it. I did as much as I could, and it just got to be too much. I just had to make a decision. But I think knowing the rules as well as I did as an official, I can't tell you how that made a difference in coaching, because there's so many things that you can catch or talk to officials about; they seem to respect that for the most part.

Bartges: For the most part, the people that officiated your games when you were at Bradley and at Joliet West, were they male or female?

Streit: Female.

Bartges: What did they wear?

Streit: Skirts. We had—you could wear culottes or a skirt and then the striped uniform with your patch.

Bartges: Do you remember what you got paid to do a game?

Streit: Oh, yeah. I remember being paid five dollars, and that was to do both games. You did both levels.

Bartges: So there was a JV [junior varsity] and a varsity?

Streit: (unintelligible) first team, second team, A team, yeah. You did both.

Bartges: Did you get any travel money?

Streit: No. That's why I went to Joliet a lot, they paid the best. So I would go there and Lockport. I did a lot for Lockport too. But that was all that Illini Eight—that Illini Eight conference. That was all run by women, and that's what was enticing to me. The Illini Eight had girls' athletic directors and male athletic directors. And that's what (unintelligible). And that's what it was. It was the women all got together from each school, we made the schedule, we hired the officials. We did everything.

Bartges: Were all the coaches women, is what you're saying?

Streit: Yes.

Bartges: And were they pretty much in your peer group?

Streit: Pardon me?

Bartges: Were they in your peer group or age group?

Streit: Sure. Some a little older but basically, yeah.

Bartges: There wasn't a twenty-year gap or a fifteen-year gap—

Streit: No. Oh, no.

Bartges: They were within—

Streit: Oh, yeah—

Bartges: —a pretty common age group.

Streit: Exactly.

Bartges: Did you have an officiating partner, or did you have to call games by yourself?

Streit: Once in a while you did call them by yourself, but often there was someone else.

Bartges: Did you get paid double if you had to call by yourself?

- Streit: It depended upon the school. There was no real set rule on that.
- Bartges: You stayed at Bradley Bourbonnais for five years. How many years were you at Joliet West?
- Streit: Three.
- Bartges: So you left there after 1978?
- Streit: Yes, I did. I thought I wanted to go to Arizona. (laughs)
- Bartges: And that's when you went to graduate school?
- Streit: I went to Arizona. I didn't do grad school. I just went out there—I thought I was ready for a change. It might have been everything that was just on me. I thought that's where I wanted to be at that time, but it turned out that wasn't—
- Bartges: Did you teach and coach down there?
- Streit: I did. I was in the high school level for a little while, then I got out and I got my realtor's license.
- Bartges: Oh—
- Streit: I thought I'd try something different. You know how you go through these I've-got-to-find-myself (unintelligible), I guess that's what it was.
- Bartges: (laughs) Well, you're back here. You're back in Illinois.
- Streit: I'm back (unintelligible) yes, and then turn around a year later and got right back into it but—
- Bartges: When you came back to Illinois, where did you teach?
- Streit: I was at Lewis University for three years.
- Bartges: Coaching basketball?
- Streit: Coaching basketball. Head basketball, head softball, and then I also taught.
- Bartges: Yeah, in the physical education department.

Streit: And no assistant in either one unless I rounded them up, which is why I didn't last. I was able to get my high school assistant to come to help me out in basketball, fifteen hundred dollars at the college level. I burned out in three years. And I said to the AD [athletic director] on the way out, I said, "You know what, you've got to get separate coaches for these two jobs. Nobody's going to last here." So he did. And then the next year—sure, right after I left. Next year they split them, and I think they hired men.

Bartges: (laughs) Times haven't changed that much.

Streit: You know, it's like we pile it on the women, but we're going to make it real enticing for the men if they want the job.

Bartges: Do you think a lot of women coaches got burned out?

Streit: Oh, yeah. I think, too, particularly when more games, and you got into conferences—Central, West, East, North, South—and you had a conference championship with more pressure. A lot of women started a family, couldn't do both. And I think there was pressure to win—maybe not outwardly, but I think more inward pressure.

Bartges: Yes, put on yourself.

Streit: Exactly. Exactly. You don't want to field a team that's going to get beaten by forty points.

Bartges: When you started coaching in 1970, did you get paid to coach or was that part of your physical education duties?

Streit: I got an extra stipend, and I think it was like two or four softball games. It was like one hundred and fifty dollars.

Bartges: And when you coached at Joliet West—I'm going to separate out the athletic director versus a coach—you got paid to coach?

Streit: Oh sure, yeah.

Bartges: Did you have an assistant coach?

Streit: Not assistant head coach. We had a second team or B team, whatever you want to call it, sophomore team. Freshman-sophomore, fresh-soph team, but we did not have assistants. We each had our own team and then—

Bartges: But you were responsible for coaching the fresh-soph [freshman-sophomore]?

Streit: No. No.

Bartges: And I'm going to stick with Joliet West because one of the reasons I wanted to interview you is you're one of eight people who were coaching in the original state tournament in 1977. So we'll stick with Joliet West from here. The way that you practiced at Joliet West?

Streit: We practiced every day and Saturday.

Bartges: For how long?

Streit: Two hours, and rarely did we go over.

Bartges: Did you have tryouts?

Streit: Yes.

Bartges: How many kids tried out, if you can remember?

Streit: For all freshman, sophomore teams, the two—

Bartges: Sure, for all of them.

Streit: I would say thirty, maybe thirty-five kids.

Bartges: Did you make cuts?

Streit: I think the better we got, the fewer kids tried out. (laughs) Yes, we did.

Bartges: Did you have uniforms?

Streit: Yes, we did.

Bartges: Were those already in place when you got there or did you have—

Streit: We had a budget for those.

Bartges: Okay. How did you travel?

Streit: On the school bus.

Bartges: Did you drive the bus?

Streit: No.

Bartges: What time of day did you practice?

Streit: Right after school, and then in the morning on Saturday. We had our own gym.

Bartges: The girls had their own gym?

Streit: The girls had their own gym. And we didn't call it girls', boys' gym, but the last couple of years I coached there, we changed that. As we were getting better, I said, "We're not going to play and practice in this"—because they were playing games in this—it's a small gym.

Bartges: So the girls' gym wasn't like the boys' gym?

Streit: No, it was not. It's not like the main gym that you'd find in schools today. I changed that as athletic director. I said, "We're playing over here now." And I said, because it was—I thought it was hurting us, because a lot of the gyms that we would go play in as we got better—I said, "We've got to practice in this environment." So we would practice and play then in that, and I think that made a big difference.

Bartges: And as athletic director you didn't have any argument from anybody?

Streit: No, I worked it out with the male athletic director. We were on good terms.

Bartges: What was his name?

Streit: Paul Marzarati.

Bartges: Was it common to have a boys' athletic director and a girls' athletic director? Like the schools in your conference—

Streit: In the Illini Eight, that was the norm.

Bartges: You did say that, I'm sorry. Was your principal male or female?

Streit: Male.

Bartges: At Joliet West? What was his name?

Streit: At the time—the year we won the state championship?

Bartges: And the year before, 1977.

Streit: (unintelligible)

Bartges: Do you know where he was from? Was he from Illinois or was he from somewhere else?

Streit: I don't know.

Bartges: Okay. Did you have practice uniforms or anything like that?

Streit: (unintelligible).

Bartges: When you had games, were there fans?

Streit: Oh, yes.

Bartges: What kind of fan base did you have?

Streit: We had hundreds. We would fill—we'd fill a gym. I mean, part of the problem in our small gym was we had overflow capacity, and as they were playing better and better teams, the crowds got bigger and bigger, and I could see we were—we had outgrown this. There were many times when we would fill to capacity all the bleachers in the main gym, in the big gym.

Bartges: Did you charge admission?

Streit: We started to, yes. (laughs) That was my little petty cash fund, you bet.

Bartges: (laughs) Do you know how much you charged?

Streit: Oh, I think it was like a dollar for—a dollar, no more than two for adults and probably fifty cents for students with an ID, something like that. And of course as we get into IHSA [Illinois High School Association], rules regulated those admissions, you know.

Bartges: Yeah, they mandated the cost of how much you charge at the state tournament.

Streit: A little bit later (unintelligible).

Bartges: Was your principal in favor or against girls' basketball or girls' sports in general?

Streit: Well, he was a basketball coach himself, so there was never any problem. He would come to practices once in a while.

Bartges: To watch or to participate?

Streit: Watch.

Bartges: Was he the varsity coach at Joliet West?

Streit: Unh-uh.

Bartges: He's just former—

Streit: He coached—I know he played basketball for sure.

Bartges: Do you know where he went to college?

Streit: No, I don't.

Bartges: Okay. Did you ever participate in a National Sports Institute or a National Leadership Conference? It would have been a clinic on training or principles of basketball, coaching clinics?

Streit: You know, I attended many basketball clinics. Some were run by women and some were run by men. There were many times I would go to the men's because there were no women's out there, or at least not close enough by, so I went to a lot of the men's, so I was the only woman there.

Bartges: Who sponsored the one from the—

Streit: I don't know. I used to go to every one I could go to. The NAGW—NAGWS [National Association for Girls and Women in Sport]? I don't remember.

Bartges: The National Sports Institutes or the Leadership Conference would have been a training session, and they would have articulated an expectation that you go back and disseminate that knowledge to your peers.

Streit: No. No. I don't recall anything like that.

- Bartges: What kind of clinics—you said you went to men's clinics—
- Streit: Basketball clinics.
- Bartges: Where would you go?
- Streit: Milwaukee, Barrington, they had some in the Joliet area. Wherever I had information, I would go.
- Bartges: Did the boys' coach from West [Joliet West] go also?
- Streit: Unh-uh.
- Bartges: You just went on your own?
- Streit: I would go on my own. It had really nothing to do with them. I just wanted to gain more basketball knowledge than what I had. So I started going to the men's because they had never given me information about women's, or you had to travel as far as Milwaukee or something. I did that several times.
- Bartges: Were those primarily college clinics or—?
- Streit: That was just for women.
- Bartges: Oh, it was?
- Streit: Yeah.
- Bartges: Who spoke there, do you remember?
- Streit: Whoever won—the Immaculata coach.
- Bartges: Cathy Rush?
- Streit: Her and some of the early collegiate champions. So wherever there was a big name, I would try to go (unintelligible).
- Bartges: Carol Edmond?
- Streit: Maybe. I can't remember names exactly, but they started hosting clinics for women coaches.
- Bartges: When you were coaching at Joliet West, did your kids go to camp?

Streit: Basketball?

Bartges: Basketball camp.

Streit: There were none that I knew of. But you know what I did? I offered a summer school basketball class and taught summer school, had all my kids get in it. (laughs) It was open to the district.

Bartges: Yeah. Anyone could come?

Streit: Now anyone could come.

Bartges: But they'd better be good (laughs).

Streit: So I was also working with Joliet East center—and their center and guards and so forth. And then I had camps and clinics. I personally ran them and advertised to the area. Because then their team got better and better, (unintelligible). But the big thing for us is that I had my kids in a class during the summer, and that's all they wanted to do is play basketball, so I was working with them and coaching legally.

Bartges: Yeah.

Streit: Hey, it was legal, you know. The district paid me for the class, and I just had to get a certain enrollment. So I got my kids, those who could, and most of them did. That was a step ahead, no doubt.

Bartges: Well, the playing in the summer—probably at that point in time, the camp that comes to mind, and this is because you mentioned the Immaculata coach, Cathy Rush—there were Cathy Rush, Pat Kennedy basketball camps.

Streit: Pat Kennedy, yes, that's the name. Many (unintelligible) some good people. And they brought in some men coaches too to talk to us.

Bartges: Right. And Cathy Rush camps are still very big. They're out of Pennsylvania, I think they're out of Doylestown or somewhere over in that neck of the woods. And you can still go to Cathy Rush camp.

Streit: I don't get basketball literature anymore, so I'm kind of out of the—what's being offered now, but I'm sure—and then camps. And then there were summer leagues when I was at Lewis, I had a summer high school league going.

Bartges: Those developed pretty quickly once basketball was added in the State of Illinois. Because I know by the time that I had just graduated from high school—so I graduated in 1978—by 1979, 1980, 1981 there was big, big leagues.

Streit: Right. I offered one of the first shooting camps ever at Joliet West. I offered a camp, just shooting techniques and skills, and I would have my kids, some of my players there, helping me. And then, boy, that got to be the big thing, didn't it?

Bartges: Yes, shooting camps. What prompted you to do that?

Streit: I went to a clinic somewhere, and they were talking about that and suggested that you do that. But see, no one coaching in my area, I don't think, had the ambitions that I did—that was part of it—or maybe had the time to go do this. I just got the idea and said, "You know, we should just offer something on shooting, make it a one-week camp or do something like that," and it was neat.

Bartges: Do you think women coaches worked as hard at the game at that time as men did?

Streit: No.

Bartges: Were officials in Illinois concerned with what version of the rules were used by the players, six-player, the National Federation Rules versus the NAGWS?

Streit: I honestly don't recall. There was a lot of controversy about that, but no.

Bartges: In 1971 when the National Basketball Committee Experimental Rules for five-on-five became official, how did that impact girls' basketball in Illinois?

Streit: I think that's when the fans got interested. It was a faster game. It just—Hey, these girls are as good as the guys, you know. They can handle the ball, they can—you could see the all-around player. You had to develop all around. I just think that was the push, that was what ignited the interest, I believe.

Bartges: Did officiating keep up with the interest and the demand?

Streit: You know, to this day there's complaints about officiating. I don't know that it ever ends. There are certainly very few, if any, women left officiating. And then there's loads of complaints about the quality of officiating now. I do

know that simply from the people I talk to. All the women I know are no longer coaching—or officiating basketball. They talk about these old guys that are officiating the girls and they can't keep up.

Bartges: When, if you can remember, did you see a changeover, because when you were coaching during this period—and I'm primarily interested in from 1968 to 1977. Most of you—

Streit: When the money was there and the fans. There's some women that couldn't take the heckling from fans. It just got to them. It was very, very vicious.

Bartges: Did you favor the changeover to five-player basketball?

Streit: Yes.

Bartges: Why?

Streit: I just—to me that was the only way to play basketball. It's all I ever knew. Why change—it was a much more exciting game.

Bartges: Even though you had played six-on-six?

Streit: I played—yeah, right.

Bartges: You really felt the five-player game was where it was at?

Streit: Exactly. Exactly. I knew that six-player was popular in Iowa, but, I don't know, I just never thought Illinois could—would ever catch on here.

Bartges: Do you think you had any role in getting interscholastic basketball added for girls in Illinois?

Streit: No, (unintelligible).

Bartges: Do you feel that the school you were at, Joliet West in this case, or even Bradley, were they leaders in girls' basketball, ahead of the curve, so to speak?

Streit: Not at Bradley, no. Our superintendent and our AD, I felt they held us back. They let us do the minimum or what we could, but they didn't really encourage us, which is why I left. I don't think Joliet West—that whole area, because it was run by women, they were for anything that promoted girls' sports, whatever. Were they ahead of the game? Oh, yeah. To this day, I believe it is in every school's best interest that they separate and have a girls'

athletic director and a boys' athletic director. The girls are not served well. I've seen it over and over. But—

Bartges: At Bourbonnais, in 1970 when you began there, did they have a basketball team?

Streit: No, I started the first one.

Bartges: You started the first one?

Streit: Um-hmm.

Bartges: I may have skipped over that inadvertently.

Streit: And the uniforms that we used for those we used for softball, volleyball. (laughs)

Bartges: The uni [universal] uniforms.

Streit: Yes, they were.

Bartges: (laughs)

Streit: They were.

Bartges: How did you get to be the coach there?

Streit: I just said I wanted to do it.

Bartges: Do you know what year that was?

Streit: I don't think it was the first year I was—maybe we played two games the first year I was there—1970, 1971.

Bartges: Basketball was added in 1973, by the IHSA [Illinois High School Association].

Streit: We could play two games, but I don't—I think by the IHSA, though, we could play more by then, because I think we were in a conference in 1973. I think it went we could play two, we could play four, and then I think when it was sanctioned, then we made sure we were then in (unintelligible) and then you had a conference and teams would play. But I know we started playing two games.

Bartges: Was—

Streit: We'd round up teams in the Kankakee area and play.

Bartges: And you say your—

Streit: While we were playing two, over at Joliet where I was doing a lot of my officiating—Joliet, Lockport, St. Francis, they're playing ten, twelve, fifteen games.

Bartges: Already?

Streit: Already.

Bartges: So by 1975 when you went to Joliet West, how many games were on your schedule?

Streit: The first year? Over twenty.

Bartges: And by 1977, the first year of the state tournament? Probably about the same?

Streit: Yeah. We were close to thirty by then. There were at least twenty-five, I can say that for sure. Because my last year we were twenty-nine and two. We were just in the tournament. And then they had all these girls' tournaments which—I mean, which is wonderful.

Bartges: Your first year in 1975—

Streit: It seems like it just took off. It went from like two games to having a schedule of fifteen, and then whoever you could book and whatever tournaments you could get in.

Bartges: Yeah, tournaments were a kicker.

Streit: And as athletic director, I had that advantage. I made my own schedule.

Bartges: Yeah.

Streit: Had my own tournament.

Bartges: Do you think that when the IHSA added basketball and the rules committee moved into the five-on-five, do you think that basketball became too organized, high school basketball?

Streit: I don't think that was a problem, no. We were all for improving and doing the right thing. (unintelligible).

Bartges: Did you belong to any groups that were active in the civil rights movement?

Streit: No.

Bartges: Billie Jean King⁵ said that she hates labels, being labeled; however, for the purpose of this interview, how did you or would you characterize yourself during this period in your life, as it relates to sports?

Streit: I was very ambitious and I was very focused. I said to my mother when I went to the state tournament, I want to win that state tournament. I'm going to be on TV someday. And that was just—I was driven by that, very driven. And, my whole life was coaching. (unintelligible). I mean, my Saturdays would be taken up going to clinics and picking up on—getting some knowledge somebody else didn't have and using it. No life. I had no social life. (laughs)

Bartges: (laughs) People who coach are still that way.

Streit: I didn't watch TV either. I didn't, that was all I did.

Bartges: Yeah. Well, that's—

Streit: Come back and take notes about what I'd learned. That's how I'd spend my nights and stuff, put things on cards.

Bartges: But you were successful? I mean, there is no—

Streit: At what expense?

Bartges: Yeah, and I think a lot of people ask that question.

Streit: You got to do that when you're young. There is no way I could have been married and done that.

⁵ Billie Jean King is a former American professional tennis player. A strong advocate for sexual equality, King participated in and won the Battle of the Sexes tennis match of 1973 against Bobby Riggs.

Bartges: Really, I don't know how people do it.

Streit: I don't either. And I'm starting to see a lot of guys getting out of coaching now for that reason, they can't do it—can't do—keep up with—now the parents expect you to find them a scholarship. Oh my God.

Bartges: Do you think expectations have gotten too high in coaching?

Streit: Yeah.

Bartges: Parents are too needy, maybe high isn't the right word.

Streit: Well, it's pretty much a me-generation, me, me, me. And kids have had a shooting coach. They've gone to this camp, that camp, and my coach—you know what I'm saying? And as a high school coach, you're lowest on the totem pole a lot of times in terms of who we listen to. So it takes a real strong woman to want to jump in that arena, most definitely. I mean, you've got to be so self-assured. You can't worry about whose parents—hurting their feelings and stepping on toes. And I know winning solves a lot, but it's nuts. I was lucky the kids I had, they wanted more information—tell me more, tell me more, tell me more. And then they found out that things worked, they had so much confidence in you that whatever you said they did, (unintelligible). Get out of the gym and go home. You couldn't get them to leave.

Bartges: Well, you had some unusual athletes.

Streit: No doubt—there's no doubt. The right combination, putting the pieces of the puzzle together—

Bartges: I mean how often in your life—

Streit: They were driven. They were like me, some of them, but—they were.

Bartges: How often in your life do you get a Cathy Boswell or (unintelligible)?

Streit: But Cathy would admit she couldn't do it alone. She never could have done—

Bartges: No, no.

Streit: It was a team. They had to but—

Bartges: I'm going to list a collection of states that surround or border Illinois and the years that they implemented the state tournament for girls' basketball: Iowa

1926, Indiana 1975, Michigan 1973, Wisconsin started with three classes in 1976, Minnesota in 1974, Ohio 1976, Kentucky 1920 to 1932 and then again in 1975, Tennessee 1965, Missouri 1973 and Illinois in 1974. As a coach and an athletic director, administrator, how did you feel when you saw states surrounding and competing in competitive state tournaments and Illinois wasn't? Were you aware of that?

Streit: Well, certainly in Iowa. And I knew about other states, but if you asked me which ones I wouldn't be able to tell you right now. We were like, Why can't we? What's holding us back? I told you, my PE teacher always blamed Ola Bundy because we couldn't do more. So we would always question that in high school already—why can't we play what the guys are playing?

Bartges: So even in high school you asked that question?

Streit: Yeah. Why can't we do this? I mean my brothers are out there playing Little League and why can't I play? Now girls can play Little League, but you know. And so that's how it kind of got started when my aunt found this team for me. I don't know what held it back. What held it back?

Bartges: Do you think the IHSA was responsive or receptive to input from women at all? I mean, you as a physical educator, you may not—

Streit: Well, I served on an advisory board—I don't know if it was basketball or softball advisory board. It took them a while to give women a voice. I'm not sure what kicked the IHSA in the pants and finally said, You know, we ought to offer some basketball here. My guess is there had to be some vocal women athletic directors somewhere along the line or some men that really were fair, wanted to be fair, and maybe women physical education teachers probably came to their ADs [athletic directors] and said, You know, I think we should have a girls' team here. Look at all this talent we have. We have some great athletes here. I don't know what triggered it.

Bartges: I can still sort of sense a frustration.

Streit: Yeah. I can remember being frustrated as a player, as a kid, that we didn't have many outlets. We had to wait until summer—

Bartges: (laugh)

Streit: —to play and compete.

Bartges: There's incentive to be in the school building. (laughs)

- Streit: Got that right. My brothers are all involved in athletics, and I had to go watch.
- Bartges: So did you feel marginalized? That's, I know, a serious word, but even as a youngster you sensed a difference?
- Streit: Yeah. I just felt like, God, guys get all the advantages here. I wanted to be a guy. Look at the opportunities they had.
- Bartges: Yeah. They really did.
- Streit: So I was a tomboy; I was playing with my brothers.
- Bartges: How many brothers do you have?
- Streit: I have two.
- Bartges: Did you have any sisters?
- Streit: I have an older sister. She's two years older than me, not athletic, not even remotely close.
- Bartges: Did you have any dealings with Ola Bundy?
- Streit: You just heard about her. I never met her until somewhere along the line when I was in an IHSA office for something. So I just heard a lot about her and I knew her name and that's it.
- Bartges: I'm going to change tapes here. This one's almost out. I have just a few more questions to ask.

(End of Tape One, Tape Two Begins)

- Bartges: This is tape number two with Jo Streit, February sixth in Homer Glen, Illinois, starting with question number twenty-five. Coach Streit, what can you tell me about the process of getting a state tournament added in Illinois? Do you know anything about that process?
- Streit: No. Really, Ellyn, I wasn't involved in that at all. I just know that there were advisory committees. The leadership at Illinois High School Association at some point established a tournament. So I'm not sure who all was responsible for the input. Probably principals. It had to come from principals.

Bartges: Were you aware of an advisory board for girls' basketball?

Streit: Yes.

Bartges: Did you know anyone that was on it?

Streit: Not personally, no.

Bartges: Did anybody ever survey you about your opinion about adding on a state tournament for girls, as an AD or a coach, that you can recall?

Streit: I don't recall that.

Bartges: Did you attend—and I apologize for the question, but not everybody was in the same instance as you were (laughs)—did you attend the first state tournament at Horton Field House in Bloomington?

Streit: Yes.

Bartges: What was your role there?

Streit: We were on the Elite 8 team.

Bartges: And that was at Joliet West?

Streit: Right.

Bartges: Did you go down the night before, or did you go down that day?

Streit: We went down the day before.

Bartges: You stayed in a hotel?

Streit: Um-hmm.

Bartges: How many were on the team?

Streit: Oh, boy.

Bartges: Approximately.

Streit: Twelve, fourteen maybe. I never had a very big team.

- Bartges: Seems like a lot of the coaches didn't then.
- Streit: No, I wanted the kids I had to be able to play. I didn't want grumbling on the bench.
- Bartges: What were your thoughts or feelings when you walked in the door for your first game?
- Streit: It was exhilarating. There's my alma mater for one thing, and to play at—I had a team that played at Horton Field House. And people were hanging out of the rafters. It was jam packed. It was loud. It was—how do I put it—a close kind of environment as compared to the Assembly Hall⁶ where people tend to be a little bit further away.
- Bartges: They played at Horton the first year.
- Streit: Very intimate. Almost too much though because people were right on our backs when we were sitting on the bench and that was a little—I thought people were a little too close for it, but anyway.
- Bartges: Who did you guys play?
- Streit: We played Centralia.
- Bartges: And how did you do?
- Streit: We lost.
- Bartges: Do you remember the score of that game?
- Streit: I don't remember the score, but I know—I think it was eight or nine points.
- Bartges: Was that an upset?
- Streit: No. Well, upsetting for me. (laughs) But—I don't know.
- Bartges: I guess what I would ask you—
- Streit: I know we were excited to be there. I was very disappointed in how we played, disappointed in the officiating, although I do not blame the officiating. We did not play well, let's put that first. We did not play well. We didn't play

⁶ Assembly Hall was the basketball complex at the University of Illinois. It is now called State Farm Center.

well enough to win. And I don't know if that was an upset or not. I don't know that we were picked as the frontrunner in that tournament. I never really read anything about that. I don't recall.

Bartges: Did you scout Centralia?

Streit: No.

Bartges: So you had no idea?

Streit: I read what I could find at the time, but never actively sought out someone that might have played them.

Bartges: You mentioned you hadn't read anything in the media. Did Joliet West get pretty good media coverage?

Streit: Joliet? Excellent, outstanding.

Bartges: Were there pictures?

Streit: Oh, yes.

Bartges: Did the columns have a—

Streit: Even before the state tournament—even before the state tournaments series, and then loads of it. They had one reporter that was assigned just to girls' sports in the Joliet area.

Bartges: What was that person's name?

Streit: (laughs) I know one was Dave Parker. There were two—Dave Parker and then who was the other one? I can see his picture, but I can't think of his name.

Bartges: It'll come to you as you get into it. But you were pretty pleased with media exposure?

Streit: Oh yeah, very. And Gordie Gillespie even came. You know Gordie Gillespie, don't you?

Bartges: I know the name, but I don't know—

Streit: In the Joliet area, he's God. How many championships did he win in baseball at Catholic High and so forth. He had a sports show. He had us on the sports show. He came to our school and interviewed the kids and did a big thing after school for practice.

Bartges: Did you have a radio show or—

Streit: We were on the radio, we were on every other type of media outlet you can imagine, and so our time was starting to be pulled in a lot of different directions. The kids started to know that what they were doing was being noticed. It was kind of neat

Bartges: Did—

Streit: But Joliet was a big sports town. It didn't matter if you were male or female at that time. That's what was neat. That's what was exciting about being there.

Bartges: Did you have any All-State players on—I'm talking about your 1977 team.

Streit: In 1977...

Bartges: That was the—

Streit: Yeah, if we did it might have been Cathy Boswell, but I don't think we did.

Bartges: What did you think of the caliber of play at the first state tournament?

Streit: I thought it was good. I was impressed. I thought we were seeing teams that really were—that deserved to be here.

Bartges: You mentioned officiating. Were there problems with officiating?

Streit: Much too picky.

Bartges: Nitpicky?

Streit: Nitpicky. Nitpicky.

Bartges: Did your kids end up in foul trouble?

Streit: The whistle was—Yes, that's exactly what happened. Cathy Boswell had three fouls, and I don't think she fouled out all year. But nitpicky stuff that really did not—incidental contact. It really didn't influence the play one way

or the other. And that was, I think—with women officials, that was the biggest complaint against women officials was that they didn't let them play.

Bartges: And as an official you were probably a little more tuned into that.

Streit: Right, and the kids too. My kids never complained about the officiating because I wouldn't let them. In this particular instance they did (unintelligible). And before I would say, "Don't make a bunch of excuses." I would never buy into it. But that was—

Bartges: Was your game the only game?

Streit: We were taken right out of it. But we came back, we came back roaring. But we—I think we were in awe of the crowd. Although we had played some pretty big crowds, we were just—they weren't executing at all.

Bartges: You talked about the difference at Joliet West High School between the boys' gym and the girls' gym. Do you have a recollection of the size of Horton Field House, I mean, being in a facility like that?

Streit: Having been in a facility that size prior to getting there? There were several teams we played along the way, like Hinsdale South—actually, most of the teams—the places we played, our varsity games were all in the main gym. Crowd-wise, we probably didn't run into a big crowd until we played teams like Hinsdale South or we got in the state tournaments series, then we ran into bigger crowds and so forth. And Super Sectional always was a biggie, packed.

Bartges: Who did you guys play in the Super Sectional?

Streit: Thornton (laughs) both years. And you know (unintelligible) and I—she was the coach at the time. She had great teams. I kid you not, we were lucky.

Bartges: Wanda Williams.

Streit: Oh my God. She had some athletes who were unbelievable. And I would say the only difference was probably we were able to pull it out. I think her kids were more athletic than mine, mine were more disciplined.

Bartges: And you beat them in the Super Sectional?

Streit: Yep, both times. One year in double overtime.

Bartges: Oh my.

Streit: First year we went down was in double overtime.

Bartges: So you were coming off a tough Super Sectional game?

Streit: Yes, they were—I believe, yes. With free throws and no time on the clock (unintelligible) went to the line (unintelligible).

Bartges: Oh, she was a tough little point guard. Do you recall any other officiating problems at the state tournament? Did you feel like it was just your game or was it pretty much across the board?

Streit: I didn't really have any complaints about officiating where I thought it took us out of our game prior to that. We had some bad officials, but they were bad on both sides.

Bartges: Were all the officials women?

Streit: Yes.

Bartges: Do you think that was a good decision by the IHSA or was it just what was expected?

Streit: I think they picked the best of what was available. Now I know that's changed. I mean, there are several men officiating down there. (unintelligible) I think they should pick the best.

Bartges: In some of the interviews that I've interviewed including (unintelligible) and some other people, they've said that women officials took a lot of heat coming out of those state tournaments, especially those first two state tournaments in 1977 and 1978.

Streit: Because I think the media wasn't used to the way the game was being called, and so they were comparing it to what they saw with the men. And what else did they have to go on?

Bartges: Right. And that's fair. I'm going to give you—this is a—

Streit: (laughs)

Bartges: What are your thoughts when you see that?

Streit: The good old days.

Bartges: (laughs)

Streit: Best times in my career.

Bartges: That's the program for the first state tournament in 1977. The program's changed a lot too. The price on that's a dollar. (laughter)

Streit: Everything's changed.

Bartges: Did any of your players—

Streit: I have this as a matter of fact.

Bartges: I would think you would.

Streit: I have—

Bartges: I bet you have a couple of them. Did any of your kids want to play college ball?

Streit: They all did.

Bartges: What are some names?

Streit: Where they went?

Bartges: The kids, where they went.

Streit: Oh, (unintelligible) went to (unintelligible). Cathy Boswell went to Illinois State.

Bartges: Your alma mater.

Streit: Right, although she was being courted by UCLA [University of California, Los Angeles]. A lot of people don't know that.

Bartges: Oh, really?

Streit: But she—she finished high school in three years.

Bartges: I know she graduated early.

Streit: And (unintelligible). (unintelligible) played at—this is the biggest disappointment in my life—she was offered a scholarship to go to Texas A&M and she chose to stay home and go to Joliet Junior College. Anyway, (unintelligible) went to Illinois—no (unintelligible) College. (unintelligible).

Bartges: (unintelligible).

Streit: Went to Harvard. And they didn't give athletic scholarships. She got an academic scholarship.

Bartges: She graduated from there?

Streit: Yes. And I think Karen Hartman went to College of St. Francis.

Bartges: Oh, okay.

Streit: St. Francis University.

Bartges: So several (unintelligible).

Streit: (unintelligible).

Bartges: Did they all play ball in college?

Streit: Yeah. They all played college ball. Cathy Boswell is still playing.

Bartges: Oh, is she still playing? I guess she had come last year and was trying the Chicago Condors, thought that might pan out.

Streit: Still playing. Still there. But she's getting ready to become a sports agent, I understand. She's getting close to winding down.

Bartges: With Bruce (unintelligible) out in New York?.

Streit: I'm not sure (unintelligible). (unintelligible) I saw her a year-and-a-half ago, and that's what she said she's probably going to get into.

Bartges: Dawn Hallett, who was one of my teammates, played with Bos [Cathy Boswell] at Illinois State. And I occasionally would see Bos when I would see Dawn at games and stuff like that.

Streit: Yeah, they were the best of friends. Didn't they room together?

Bartges: I don't know if they did or not.

Streit: Did Dawn break her leg (unintelligible)?

Bartges: Well, Bos had an injury too.

Streit: There was something.

Bartges: Bos—

Streit: I remember Dawn was a big loss, but I don't think Bos's came in the first year. I don't think—

Bartges: It was her sophomore year. I think she hurt a leg or an arm or something, and Dawn broke her leg—

Streit: I know.

Bartges: —and was out. She was a horse.

Streit: What a team they had, the two of them. (unintelligible).

Bartges: Big left-handed jump shooter and Boswell, wow. Wouldn't anybody kill to have two kids like that.

Streit: What a coup for her to get both of those players, I thought. Holy cow.

Bartges: Yeah.

Streit: But they were good friends, because probably when we played those guys became good friends.

Bartges: Competition, you know. They respected each other.

Streit: Right, and I think that is kind of lost at this point. I don't think that kids are quite as respectful maybe of each other. It's so competitive. They lose sight of any friendships that could be gained from that.

Bartges: I mean, when you see teams like your teams, and the individual talents that made up those teams, you couldn't help but just be awed and like—

Streit: And we played with a big ball, remember?

Bartges: Yeah, regular-sized ball, a men's ball. Like Wanda Williams at Thornton. I mean, that girl was phenomenal. She had arms that were down below her knees.

Streit: I know. It was just unbelievable.

Bartges: Yeah, there were some tremendous athletes with not a lot of training.

Streit: No. And Dee Mann over at Thornton did a great job with the kids she had. I mean, she didn't put up with any crap, but she just had so much other baggage to deal with, and she did wonderful. She and I are good friends to this day in spite of all that.

Bartges: In your—and this is an opinion question—given the previous conversation, what do you think was the major reason that slowed basketball from being added as an interscholastic sport that was sanctioned by the IHSA?

Streit: It had to be whatever female leadership was in the IHSA office. I don't know. It had to be. It had to be. I'm just guessing. I'm just speculating.

Bartges: Why do you think it changed?

Streit: There must have been some powerful voices coming from somewhere, that's all I can figure out. As I said before, my physical education teacher in high school said girls sports isn't going anywhere as long as Ola Bundy's sitting there. She had nothing good to say about her. And so that's about all I know. I don't know where the change was. Now maybe (unintelligible) or something. I don't know what you've run across.

Bartges: Are you familiar with the name Geraldine Rennert?

Streit: I know the name. See, we were so caught up in just what we were doing as young teachers, we didn't always know who the influential voices were in our own profession because we were so caught up in teaching and coaching or the day-to-day stuff. But I do know those names. I do know that name from somewhere.

Bartges: Were you involved in IAHPERD [Illinois Association for Health, Physical Recreation, and Dance] at all?

Streit: (unintelligible).

Bartges: So that wasn't—

Streit: I was just a member. I never did anything. I was a guest speaker. I spoke at a couple state conventions about basketball.

Bartges: But you were aware of a push by that group, which would have been logical for the IHSA to have basketball?

Streit: I was not aware of any push.

Bartges: I asked about Rennert because Rennert—Ola Bundy took over for Geraldine Rennert as the assistant associate director of the IHSA. Ola didn't start until 1969 in the IHSA, and Rennert had been there for like twenty-five or twenty-eight years before that. And I was kind of wondering if that changeover from Rennert—

Streit: (unintelligible).

Bartges: Bundy.

Streit: Yeah.

Bartges: And then from 1969 to 1973, when those transitions came in—I'm not sure how the logistics of it worked out.

Streit: I don't either. I don't know what your finding in your research. Where did the push come? Has anybody been able to nail it down yet? It's got to be from the leadership. And there's got to be voices who are willing to speak up.

Bartges: Laurie Ramsey—you know Laurie.

Streit: Oh yeah.

Bartges: Laurie Ramsey told me that she really felt that it was from the advisory board, which was a group of seventeen principals and administrators, that people like herself and other people who were high school coaches—she was coaching at Pekin at the time—really put some pressure on and had supportive male principals and administrators to go to the advisory board and push. And for three years in a row—the vote started out, it was fifteen to two against, and then it went to thirteen and three, then it went to ten to seven, and then it went over. So that's the process that she identified. Ola had a different take on it, more that it was derived from the IHSA not from—Ola's take on it seems to be that it was from the top and trickled down. Laurie's take on it, it's from the

bottom and it percolated up. And probably there's some truth in both aspects of it, (unintelligible), but they're very different interpretations. But the principals ultimately had to approve it before the IHSA could—

Streit: Exactly. Exactly.

Bartges: So—

Streit: And now they seem to get the sports voted in—I mean, we've got—what's the swimming one?

Bartges: Water polo.

Streit: There we go, water polo, (laugh) boys' and girls' water polo.

Bartges: Do you think that your athletic talent has been watered down by too many choices for girls' sports?

Streit: I think kids are very specialized now. You don't see the crossover—is that what you mean by watered down?

Bartges: Yeah, I mean, when I was playing ball, we went from sport to sport to sport to sport. It was not unusual to have twelve varsity letters. Do you see that now? Well, I shouldn't say it wasn't unusual, but it was possible.

Streit: I guess kids—the way it's put now is that kids have to specialize early. (laugh) You have to declare, and that's the way you go.

Bartges: Is that pressure from parents or from coaches?

Streit: I think parents probably pressure them to get involved in something, and then ultimately the time commitment is so great, you can't pursue both. Or in the case of if you're offered a scholarship, they don't want you playing anything but this. Oh, we had a girl that was offered a volleyball scholarship, accepted in a school in Michigan, and she wanted to play basketball. Well, she couldn't because part of her scholarship arrangement was she had to play—go play AAU (unintelligible) summer in volleyball.

Bartges: So the college coaches are now—

Streit: Yeah, everybody—I mean, yeah, they own you. Parents, I think, want their kids to get the scholarships, they see the dollar signs. Watered down? Yeah, I think so. I think kids miss out on a lot. But you know what, their time is so

consumed. They spend more time practicing now than they do on their academics. It's out of proportion.

Bartges: Do you think it's too competitive?

Streit: No, I don't think competitive. I think we—our coaches are overzealous and they've lost the way, their way. And I feel like our girls' basketball (unintelligible) they had all these games. I said, "The year we won the state tournament, I gave my girls more days off than ever before. They've got to have a life. You can't—You're not going to win if you keep doing this, if you keep booking their time. They've got to have a break." And I see this. I have swimmers falling asleep in class.

Bartges: Oh, yeah.

Streit: Because they are there at six o'clock in the morning doing two-hour workouts before school then two hours or three after school.

Bartges: And are they that good of swimmers?

Streit: We have a good swim team. I'm just saying the coaching is out of hand based on is it internally driven, is it demands from the community? I don't know. I don't think our athletic leadership is doing what it's supposed to do in terms of what's right for the kids.

Bartges: Are most of the coaches men or women, or is it mixed?

Streit: It's mixed. It's mixed. I don't know. And I think—spring break. All softball coaches, they've got double headers and games. No one gets to spend time with their family. They're playing on Good Friday (unintelligible), whatever. They can't go on vacation with their parents. If they go they know they'll lose their spot, probably, on the team. Everybody's practicing. I don't think that's right. There's some conferences up north that have said, No games over vacation. I love that. We need to get back to reality.

Bartges: Well, my parents would have just said, I'm sorry, we're going at Christmas. We go—(unintelligible)

Streit: And see, as a coach I didn't like it either, but we had doggone games scheduled. But I would have kids that would leave and go.

Bartges: I didn't ask you this earlier. When did you start practice, say from 1975 to 1978, when you were at Joliet West? What part of the year?

Streit: Whenever the IHSA said we could officially start, although we would have intramurals weeks before.

Bartges: Uh-huh.

Streit: Where kids could come in and handle the ball, and we'd choose up teams and play. We didn't coach. We didn't run any drills or anything, although that's a whole other area with boys' basketball, a lot of stuff going on there.

Bartges: But the season—your season was a different season than it is now?

Streit: No. Right. It was dictated by the IHSA whenever they said we could have the first practice or tryout, whatever, that's what we did. I always did intramurals. I wanted the kids—I wanted to kind of have a sneak preview of who might tryout. We opened it up to everybody (unintelligible).

Bartges: Sure. In 1977 you said you lost to Centralia in the first round. You came back in 1978. What was the results from the 1978 state tournament?

Streit: We won. We won the state championship.

Bartges: Do you remember who you beat?

Streit: (laugh) For the championship?

Bartges: Yeah.

Streit: All along the way? Well, we beat Marshall first of all, the city champions. And they were heavily touted, came in with an unbelievable scoring record. And I thought, If we could get past Marshall, we could win this.

Bartges: Did you scout that? No?

Streit: I did a little scouting on them and talked to several coaches. I read a lot of press about them and saw them play once. I'm trying to think if we had some videotape. We were getting a little more sophisticated.

Bartges: Yeah.

Streit: And just—sometimes a team's strength—their strength was they would press and half the time the other team couldn't get the ball beyond mid-court. They would press, press, press. So I thought, Well, you know a lot of times teams

who press don't do well when their pressing stops. So I thought I'd turn the tables on them. So we practiced full court and three quarters press, and that's what did it. We were almost up twenty points at halftime because they could not, and then they panicked. I don't think they'd ever been behind before. They got behind, and they were throwing up air balls. It was embarrassing for them, embarrassing. But they came back—they came storming back. But yeah, that was a real feather in our cap. I think people took notice when we beat Marshall.

Bartges: Did you play man-to-man or zone primarily during this period of time?

Streit: We played a little bit of everything but mostly zone, a variety of zones—some were match-up zone.

Bartges: I remember you guys playing one-three-one.

Streit: Yeah. I had two or three zones I really liked (unintelligible).

Bartges: Was your team—I'm thinking of the—Well, the 1977 team and 1978 team weren't different. You didn't lose anybody off that first team.

Streit: Yeah, I did. I lost one of my guards. I lost one of my starting guards (unintelligible).

Bartges: Okay. But there was a big return?

Streit: Yes.

Bartges: How big was your team physically, size wise? Was that a tall group of girls?

Streit: Yeah. Right. We were hefty and big in size. Elaine was 6'2". Nikki was 5'10", 5'11", and was 180, 190 pounds. Both of them, big girls.

Bartges: Big kids, yeah.

Streit: Big kids, intimidating. And Bos [Boswell] was was 5'9". She was a brilliant leaper. (laughter)

Bartges: Yeah, she could leap.

Streit: (laugh)So that was big. A 6'2" center at that time, I mean that was...You didn't run across too much height until you get downstate, and then everybody seemed to have a big girl.

Bartges: Well, and that's why when we played you guys, it was always a challenge because we had a big girl, 6'2" in the middle, and that was a good match-up for us (unintelligible) on her. (unintelligible) was a much bigger, stronger kid than (unintelligible), but yeah. Do you remember the final game when you won the state tournament in 1978? Do you know who you played?

Streit: Lincoln.

Bartges: Oh, from downstate.

Streit: The Lincoln Railsplitters.

Bartges: Railsplitters, yeah.

Streit: Yeah. And they brought a good crowd, and we had a great turnout, great attendance on all the sessions. And we played at the Assembly Hall, at the University of Illinois. And we had the Illini locker room. So that was exciting for the kids, had all their uniforms pressed and cleaned, ready and waiting for them. So we were treated nicely. Carpeted locker room. Closed circuit TV in there so you could see what's going on at the game ahead of you. So yeah, it was impressive.

Bartges: Little bit of difference from the year before?

Streit: Right.

Bartges: Because they didn't have those amenities at Horton.

Streit: The difference was—for my kids is they weren't nervous. They were not nervous at all.

Bartges: They had been through that?

Streit: Right. And the year before I can still see Elaine in the first state tournament in the locker room—she's 6'2"—wringing her hands, walking around. She was nervous as a wreck. She was nervous. The confidence, I guess that year of experience, but she—they were upset with how they played. But I never, ever said, We've got to get back to state. That wasn't my goal. It had to be theirs. So I never set the goals. It had to come from them.

Bartges: Even though you yourself were driven and said—

Streit: I'm driven. We're going to do it this way. We're going to do this, this, and this, and we'll see how far it takes us. But I'm always one that's been afraid to verbalize anything because if I say it out loud, it backfires. (laugh)
I'm superstitious that way. So I don't—

Bartges: Were you superstitious as a coach? Did you have little idiosyncrasies where your kids would go, "Oh, don't do that. Coach is superstitious"?

Streit: I don't think I did.

Bartges: I was just curious.

Streit: No. I mean, there were certain things I'd put in my bag and I didn't want to be without, but I wouldn't call that superstition.

Bartges: (laugh)

Streit: No.

Bartges: You didn't wear the same jewelry (unintelligible).

Streit: No, no, no. (unintelligible).

Bartges: (laugh) I think we have some pictures (unintelligible). (laughter) What role do you think homophobia played in the development and growth of girls' sports at the high school level, particularly for team sports like basketball, if any?

Streit: Well—

Bartges: Was it something you were aware of, that your kids were aware of, or that they got teased about?

Streit: No. I had a guard on my team, Karen Hartman, who certain people questioned because of the way she looked and walked. She walked to the beat of a different drummer, that's for sure. And she and I butted heads numerous times. But the kids liked her. They embraced her and everything. I don't know what her persuasion was or where she was coming from, but there were—a couple teachers would make comments about her: "She looks like a guy". That's just heartbreaking. But other than that no, I never had—to my knowledge, there was never any problem.

Bartges: One of the things that you—

- Streit: I think in the press—I think, not with our team or anything like that, but I think as girls got to be more athletic and got more press, there were always those writers who wanted to bring that up because of Billie Jean King and some of the higher profile athletes, female athletes, (unintelligible). But at the high school level, kids are naïve. I don't think that—
- Bartges: Kids are much more advanced today than we were then.
- Streit: Yeah, yeah. They watch more TV and (unintelligible).
- Bartges: In the sport soc [sociology] literature that I've read—and I'm not a physical educator. My background is history, so I had to brush up on some things. But there's a recurring theme in a lot of the sports literature about fears of being perceived as male or mannish—what they call mannish behavior, and that there was a great concern by coaches and players that women not be perceived as mannish, and that's the word that they used.
- Streit: I think there was some of that during our era. I'm not sure why, exactly where that came from. Probably males.
- Bartges: Right.
- Streit: Questioning any woman's athletic ability—Well, if you're that good of an athlete you must have—you're different. You're not—you can't be a female, you can't be all female. See those were just—
- Bartges: Did you ever face any of those things yourself? Because playing ball, and then it's one of those things that I think you see—
- Streit: I played with my brothers. I mean, I was a tomboy. I didn't take that as a—
- Bartges: A negative.
- Streit: No, not at all. I think it's kind of a compliment. I mean, I was, like I said, better than my brothers in some things.
- Bartges: What factors can you identify that influenced previous decisions against interscholastic competition in the State of Illinois, particularly for basketball? What might have been reasons that basketball was held back?
- Streit: Male athletic directors did not want to give up their gym.

Bartges: You think that was the A-number-one reason?

Streit: I think had we just probably been a mediocre team, I might have had a little more trouble getting into the main gym.

Bartges: Even with you as the AD?

Streit: I just think all those factors together were helpful. What's he going to do? I just think, for me, that enabled us to make that move. Would that have happened in other schools? I don't know. (unintelligible) for example. We're playing—the girls are playing in the small gym. And I keep saying, Why? Well, they just feel it gives them an advantage. Play in the main gym because then it seems to me like—if you think you're a first-class team, play in the first-class facilities. I don't get it. I don't get it. But anyway, I think—yeah. And then it's more and more male athletic directors, and some of the old guard changed, and these new people came in and may have daughters in sports. Oh yeah. It just all started to change.

Bartges: Yeah. And I'll touch on that and why those people that now have daughters, why the difference is. Because the old guards had daughters too. Do you think the AMA, the American Medical Association's endorsement for vigorous exercise helped change public educational policy towards interscholastic sport?

Streit: I doubt it. I doubt if that played much of a role.

Bartges: How do you think Title IX⁷ affected girls' basketball in Illinois? And I'm talking about high school basketball.

Streit: Well, it was no longer required that women coach women, okay—

Bartges: Which was an IHSA rule.

Streit: And what happened then is as men became interested in coaching basketball, that influenced salaries. And a lot of the salaries that were offered a stipend were increased. And I think that made a difference in terms of Title IX.

Bartges: Did you see a change?

⁷ Title IX is a portion of the Education Amendments of 1972. It states, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

Streit: I think with Title IX changes, do I think that's beneficial? It may be in the long run. I think the college level reaps great benefits in terms of monies and budgets and where their programs can go (unintelligible). I think officiating, we've seen a lot of women go (unintelligible) officiating. They've all been replaced by men. (unintelligible).

Bartges: Right. Did you—

Streit: We grew—(unintelligible). It never worried me that I was coaching against a male coach. To me that didn't matter, it just really didn't matter. I just hated to see women leaving (unintelligible) really good role models, more role models for girls. I just hated to see the women leave, but I know a lot of that came from wanting to have families. And it just seems like the married women would be the first to go and then we'd get single women and eventually kids that played college ball. But they don't want to hang in here. They don't have that stick-to-itiveness that I think a lot of us had.

Bartges: Did you feel a need to give back to the sport? You played at Illinois State and did things and came through their PE program.

Streit: I wanted to be coached—I wanted to coach and teach kids things I was never coached, I was never taught, that would have made me a better player. I don't care if it was footwork, how to hold the ball, what the ball should look like on release, follow though. I never got one coaching tip in the four years I played collegiate ball. All we did was work on plays. We never worked on skills.

Bartges: On fundamentals?

Streit: Nothing. And I resented that. And I had talked to other people about their college playing experience, and they had a whole different approach. Don't get me wrong, I liked our coach and everything, but I just thought as a player, I was held back. I wasn't taught the skills. So that's what I wanted to do. And I thought that was the basis for a winning team, and if my kids had good skills, we could be good. Because I wasn't a great player—I was just an average basketball player, better softball player—but I never felt I—if somebody had taught me the fundamentals of shooting, it would have been so nice.

Bartges: Yeah.

Streit: Never got it.

- Bartges: There are a lot of people that still don't stick with fundamentals. You see these kids and you're like, Well, they're too old to change their shot.
- Streit: Or you have coaches that, Shooters are born not made. So it's just so neat to see a kid who never made a left-handed lay-up because their footwork was all screwed up to do it for the first time, or they would have nice spin, follow through on their shot. Now they're hitting shots that before were flat, dead, hit the front of the rim every time—
- Bartges: Or bricks. (laugh)
- Streit: Yeah, that's where the excitement in coaching came for me, and then they just came back for more.
- Bartges: To see the improvement?
- Streit: Yes, they would come back for more. What else can you teach me, coach? What else, what else? That's the kind of kids I had. (unintelligible) those little things that all added up.
- Bartges: Although Title IX was passed in 1972, it didn't really start to be implemented until 1974, 1975, somewhere in that ballpark. Did you see any changes in your funding or your travel, your schedules, publicity, uniforms, coaching, officiating, facilities?
- Streit: Budgeting. Budget—we got more money for all of it, for all of it. We often got money for some meals in tournaments. Got better equipment.
- Bartges: Did you have—
- Streit: So there's the advantage. The type of—the (unintelligible) male, female, boy that was major shifting and turnaround there.
- Bartges: Did your program expand? Like you had a JV team and maybe a freshman team?
- Streit: Sure.
- Bartges: More opportunities?
- Streit: Um-hmm.
- Bartges: Assistant coaches?

Streit: Um-hmm.

Bartges: The late Marianna Trekell in her book *A Century of Women's Basketball* stated that she felt that Title IX forced the issue or the role model for girls' and women's sports towards a more competitive male model of sports. Do you agree or disagree with that?

Streit: Agree.

Bartges: Why, in your experience?

Streit: What other model is there? How do you—

Bartges: Well, there's the AIAW [Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women] model which—

Streit: I'm not—what's that?

Bartges: Versus the NCAA [National Collegiate Athletic Association].

Streit: It's always about who's number one.

Bartges: Not scholarship oriented, more geared towards the competition event as opposed to who's number one. There's not a correct answer here, I'm just—

Streit: I know. I guess, that is how our society is. I mean, we have Superbowls today. Give me a break. I mean, there is betting—that is our society. The emphasis is on who's number one, whether it be at the college level. It is. Our society is so competitively driven, sports particularly.

Bartges: And I know you're not coaching any longer, but do you see in a high school kid the same level of competitiveness now as you did twenty-five, thirty years ago?

Streit: Same levels of competitiveness?

Bartges: The same drive. (unintelligible) let's go with athletes.

Streit: I would have to say so. I'm not sure what their motives are. Their motives might be different. I think so or they wouldn't put in the time that these kids put in.

Bartges: They certainly practice a lot more than we did.

Streit: Oh my God, yeah. That's the main change. But we also have more cheating than we did before.

Bartges: That's true.

Streit: And our cheaters are this (unintelligible).

Bartges: (unintelligible).

Streit: And why are we doing it? Uh-huh. (unintelligible). There's an underlying moral disintegration going on, I think, because the competitiveness has gone overboard. And I do think at some point our high schools need to step back, and they need to say, You're limited to two hours of practice and that's it.

Bartges: Like the NCAA did.

Streit: And I don't know what the NCAA did, but—

Bartges: They put in a twenty hour rule.

Streit: Twenty hours a week?

Bartges: Yeah.

Streit: When did they do that?

Bartges: Oh, it was 1991.

Streit: Does that count conditioning?

Bartges: It depends on how the coach wants to add. Most people can't add to twenty. So you have a twenty-hour rule week, and you then also have a mandatory day off once every fourteen days.

Streit: They're mandated now to do that?

Bartges: Yes.

Streit: It's about time. Who enforces that?

Bartges: I don't know that it's been a resounding success, but it's certainly there.

- Streit: I'm telling you, our high school—public education, we're in trouble. We're in trouble because kids spend more time at practice than they do studying and learning their math and grammar. And you know what, parents buy into it too.
- Bartges: They have to or it wouldn't happen.
- Streit: Oh, yeah. What do you mean, he has to turn this paper in? He's got a golf meet. I've had that. Or she had (unintelligible). She couldn't study for your test because she had orchestra practice. I said, (unintelligible) Well, don't you want her to be on an after school activity? (unintelligible). I said, "She needs to remember why she's here, first of all." (unintelligible) is not going to help her graduate. They didn't like it one bit that I told them that.
- Bartges: But you know what, are they going to still be doing that when they're thirty-five? What are they going to be doing? Priorities is the question.
- Streit: Yeah. I mean, kids are twice the time they spend. And we've now had to close our schools and we're locking the doors (unintelligible). They're putting everyone out at a certain time, because there would be kids there until one o'clock in the morning, twelve, one o'clock in the morning play practice, doing this, this and this. Now they said, Uh-uh, no more, out.
- Bartges: Macomb has done that. They have a security system, and after a certain time at night the alarm goes off. The police show up. So you're not—yeah, it's out of control.
- Streit: The whole thing's out of control. I forgot your question. (laughter)
- Bartges: You answered it, male sports model. Last question I have for you, do you recall anything that I haven't touched on that might help me understand the history of girls' high school basketball from this period, 1968 to 1977? Anything we haven't touched on or any final thoughts or—
- Streit: You know, when they went to the size of the ball—the first two tournaments were played with the male basketball. They should have made that change long ago. They should have made that change early on, and I'm not sure why.
- Bartges: It would have been a big help.
- Streit: Yeah. Wouldn't it?

Bartges: Yeah.

Streit: (unintelligible) but the equipment for girls needed to change. They're finally finding that out in women's golf (unintelligible). I said, They're finally realizing that there's a market for women's clubs, or not—just not scaled back men's clubs. There's a whole different dynamic to the women's game, and they're finally realizing that. It's a shame that wasn't done earlier.

Bartges: Do you think that's one of the things that's had the biggest impact?

Streit: It's made the game much more exciting. I think the three-point shot has added an interesting dimension. (unintelligible) that was one of my big—when I was coaching at Lewis University, I had some real trouble with kids who would take that shot before we worked for a good inside shot. And I (unintelligible) because I was an inside game coach, and I just thought that's all that person wants to do, Give me the ball and shoot (unintelligible). And I hate that about the game now. I just don't think—you watch. The teams that win downstate, they have a dominant inside game. And yes, they can hit from the outside, but it's still a dominant inside game.

Bartges: It's an inside out, not outside in.

Streit: Yeah. But anyway. So I think there were rule changes that were good—the ball change was a good one. I don't know about the jump ball, change of possession, don't know if I agree with that or not. (unintelligible).

Bartges: So rule changes.

Streit: We're doing everything the guys are doing now. If the guys are doing it, then it must be okay.

Bartges: (laugh) Well, I really appreciate you taking the time.

Streit: I'm not sure I added too much to your—

Bartges: Oh, you have.

Streit: You helped me go back down memory lane, though.

Bartges: (laugh) Well, that hopefully was a good trip down memory lane. Thank you very much.

(End of Interview)