

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Gregory (Greg) Bradley

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

Interview # SIH-A-L-2017-042

Gregory (Greg) Bradley, who talks about Illinois sports from the perspective of a former athlete, coach, principal and IHSA treasurer, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Sports Stories – Illinois High School Association Oral History project*.

Interview dates & location:

Date: May 24, 2017 Location: Decatur Christian High School, Forsyth, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:35 / 1.58 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on July 19, 2017.

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

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Transcript
being processed

Abstract

Gregory (Greg) Bradley, Sports Stories-IHSA, SIH-A-L-2017-042

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Gregory Bradley was born on November 26, 1952 in Decatur, Illinois. He grew up in Mt. Zion, Illinois and graduated from Mt. Zion High School in 1970. At Mt. Zion, Greg had a strong interest in sports participating in football, wrestling, baseball, and track. He then went to Western Illinois University (WIU), earning a BS in education in 1975. Later, he earned a Master's Degree in Education at Eastern Illinois University, which eventually led him into school administration. Upon graduating from WIU, Greg worked for three years in the coal mining industry. After this, he went into teaching and coaching at his alma mater, Mt. Zion High School. While at Mt. Zion, he coached softball (head coach), wrestling (head coach), football, track, and baseball from 1979 to 1985. He also played fast pitch softball for teams in Bloomington and Decatur. Greg left Mt. Zion in 1986 to take a principal position at Bement High School, where he also served as a counselor and athletic director. Leaving Bement, Greg moved to Illini Bluffs High School in Glasford, serving as high school principal. While at Illini Bluffs, Greg helped start the school's soccer team and even served as its head coach. He then returned to Mt. Zion as the high school principal and served in that capacity for nineteen years. Greg also began his involvement with the Illinois High School Association (IHSA), first on the Board of Directors. He later became IHSA's treasurer, serving in this non-voting Board of Director's position for seventeen years. At the time of the interview he was a part time administrator for Decatur Christian High School and an assistant softball coach for Mt. Zion High School.

This interview covers Bradley's over thirty-five years in high school activities, starting with his time as a four sport high school athlete, then a high school coach in five sports, a high school principal at three different schools, an IHSA board member, and finally as IHSA's treasurer. Bradley looks at the challenges faced by a high school principal in supervising activities and athletics. He also discusses several issues facing the IHSA, including the multiplier rule, eligibility rulings, expansion of state championship classes, the selection of championship sites, addition of new sports/activities, and broadcasting contracts. He also talks about the litigation over the "March Madness" trademark. Bradley discussed the duties of the IHSA treasurer, the sources of IHSA revenue and its expenditures. He pointed out that key sports such as basketball, football, wrestling, volleyball, and soccer help fund many other IHSA sports and activities. Governance of the IHSA was also reviewed. Finally he talks about the mission of the IHSA in promoting good citizens and greater student participation, along with the future challenges that will face the organization.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois High School Association (IHSA); treasurer duties for IHSA; experiences of an Illinois high school athlete; Illinois sports non-boundary multiplier; expansion of classes for Illinois high school athletic competitions; residence and eligibility for Illinois high school athletes; governance of IHSA; changing conference alignments for Illinois high schools; "March Madness" lawsuit;

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