

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with James (Jim) Corsi

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

Interview #SIH-A-L-2017-070

James Corsi, Hall of Fame high school soccer coach at Gibault Catholic High School, 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*.

Date: August 4, 2017 Location: Belleville, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:31 / 1.51 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on September 28, 2017.

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

Interview being
processed

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Abstract

James Corsi, *Sports Stories-IHSA*, SIH-A-L-2017-070

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Jim was born in Kingston, MA in January, 1939. Growing up in Massachusetts, Jim attended a small high school in Kingston (near Plymouth) and then a consolidated regional school at Silver Lake. Corsi played basketball, track, football, soccer, and baseball while in high school, and graduated from Silver Lake High School in 1957. He then attended the University of Massachusetts and played on the school's basketball team. While at UMass he majored in history and was also involved with the ROTC program. Before joining the Air Force, he worked as a substitute teacher for nine months. Corsi then served for twenty-seven years in the Air Force. While serving in Germany, Jim coached an Army club soccer team which competed against German village teams. After retiring from the Air Force, Jim joined the faculty at the Gibault Catholic High School in Waterloo, Illinois, teaching history. He also coached both boys and girls soccer, as well as boys basketball. His boys soccer team at Gibault competed in seven state finals games, winning three championships. His girls soccer team also made one trip to the state championships, finishing second. Upon retiring from Gibault after twenty years, Jim volunteered as a coach at O'Fallon High School at the time of the interview. In 2009, Jim was inducted into the Illinois Soccer Hall of Fame. He also has received recognition on from the National Federation of High Schools.

This interview covers the experiences of a successful small private high school soccer coach, coaching both boys and girls teams. Corsi discussed the rules of soccer, the strategy involved for each position, the practice schedule format, the scheduling of opponents, coaching philosophy, and game strategy. He explains how a very small parochial school was able to compete successfully against much larger schools, and how Gibault became a state-wide power in the sport. Corsi reflects on safety rules for soccer, officiating and penalty enforcement, and differences between the girls and boys game. He shares some of his favorite memories of Illinois High School Association (IHSA) tournaments, and talks about the growth of soccer's popularity at the youth, high school, college, and professional levels.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Gibault Catholic High School soccer; Illinois High School Association (IHSA) soccer championships; soccer programs at a small parochial high school; high school level soccer rules; soccer safety issues; developing a competitive soccer schedule as an independent school; growth of club and AAU soccer teams; coaching an Army soccer team

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