

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Bruce Howard

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

Interview # SIH-A-L-2016-061

Bruce Howard, an executive with the National Federation of State High School Associations, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Sports Stories-IHSA* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Dec 21, 2016

Location: phone interview conducted at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:27 / 1.45 hrs.

Interview being
processed

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on May 10, 2017.

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

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Abstract

Bruce Howard, *Sports Stories*– IHSA, SIH-A-L-2016-061

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Bruce Howard was born in June, 1954 in Denton, Texas. He graduated from Denton High School in 1972, where he did broadcasting work for his school's football and basketball games with the local radio station. Thus, he was getting an early interest in journalism. Bruce graduated from North Texas State with a degree in Journalism in 1977, and began working at the University of North Texas as an assistant sports information director until 1979. He then went to work in Kansas City for the NCAA, dealing with sports publications. Since 1985 Howard has been with the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). In 2000, the NFHS and NCAA both moved to Indianapolis. At the present, Bruce serves as the historian and Director of Publications and Communication Director for the Association.

This interview explores the relationship of the National Federation of State High School Associations with the Illinois High School Association as well as the other forty-nine states and the District of Columbia. Formed in 1920, the NFHS grew out of an idea generated in the Midwest, including Illinois. The NFHS's mission is to enrich student's educational experiences, develop good citizenship and healthy lifestyles, foster involvement of a diverse population, and promote positive school-community relations. The NFHS produces materials and rule books for seventeen sports, provides professional training materials and courses for coaches and sports officials, reviews and promotes sports safety courses, professional safety training, and updates medical research on matters such as heat, steroids, skin infections, and concussions. Howard discusses the research involved in the newest guidelines related to baseball pitch count, and safety rules regarding football, wrestling, soccer, baseball and softball, and the use of helmets in other sports. He also discussed the Amateur Sports Act.

Subject Headings/Key Words: National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS); Illinois High School Association; creation of uniform high school sporting rules; baseball pitch count in high school sports; cooperation between the NFHS and IHSA

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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