

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dr. Martin (Marty) Hickman

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

Interview # SIH-A-L-2017-017

Martin (Marty) Hickman, the Executive Director of the Illinois High School Association, 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: Apr 14, 2017 Location: Normal, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:59 / 1.98 hrs.

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

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Transcript
being processed

Abstract

Marty Hickman, Sports Stories - IHSA, SIH-A-L-2017-017

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Martin (Marty) Hickman was born on September 12, 1958 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The family moved to Loami, Illinois, and Marty graduated from New Berlin High School in 1976, where he played football, basketball and baseball. He then attended Eastern Illinois University, majoring in physical education, graduating with a BS degree in 1980. Marty's first teaching position was at Girard, where he also coached, officiated basketball and later become the athletic director. He also earned an MA degree from Sangamon State University (now University of Illinois Springfield) in educational administration in 1983. He then became the junior high-high school principal in Bluffs. Following that job, Marty took a similar position at Westmer High School in Joy, Illinois from 1985-87. From 1987 to 1991 Marty was the high school principal in Monmouth, IL. He then joined the Illinois High School Association, serving as an assistant director. Some of his duties included oversight of music, gymnastics, soccer, golf, wrestling and basketball. He implemented the first formal IHSA sportsmanship improvement program and the first IHSA academic recognition program. In 1994 he earned a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Illinois. In 1999, Marty became an associate executive director at IHSA, and dealt with personnel, finance, eligibility, legislation, legal and pension issues. In 2002 Dr. Hickman became the Executive Director of IHSA, and served in that capacity through 2016. During that time new activities and sports were added, including boys bowling, water polo, cheer, dance, bass fishing, journalism, more handicapped sports, and the expansion of class championships. Dr. Hickman also served as a board member to the National Federation of State High Schools Association, the National Association of Sports Officials, the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel, and Special Olympics. In 2007, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Eastern Illinois University.

This interview covers Hickman's involvement with the IHSA over a 25 year period. Topics discussed included eligibility rulings, expansion of class championships, new sports/activities, the problems football presents for Conferences, providing more opportunities for handicapped students through regular and specialized programs, the non-boundary multiplier and the Success/Waiver modifications, sports safety, equipment modifications, litigation challenges, recruiting and maintaining sports officials and modifications in practice and game scheduling.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois High School Association (IHSA); the value of high school athletics and activities; adding cheer and dance to competitions; adding bass fishing to competitions; adding championship classes for sports; sports for students with disabilities; IHSA's private school multiplier; athlete residency/transfer/eligibility; IHSA Strategic Plan; sports safety and medicine.

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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