

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Susan Hinrichsen

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

Interview # SIH-A-L-2016-060

Susan Hinrichsen, whose work at the IHSA occurred during the growth of girls' sports and other activities in Illinois, 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 15, 2016 Location: Galena Territory, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:42 / 1.7 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on May 9, 2017.

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

Interview being
processed

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Abstract

Susan Hinrichsen, *Sports Stories*– IHSA, SIH-A-L-2016-060

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Susan Hinrichsen was born in Rock Island, Illinois in 1953. She started school in Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin, and graduated from Geneseo High School in 1971 before and attended college at Southern Illinois University (Carbondale) on a golf scholarship. She earned a BS in physical education in 1975, and an MA degree in sports management in 1992 from Western Illinois University in Macomb. Sue started her teaching career at Rochester, Illinois, then moved to Peoria Heights, where she also coached several sports from 1977-1980. She moved to Davenport, Iowa in 1980, teaching and coaching at Davenport North, Davenport Central along with one of the Junior High schools. In 1991, Sue worked at University of California, San Diego, then in 1992 began working at the Illinois High School Association (IHSA), where she stayed until 2010. While at the IHSA, Sue supervised golf, badminton, cross country, softball, gymnastics, volleyball, and bowling programs. She also supervised the Scholastic Bowl and the All State Academic Team. During her career, Sue served on the National Federation of High School's softball, and volleyball rules committees and the Equity Committee. She also was on the Solheim Cup Education Committee and President of the Junior Golf Association. For over 30 years, Sue was a member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association. She is the recipient of several prestigious sports awards.

This interview covers Sue's involvement with the IHSA during her supervision of eight different sports. She discusses the role IHSA played in establishing rules for bowling and badminton. Equipment changes especially in softball along with the corporate sponsorship were explored. Rule changes which moved volleyball into a fast paced game were covered as well as the allowance for shorter volleyball players to thrive. The State All Academic Team was discussed, including the important scholarship component. During Sue's time with the IHSA new activities and sports were added, and there was significant growth in opportunities for girls. Sue provided an historic view of how female sports evolved in Illinois from GAA to the fifteen championship series the state currently has. Finally the interview talks about the Iowa three on three girls basketball and the current state of Illinois girls basketball.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois High School Association; girl's athletics in Illinois; IHSA strategic plan of early 1990s; technological changes in Illinois sports; playoff site selections for high school sports; bowling and badminton in Illinois high schools; multiplier rule for private schools

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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