

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Susan (Susie) Knoblauch

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

Interview #SIH-A-L-2017-075

Susan Knoblauch, the IHSA Assistant Director for Cheerleading, Dance, Speech, Debate, Drama and Journalism, 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: Aug 15, 2017 Location: IL High School Association Office, Bloomington, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:32 / 1.53 hrs.

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

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Abstract

Susan Knoblauch, *Sports Stories-IHSA*, SIH-A-L-2017-075

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Susan (Susie) Knoblauch was born in April, 1966 in St. Louis, Missouri. She grew up on a farm in rural central Illinois and graduated from rural Lowpoint-Washburn High School in 1984. While in high school, Susie competed in volleyball, basketball, cheerleading, and performing arts. She was also in the school band's percussion section. Following graduation, she attended Illinois State University (ISU), majoring in speech communication. She also became a cheerleader for the Redbirds, and participated on the ISU Speech Team. Graduating from ISU in 1984, Susie began teaching at Morton High School. She taught broadcasting, drama, and speech there from 1986-2002, and coached the speech team and cheerleading, and directed school plays and musicals. In 2002, she moved to Washington High School, heading the English Department (including speech) and coached the cheerleading squad. Then in 2003, she returned to her former high school at Lowpoint-Washburn, serving as English Department head and overseeing plays and the coach of Speech. In 2004, she joined the Illinois High School Association as an assistant director in charge of tennis, speech, drama, Debate, journalism, and music. She helped organize the state's journalism and cheer contests, and worked with the high school activity directors and the Spirit Advisory Committee. In addition, she helped with the implementation of on-line scoring. In 2014, Susie joined the National Federation of High Schools Association (NFS) (Indianapolis), becoming the Director of Performing Arts and Sports. She also was the NFS representative to their Hall of Fame Screening Committee. In 2016, she returned to the IHSA in her former capacity. Susie is also a manager and judge for the IHSA speech contests and a National Forensic Judge.

This interview covers Susie's involvement with the IHSA as a high school cheerleading, volleyball and basketball player, a band performer, a high school coach of speech, cheerleading, and performing arts, a performing arts director for the National Federation, and a long-time IHSA Assistant Director. Knoblauch discussed the creation of the state's Cheer and Journalism competitions, changes in tennis, the Music Sweepstakes, and the organization of speech, drama, and debate at the state level. She also discussed the role of the IHSA Advisory Committees under her supervision, the Spirit Campaign, and the organization of the State Activity Directors. Finally, Susie reflects on the importance of sports and activities for those attending smaller rural high schools in Illinois.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Lowpoint-Washburn High School; IL high school cheer and dance competitions; IL State Tennis Tournament; Illinois High School Association; IHSA speech tournament; IHSA drama competition; IHSA debate competition; IHSA Advisory Committees; value of sports and activities for rural Illinois students

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