

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with David (Dave) Gannaway

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

Interview # SIH-A-L-2017-009

David Gannaway, an IL High School Association administrator who oversaw wrestling and helped introduce bass fishing as a competition, 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: Feb. 15, 2017    Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 1:53 / 1.88 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 22, 2017.

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

Transcript  
being processed

© 2017 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

## Abstract

### David Gannaway, *Sports Stories-IHSA*, SIH-A-L-2017-009

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** David Gannaway was born on March 12, 1953 in Normal, Illinois. Dave graduated from Normal University High and competed as a wrestler while there. Dave then attended Illinois State (ISU) where he graduated with a BS in physical education and a minor in mathematics. He also competed on the university's wrestling team. Later, he earned a MA degree in educational administration from ISU. Upon graduation, Dave worked in three school districts: Metamora (1976-81), Normal University High School (U-High from 1981-1994) and Morton (1994-99). At those schools, he taught math, physical education, and building trades, and also coached wrestling. While at U-High and Morton, Dave also worked as the activities director. At University High Dave brought back the Bloomington-Normal Holiday basketball tournament. This tournament began with eight teams and then expanded to sixteen, with competition for both the boys and girls. Today, that tournament is called the State Farm Classic. In 1999, Dave joined the Illinois High School Association. While there, he served as the administrator in charge of football, wrestling, wheel chair basketball, baseball, and softball. Another activity Dave helped create at IHSA was the unique Bass Fishing tournament. Dave retired from the IHSA in 2010.

Dave was very active in the wrestling area, even serving as an assistant college wrestling coach at ISU, his alma mater. In addition, he has served for many years as a floor manager at the NCAA and NCWA wrestling tournaments. He was inducted into the Coaches National Wrestling Hall of Fame and has received Friends of Wrestling and Athletic Administrator of the Year Awards. He also had served as President of the Illinois Athletic Directors Association and for three years served as the Chair of the National Federation Wrestling Rules Committee. This interview covers Dave's involvement with the IHSA as a high school wrestler, high school wrestling coach, high school activities director, and an IHSA Associate Director. Dave also addressed the creation of the high school bass fishing competition, the changes in high school wrestling, the expansion to eight football playoff classes, wheel chair basketball as part of March Madness, and the technological, training and licensing of over 12,500 sports officials.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** bass fishing as an approved IHSA event; high school and college wrestling in Illinois; Associate IHSA Director for wrestling; high school level wheel chair basketball; IHSA official training, certification, and licensing; expansion of football classes to eight; litigation against IHSA; federal and state laws impacting Illinois sports

**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.

### **COPYRIGHT**

**The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955**