

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with John Lalor

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Oral History project*

Interview # SIH-A-L-2019-005

John Lalor, Alden-Hebron High School coach for Illinois' new category of eight-man football, 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: Jan 21, 2019    Location: Alden-Hebron High School, Hebron, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

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

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

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 1:25 / 1.42 hrs.

Interview being  
processed

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on July 23, 2019.

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

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# Abstract

## John Lalor, Sports Stories – IHSA, SIH-A-L-2019-005

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** John Lalor was born in Harvard, Illinois in 1962. John grew up on a farm outside of Hebron, Illinois and attend Alden-Hebron schools, graduating high school in 1980. John played football, basketball, and baseball while in high school. He also played trombone and participated in school plays. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville in 1985, majoring in technical agriculture and animal science as well as teacher education. He also played on the varsity football team. John returned to the farm after college. He also became involved in youth sports and served as an assistant coach for football and basketball at Alden-Hebron schools, where he also served as a school board member from 1998-2003. In 2003, John became the athletic director and head football coach at Alden-Hebron. John's teams have participated in thirteen IHSA football playoffs and six conference championships. In 2018, his team played in the eight-man football championship. John also has organized and hosted the McHenry County All-Star Extravaganza, founded the 12th Man Club, organized Giant Fest, a music event to help the athletic department, helped developed the Northeastern Athletic Conference (2011) and assisted with the promotion of eight-man football in Illinois. He is also the owner and operator of Green Valley Stock Farm, consisting of 1000 acres and 250 dairy and beef livestock

During this interview, Lalor talks about the creation of eight-man football at Alden-Hebron High School and the reasons for going from eleven to eight players. He discusses the first year of eight-man football in 2018 as an "IHSA emerging sport." He reviews the high schools involved, the championship at Monmouth College, the different rules, and defensive/offensive strategy. In 2009 the new Northeastern Athletic Conference was formed. John also reflects on the legacy of Hebron's 1952 State Basketball champions. This team, from a small school, was the only one in Illinois basketball history to win the state coming from the district level. A book on this team has been published. In addition, a connection between the film *Hoosiers*, which highlighted an Indiana district champion, and Milan was discussed.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Eight-man high school football in Illinois; inaugural eight-man football season in Illinois; Illinois High School Association; Alden-Hebron schools; 1952 State Basketball championship;

**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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