

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Stanley (Stan) Mietus

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

Interview # SIH-A-L-2018-007

Stanley Mietus, the Thomas Kelly High School boys' and girls' soccer coach, 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 8, 2018      Location: Thomas Kelly High School, Chicago, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

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

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

Interview being  
processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_      Total Time: 1:49 / 1.82 hrs.

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

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# Abstract

Stanley (Stan) Mietus, *Sports Stories – IHSA*, SIH-A-L-2018-007

**Biographical Information/Overview of Interview:** Stanley Mietus was born in Poland in 1966. He grew up in Poland where he developed a great interest in soccer. In 1969, his mother came to the United States, settling in Chicago. Her family joined her later, with Stan arriving in 1977. He attended Gonzales Elementary and Thomas Kelly High School in Chicago. While at Kelly he competed in soccer, baseball, football, and basketball. Stan then went to North Central College in Naperville, majoring in elementary education while also playing on the varsity soccer team. Those teams made the National Championship for the school's Division. Upon graduating in 1992, Stan worked at Morton College and coached. Later in 1992 he returned to Kelly High School, working in security. He coached a variety of sports, including boys/girls' soccer, basketball, and softball. His soccer teams have placed in the IHSA State Tournament, won regional championships, and won several city championships. Mietus coached boys' soccer from 1994-2002 and 2012-2018, and coached the girls' soccer program since 1995.

Mietus looks at Chicago Public League soccer through the eyes of a former Kelly High School athlete and a longtime soccer coach for both girls and boys at Kelly High School. He reviews the changes made at Kelly that led to a successful soccer program. These include building facilities and fields at the high school, hiring Kelly alums as coaches, setting a no cut philosophy, creating underclass teams, cultivating administrative and community support, and promoting the concept of Kelly Pride. Kelly High School was featured in a documentary "In the Game" by Maria Finitzo, which looked at the girls' program over a four-year period. Mietus also talks about changes to the game regarding concussion protocols, player safety, practice schedules, conference alignment, scheduling games, IHSA rules, expansion of IHSA state soccer classes, and the conflicts with Club sports. He also includes many memorable success stories, and stresses the importance of high school sports not only for himself but for all participants.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Thomas Kelly High School soccer; Chicago Public League athletics; "In the Game" documentary on Kelly Girls Soccer; mechanics and rules of soccer; value of high school sports; soccer coaching philosophy

**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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