

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with James (Jim) O'Boye

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

Interview # SIH-A-L-2017-002

James (Jim) O'Boye, a broadcaster who worked with the IL High School Association to broadcast state championship football and basketball games, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois High School Association Oral History project*.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Dec 12, 2016 Location: Santori Library, Aurora, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue. ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:25 / 1.42 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 26, 2017.

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

Transcript
being processed

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Abstract

Jim O'Boye, *Sports Stories – IHSA, SIH-A-L-2016-002*

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: James O'Boye was born on May 25th, 1947 in Chicago, Illinois and grew up on the south side of Chicago. He started high school at Mt. Carmel, Illinois and graduated from Little Flower High School, a parochial school in Chicago in 1965. Due to his interest in sports, Jim found work at some small radio stations in Indiana following his training at the Chicago Career Academic School Broadcasting (1969). He was a disc jockey, sports play by play announcer, news reporter, and salesman. Jim next moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan where he worked in radio sales. Jim returned to Chicago and worked for several major radio stations and radio networks, including the Mutual Broadcasting System, Keystone Broadcasting System, and WMAQ. In 1988, Jim decided to form his own company with a partner. Thus, KOST Broadcast Sales was formed. The company specialized in high school and professional sports. In 1991, KOST obtained the rights to broadcast the Illinois high school state tournaments, first in basketball and then football. This was Jim's first effort at major television network broadcasting. The company had a partnership with the Illinois High School Association from 1991-1997 and again from 2000-2010. In addition, Jim created a high school game of the week in the Chicago land area and produced America's original March Madness series for IHSA. KOST also broadcast championships in soccer, wrestling, and volleyball. At the time of this interview, Jim served as the public address announcer for St. Rita High School (Chicago). Jim has received numerous awards in broadcasting including the IHSA Media Service Award (2015).

O'Boye discusses the creation and expansion of broadcasting the Illinois High School Association championships in girls/boys basketball and football for almost two decades. He also addresses how the IHSA selected KOST Broadcast Sales to do its broadcasts. O'Boye talks about the role of the television executive producer in selecting directors, announcers, color commentators, cameramen, technicians, cable operators and graphics personnel. He also discusses the game of the week shows, and March Madness, a term that originated in Illinois.

Subject Headings/Key Words: KOST Broadcasting Sales; Illinois High School Association (IHSA); the IHSA Sports Network; producing sports events on radio and television; IHSA's game of the week; IHSA and March Madness; radio sports broadcasting; public address announcing

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