

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Anthony (Tony) Rainey

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

Interview # SIH-A-L-2017-058

Anthony Rainey, high school coach who also serves on the Illinois High School Association Board of Directors, 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: May 29, 2017 Location: Stonegate, Aurora, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:42 / 1.7 hrs.

Interview being
processed

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on December 6, 2017.

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

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Abstract

Anthony Rainey, *Sports Stories*, SIH-A-L-2017-058

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Anthony (Tony) Rainey was born in January, 1955 in Chicago, Illinois. He grew up in Chicago and graduated from Wendell Phillips High School in 1972. At Phillips, Tony participated in football, speech and drama. He graduated from Illinois Benedictine (Lisle, IL) in 1976. At Benedictine, he played four years of football and track, two years in wrestling, and was President of the Black Student Union. After graduating from Benedictine, he taught for seven years in Lutheran elementary education in Chicago. In 1988, he moved to Luther South High School (a school of around 600 students) where he had a long career as a teacher, assistant dean, assistant principal, principal, CEO of the school and a coach of football, basketball, track, tennis, baseball, and cross country. While at Luther South, the school won several boys state track championships (1986, 1991, and 1997), and the girls were state runners up in 1986. While at Luther South, Tony served a term as a state-wide Board of Director member on the Illinois High School Association as well as on the IHSA Track Advisory Committee. Rainey has received several recognitions, including the Phillips High School Hall of Fame Award, the Hall of Fame for Track and Cross Country Coaches Association, Athletic Director of the Year, and Coach of the Year. Rainey obtained a Masters in Educational Administration degree from Chicago State in 1994. When Luther South closed as a school, Tony was hired to work in the Chicago Public Schools at Benjamin May, a grade school where he is the athletic director dean, physical education and health teacher. In addition, Tony is an active IHSA official in Track, Basketball, and Football.

This interview covers the experiences of a high school student who participated in football, speech, and drama. The interview also examines the experiences at a Chicago private school, Luther South, and its successes particularly in track. Rainey talks about serving as a state-wide Board of Director, dealing with adding class championships, creating policy on concussions, and adding additional activities/sports. He also talks about working as an IHSA official in football, track, and basketball. A thorough review of the responsibilities of a track official were discussed. A variety of personal memories were discussed from a perspective of a student participant, coach, administrator, official, IHSA board member, and an IHSA Track Advisory member.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Luther South High School athletics; Illinois High School Association officiating for track, basketball, and football; IHSA Track Advisory Committee; small school and private school athletics

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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