

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Ray Torry

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Women's Basketball in IL Oral History project

Interview # DGB-V-D-2004-015

Ray Torry, the former principal and superintendent of Washington High School in Washington, Illinois, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of Ellyn Bartges' Masters Capstone project for Western Illinois University entitled *What about the character of the girls?: Girls and Women's Basketball in Illinois 1968-1977*, and donated to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Dec 20, 2004 Location: Washington, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Ellyn Bartges, 2005 Masters Capstone project at Western Illinois University

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Ellyn Bartges

Transcription by: Nina Weldon, professional transcriber, Boston, Virginia

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:24 / 1.4 = 1.4 hrs

Interview being
processed

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on March 13, 2013.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Ray Torry, *Women's Basketball in IL*, DGB-V-D-2004-015

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Ray Torry was born on September 5, 1933 in Williamson, Illinois. He graduated from Livingston Community High School in Livingston, Illinois in 1951. During high school, Torry participated in baseball and basketball. His talents in baseball allowed him to play four years of competitive baseball for Illinois State University where he earned his bachelor's degree in health and physical education. Torry also earned his master's degree in educational administration.

In the fall of 1955, Torry began teaching and coaching at Leroy High School in Leroy, Illinois. He was the head coach and assistant coach for several sports, including football, basketball, and baseball. He spent two years away from Leroy when he was drafted into the Army. However, after his military tour, Torry returned to Leroy where he stayed until 1964. That fall he began a new job as an administrative assistant at Washington High School in Washington, Illinois. Eventually, Torry held the dual position of principal and superintendent for the Washington school system. With this position of power, Torry became an advocate for girls' interscholastic sports. He believed that girls could play sports on a competitive level. Torry wanted to make sure that all of the students at his school had an equal opportunity. He was part of the Illinois High School Association Sports Advisory Committee during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Torry's position on the committee helped him promote athletics for girls. In 1977 the girls' basketball team at Washington High School placed second in the first girls' basketball tournament in Illinois. Torry was interviewed as the primary administrator at Washington High School because of the early and untimely death of the coach who led the team to the inaugural I.H.S.A. girl's basketball tournament, Jan Smith.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Girls' Athletic Association (GAA); Illinois High School Association (IHSA); Sports Advisory Committee; Title IX; American Medical Association (AMA); girls' basketball; coaching; Livingston Community High School; Illinois State University; Leroy High School; Washington High School; United States Army

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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