

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with William (Bill) Pieper

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

Interview # SIH-A-L-2017-082

William Pieper, Monmouth High School coach for championship winning golf teams, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Sports Stories – IL High School Association Oral History project*.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Aug 22, 2017    Location: Monmouth, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

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

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

Interview being  
processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 1:19

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on January 31, 2018.

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

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# Abstract

## William Pieper, *Sports Stories* – IHSA, SIH-A-L-2017-082

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** William (Bill) Pieper was born in Ft. Madison, Iowa in October, 1944. He grew up in Dallas City, Illinois, and graduated from the town's high school in 1962. He then attended Culver-Stockton College in Stanton, Missouri, graduating in 1966 with a BA in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. He also was introduced to golf while taking a physical education class on the sport. Returning to the western Illinois area, Bill took a position at Monmouth High School teaching science classes and coaching golf and basketball. He spent the next thirty-four years at Monmouth, and coached golf from 1972-1994 and basketball from 1971-77. Bill also earned a MA degree in genetics from Drake University in 1973, and did post-graduate work at Ball State University and the University of Illinois. Bill's Monmouth's golf teams won seven state championships, including six straight titles from 1985-1990. Pieper was also involved with the Illinois High School Association's Golf Advisory Committee, was inducted in the Illinois High School Golf Hall of Fame (1993), and received the Masters Teacher Award, Those Who Excel Award, and the Warren County Environmental Teacher Award. Bill also taught science courses at Carl Sandburg College and coached the Monmouth College girls team from 2001-2003.

This interview covers the experiences of a successful high school golf coach. Pieper discussed the expansion of golf at Monmouth High School, the growth of the Monmouth Invitational, and the promotion of youth golf, beginning in 3rd grade. He discussed the team's relationship with the local golf course, funding for the golf program, practice and scheduling formats, teaching golf skills, and coaching his own son. Bill shares memories from his many years as a coach, the excitement of taking teams to state, and the importance of promoting golf ethics and teaching golf rules. Finally, Bill talks about the unique situation where a future British Open winner practiced and played as an independent with the Monmouth squad.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Monmouth High School golf program; Monmouth Invitational Golf Tournament; golf coaching philosophies; Illinois High School Association; IHSA Golf championships; Gibson Woods Golf Course, Monmouth, IL; Todd Hamilton, British Open winner

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