

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Scott Johnson

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

Interview # SIH-A-L-2016-044

Scott Johnson, Asst. Executive Director of Technology for the Illinois High School Association, 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: Sept. 26, 2016 Location: Illinois High School Association, Bloomington, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:43 / 1.72 hrs.

Transcript
being processed

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on March 8, 2017.

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

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Abstract

Scott Johnson, *Sports Stories-IHSA*, SIH-A-L-2016-044

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Scott Johnson was born in November, 1956 in St. Charles, Illinois. He attended Elgin public schools graduating from Elgin High School in 1974. He earned a BA Degree from the University of Illinois, majoring in Scandinavian Languages, in 1990. While at the University of Illinois, Scott worked at the PLATO Computer Based Education program and at the University's language lab. Interested in technology, Scott worked for Control Data in Minneapolis from 1981 to 1988. Returning to the University of Illinois, he worked for five years with the computer based Education Research Lab and then for one year with the University of Illinois ETAG program.

In 1994, Scott joined the Illinois High School Association, working in the technology field. Some of his first duties involved seeding for the state golf and state track meets, which helped speed up the process by reducing the amount of manual labor needed to host these events. Currently, Scott is an Assistant Executive Director for IHSA, involved with the technological needs of the organization, historical and current record keeping, seeding of the football playoffs, and in maintaining and expanding the historical archives of the Association.

This interview covers the formation of the organization as far back as 1900. Scott co-wrote a book with C.W. Whitten, Exec. Director of the IHSA, entitled "100 Years of Madness." He discusses the IHSA's founding and its reorganization in 1940, the addition of the Chicago Public and state non-public schools, the organization of the state official pool, the role of athletic conferences. He also discussed the restoration of the Girls Athletic Association (GAA) and the influence of Title IX, the movement to expand one class championships, the relationship of the IHSA to the National Federation, and the past historical challenges to IHSA's authority.

Additional topics of discussion include the litigation with the NCAA over the "March Madness" logo, how the fourteen boys and fifteen girls sports developed, the expansion into non athletic activities such as bass fishing, and the expansion in 2018 to include lacrosse. Scott also covers how state and federal laws have impacted the IHSA, especially in the area of Sports Medicine (in particular, concussions). Finally, he reviews the governance of the association, and the IHSA homepage.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois High School Association; technological advances in IHSA programs; IHSA Governance and relationship to the National Federation; March Madness challenges with the NCAA; "100 Years of Madness" by C.W. Whitten and Scott Johnson;

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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