

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with William (Bill) Schalz

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Oral History project

Interview # SIH-A-L-2017-084

William (Bill) Schalz, a highly successful swimming coach at Rosary High School (girls) and Marmion High School (boys), 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: August 22, 2017 Location: Marmion Academy, Aurora, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:32 / 1.53 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on October 11, 2017.

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

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Abstract

William Schalz, *Sports Stories* – IHSA, SIH-A-L-2017-084

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: William (Bill) Schalz was born in Aurora, Illinois in 1961. He grew up in Aurora, attending what was then called Marmion Military Academy, an all-boys school in Aurora. Bill competed in cross country and swimming while there, and after graduating from Marmion, Bill attended Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. While at Loras, he competed on the College's swim team for four years. In his final year, Loras competed in the NAIA swim national championship. As a college student, Bill also helped coach the swimming program at the local parochial school, Wahlert Catholic High School. This helped instill in him an interest in coaching, so upon graduating from Loras in 1984 with a degree in business administration and coaching, Bill returned to Aurora. He worked at the Aurora YMCA and coached their swimming teams. In 1991 Bill became swimming coach at Rosary High School, an all-girls school in Aurora. Rosary has compiled an impressive history under Schalz's tenure, winning state swimming titles in 2006-10 and 2015-17. In addition, they have received four second place finishes and five third place finishes. Bill also is the coach of the Marmion boys swimming team which also has won a state title (1999-2000) and had two second place finishes. At the time of this interview, Bill was the Aquatics Instructor at Marmion. In addition, he formed the Academy Bullets Swim Club. Bill has served on the Board of Illinois Swimming Incorporated, USA Swimming, and the American Swimming Coaches Association Right to Participate Task Force. He sits on the U.S. Swimming International Relations and the Olympic International Organizing Committee. Bill has been a guest lecturer at the European University of Madrid and served as the head coach of the U.S. Swimming National Team.

This interview covers the experiences of a successful high school swimming coach who has led his teams to six Girls State Swimming Championships and one Boys State Swimming Championship. Schalz discussed the creation of the state swimming meet, which from 1961-1975 was a postal meet, into a competitive meet of eleven events, plus diving. He also discussed sharing swim facilities between Rosary and Marmion, the growth of swimming interest at Rosary, the specific events found in Illinois High School Association swimming competitions, and changes made due to his research on swimming instruction. Schalz addressed the challenges of including diving as an event due to pool limitations, student participation in swimming events, and the crucial role swimming plays for handicapped students. He also explored the relationships between Club Teams and the local high school team and shared some of his favorite memories in taking teams to state.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Rosary High School swimming program; competitive high school swimming; Rosary High School, Aurora, Illinois; Marmion Academy; history of high school swimming competitions in Illinois; Illinois High School Association; postal swimming championships of 1961-1975; IHSA swimming competitions; booster club for Rosary High School swimming; handicapped swimming program

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

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