

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Gail Marquis

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

Interview # DGB-A-L-2010-057

Gail Marquis, member of the 1976 U.S. Woman's Olympic Team and a friend of Charlotte Lewis, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of an article for the Journal of Sport History. The interview is included as part of Ellyn Bartges project 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: March 8, 2010 Location: Telephone interview with Gail Marquis in New York, NY from KVSC radio, St. Cloud, MN.

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Ellyn L. Bartges, Ph. D dissertation materials and work for an article on Charlotte Lewis for the Journal of Sport History (Spring 2011).

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Jo McMullen Boyer, director of KVSC radio
Station assisted with studio technology.

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

Edited by: Ellyn Bartges, Interviewer

Total Pages: 34 pages Total Time: 1:19 / 1.32 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on April, 2, 2013.

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

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Abstract

Gail Marquis, *Girl's Basketball in Illinois*, DGB-A-L-2010-057

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Gail Marquis was born on November 18th, 1954 in New York, New York. She graduated in 1972 from Andrew Jackson High School in Queens, New York. Marquis has been playing basketball since the age of twelve, starting out at her local church and then moving on to high school and later collegiate level basketball. She played basketball for Queens College from 1972 to 1976, but dropped out of college in 1976 to play in the professional leagues. She later came back in 1980 and received a B.A. in physical education. In 2006 she received an MBA in business administration from the University of Phoenix.

In 1976, after surviving one of the national open try-outs in Connecticut, advancing to participate in the national women's basketball trials at Central Missouri State College, Marquis was selected to the 1976 U.S. Women's Basketball Team. She was one of twelve players selected to the team, one of only four African-American women selected. The 1976 Summer Olympics (held in Montreal) marked a milestone for women's basketball, as they were the first Olympics in which women's basketball was played. The U.S. team won 3 out of their 5 matches, allowing them to take home the silver medal. Following the Olympics, Marquis played for the French Federation of Basketball, and then played for the United States World University Games Team in 1978. She then came back to the U.S. to play for the New York Stars and the New York Gems in the Women's Professional Basketball League (WBL). Marquis views her experiences and those of her teammates at the '76 Olympics and in professional basketball as having helped to prove the merit and professionalism of women's basketball in its earliest stages of development.

Subject Headings/Key Words: 1976 Olympic Games; Charlotte Lewis; Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (IAIW); 1976 U.S. Women's Basketball Team; Public School Athletic League (PSAL); 1976 Soviet Union Women's Basketball Team; French Federation of Basketball; World University Basketball Team; Women's Professional Basketball League (WBL); New York Stars; Title IX; Queen's College; women's basketball; New York City Basketball Hall of Fame;

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