

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Curtis Haug

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Tumultuous 2020* Oral History project

Interview # T20-A-L-2021-011

Curtis Haug, manager of the Kane County Cougars, a minor league baseball team, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Tumultuous 2020* Oral History project.

Interview Date & Location:

Date: Apr 7, 2021                      Location: Telephonic interview

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

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

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

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_      Total Time: 1:27 / 1.45 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 9, 2021.

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

Transcript being  
processed

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## Abstract

### Curtis Haug, *Tumultuous 2020*, T20-A-L-2021-011

**Biographical Information/Overview of Interview:** Curtis Haug was born in Oak Park, Illinois in 1966, and grew up in Naperville, Illinois, graduating from Naperville Central High School in 1985. While in high school, Curtis competed in three sports: golf, basketball, and baseball. Following high school graduation, Curtis then attended Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida, where he played baseball. Curtis graduated with a degree in business management in 1991. He worked three years for a minor league franchise in Charleston, West Virginia and then joined the newly formed Kane County Cougars in 1993. At the time of the interview Curtis was the Vice President and General Manager of the team, which played in the American Association.

Curtis covers the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world of minor league baseball from March 2020 to April 2021. He discusses the cancellation of the whole minor league season in 2020, and that decision's impact to team revenues and staffing, the impact upon minor league players and coaches, and the eventual contraction of minor league baseball by MLB, which eliminated forty franchises, including the Cougars. He also covered the process the Cougars took to find a new league, the partnership with the Major League's American Association and sources of loans from the federal government, state government, and Kane County. Haug discusses the history of the Cougars, formed in 1991. In 2015, it became the first Single A minor league team to ever draw 11,000,000 fans. Included are also discussions on the team's ownership and governance of the team, the partnership in creating the thirty acres used for the ball park, the affiliation with six major league franchises (Orioles, Marlins, A's, Royals, Cubs, Diamondbacks), the 180+ Cougar players who made it to the major leagues, the fan friendly activities before, during, and after the game, and sources of revenues and expenses for a minor league team.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Kane County Cougars minor league baseball team; impact of pandemic on minor league baseball; Fox River Valley Region baseball; Major League Baseball's decision to contract number of minor league teams due to pandemic;

**Notes 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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