

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Larry Hawkins

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Hawkins, Larry, 1930-2009
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Larry Hawkins,
Dates:	December 2, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:26:26).
Abstract:	Nonprofit chief executive, academic administrator, high school basketball coach, and high school volleyball coach Larry Hawkins (1930 - 2009) founded the Institute for Athletics and Education in 1972, then the Parent Athletic Support Team and the National Parents Committee on Youth Sports. Hawkins also served as mentor and counselor while steering youth towards college as director of the Office of Special Programs at the University of Chicago. Hawkins was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 2, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_283
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Educator, youth organizer, championship coach, and sports authority Larry Hawkins was born on December 12, 1930 in Chicago, Illinois. The Wabash YMCA, the Southside Boys Club and Phillips High School formed a “golden triangle” of athletic activity for youth in his neighborhood. Hawkins attended Douglas Elementary School and graduated from Phillips High School, where he was a star basketball player in 1948. He received an A.A. degree from Wilson Junior College in 1950. Hawkins served in the United States Army from 1953 to 1955. He acquired his B.S. degree from George Williams College in 1956, his M.S. degree in 1972 from George Williams, another M.S. degree from Roosevelt University in 1980 and his Ed.D. from the University of Illinois in 1986.

As coach for Chicago’s Carver High School, Hawkins’ 1962 team featured future NBA champion, Cazzie Russell. This team lost the Illinois state championship by one point. In 1963, Hawkins cultivated the clutch potential in unknown sophomore Anthony Smedley, who hit a shot with five seconds left on the clock to clinch the championship. He coached volleyball at Hyde Park High School and advocated for girls athletics. Hawkins founded the Institute for Athletics and Education in 1972. Through this effort, he prepared hundreds of students to move on to college. Hawkins also founded the Parent Athletic Support Team and the National Parents Committee on Youth Sports. He served with Big Buddies Youth Services, Concerned Coaches of Chicago, the Educational Advisory Committee of the Urban League, the U.S. Olympic Committee on Youth Identification and the First Congressional District Legislative Council, among others. As director of the Office of Special Programs at the University of Chicago, Hawkins steered at risk youth towards college, while acting as mentor, counselor, and teacher.

Hawkins, who lived in Chicago, was sought nationally as an authority on African Americans in sports and has

published widely. In 1984, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from George Williams College.

Hawkins passed away on January 30, 2009 at the age of 78.

Hawkins was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on December 2, 2003.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Larry Hawkins was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 2, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Nonprofit chief executive, academic administrator, high school basketball coach, and high school volleyball coach Larry Hawkins (1930 - 2009) founded the Institute for Athletics and Education in 1972, then the Parent Athletic Support Team and the National Parents Committee on Youth Sports. Hawkins also served as mentor and counselor while steering youth towards college as director of the Office of Special Programs at the University of Chicago.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Hawkins, Larry, 1930-2009

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Hawkins, Larry, 1930-2009 --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

High School Basketball Coach

HistoryMakers® Category:

SportsMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Larry Hawkins, December 2, 2003. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Hawkins, Section A2003_283_001_001, TRT: 0:29:00 ?

Larry Hawkins was born on December 12, 1930 in Chicago, Illinois. His mother, Elizabeth Jackson Hawkins, was born in 1907 in McComb, Mississippi where she taught in a one-room schoolhouse. His maternal uncle Bennett, was a World War I veteran who was lynched in Mississippi. Hawkins' maternal grandfather, Baltimore Jackson, had been a square dance caller. Hawkins later spent summers in Germany working as a folk and square dance instructor. Hawkins' maternal family members worked as sharecroppers and migrated to the South Side of Chicago following World War I. Hawkins' father, Will Hawkins, died when he was nearly eleven years old. Hawkins, his mother and his two siblings lived with his maternal grandparents during his childhood. Hawkins began playing basketball in the gym of Hartzell United Methodist Church which was run by the Southside Community Committee under the direction of Alexander H. McDade. McDade also worked for the Chicago Area Project for the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Hawkins, Section A2003_283_001_002, TRT: 0:28:41 ?

Larry Hawkins attended Stephen A. Douglas Elementary School on the South Side of Chicago, Illinois. He attended Allen Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church and Olivet Baptist Church, where he learned about square dancing. Hawkins talks about the tradition of square dancing in Chicago's black communities. He attended Wendell Phillips Academy High School where Maudelle Tanner Brown Bousfield was named principal in 1927, making her Chicago's first black public school principal. Hawkins played basketball in the recreation center at Hartzell United Methodist Church and on his high school team. He also was a student leader with the Chicago Area Project developed out of the Institute for Juvenile Research. He graduated from high school in 1948 and attended Woodrow Wilson Junior College in Chicago. Due to the mentorship of community organizer Alexander H. McDade, he earned his B.A. from George Williams College in Chicago. As an undergraduate student, he was one of the first black employees at Carson Pirie Scott.

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Hawkins, Section A2003_283_001_003, TRT: 0:29:45 ?

Larry Hawkins was drafted into the United States Army in 1953. He returned to Chicago, Illinois in 1955 and earned his bachelor's degree from George Williams College in 1956. There, he was introduced to men's volleyball. Hawkins joined the faculty at Carver High School in Altgeld Gardens in Chicago as a physical education instructor and basketball coach. Hawkins met four of the future stars of Carver's 1963 IHSA basketball championship team when they were eighth graders in 1957. The group learned strong fundamental skills from the director of the local park district gym, the great basketball player William McQuitter, who coached them. Former NBA player Cazzie Russell joined Carver High School's basketball team in 1960. Hawkins describes his coaching strategy and technique at Carver, and talks about advising Cazzie Russell.

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Hawkins, Section A2003_283_001_004, TRT: 0:29:30 ?

Larry Hawkins coached Carver High School's boys basketball team to an appearance in the 1962 IHSA basketball championship where they lost to Stephen Decatur High School by one point. A number of players on the team were recruited to play college basketball, including Cazzie Russell who attended the University of Michigan. Hawkins talks about memorable games Carver played during the 1963 season; the only game Carver lost that season was against Theodore Roosevelt High School out of Gary, Indiana. In 1963, Carver won the IHSA Championship. Hawkins remembers the crowd of Altgeld

Gardens community members that greeted the school bus when the team returned from the state tournament in 1962 and from winning the championship in 1963. Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley was even there to congratulate the team. Hawkins talks about former player Robert Lewis, considers how 1960s American politics affected high school students in Chicago and reflects upon his career coaching high school sports.

Video Oral History Interview with Larry Hawkins, Section A2003_283_001_005, TRT: 0:29:30 ?

Larry Hawkins joined the faculty of the University of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois as director in the Office of Special Programs in 1968 where he worked with at-risk African American youth. Through the program the youth received counseling, support applying to college and tutoring. Hawkins also took the students on college trips across the United States and field trips to cultural events. Hawkins earned a Ph.D. in early childhood education from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 1980. Following his doctoral work, Hawkins hosted a number of conferences on the intersection of sports and education attended by HistoryMaker Harry Edwards, Dr. Kenneth “Casey” Clarke, Richard Lapchick and others. Hawkins describes the tension between the University of Chicago and Chicago’s Woodlawn and Hyde Park neighborhoods, his hopes for the African American community and how he would like to be remembered. Hawkins concludes by reflecting upon his legacy.