

Spring 2007

## Interview of Bryan Skelly

Bryan Skelly  
*La Salle University*

Kevin Brightbill  
*La Salle University*

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## Field Notes

**Narrator:** Bryan Skelly

**Interviewer:** Kevin Brightbill

**Date:** 4 April 2007, 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** Union Cafeteria at La Salle University

**Language:** English

**Ephemera:** Narrator's personal history as a runner, and current role as La Salle coach.

Skelly is an assistant coach to Charles Torpey on La Salle's track and field team, a former runner at the same school whose primary role is to help the long-distance running programs, both by managing the current team and by recruiting future runners. Like Darcy, he is a La Salle class of 2004 graduate and himself an accomplished runner.

Despite having set the date in advance, the interview almost did not occur, as previous business kept Skelly late, then required him to end the interview curtly. Despite this, I was able to cover almost my entire range of questions, and he did give enough warning towards the end that he would need to be wrapping things up so that I was able to finish properly.

He spoke during the interview no different than he would if I had been talking to him casually – and, interestingly, we had previously covered many of these subjects while simply conversing as track athlete and coach. He was energetic and a little fidgety, likely as a result of coming in late and having to leave early. As a fairly sarcastic and witty person, his answers varied from single-word, direct responses to simple questions, to more far-fetched and involved narratives of other subjects.

He was never anything other than open, and discussed in detail things like his GPA, his scholarship package upon entering La Salle, and a tale of how excessive partying led him to get injured and be prevented from running. Most “background” research came from my own previous experience with Skelly, although I also asked the other two coaches about any specific questions they would include.

I did not know before this interview that Skelly was *not* a graduate-level student at La Salle, and therefore some of my questions related to that field were rendered irrelevant. Despite that, I was able to adapt the course of the questions on-the-fly.

After letting me know that he was running short on time, Skelly answered my last questions and left promptly, walking away with the same speed and energy that he had throughout the interview.