

La Salle University

La Salle University Digital Commons

All Oral Histories

Oral Histories

Spring 2007

Interview of Bryan Skelly

Bryan Skelly
La Salle University

Kevin Brightbill
La Salle University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.lasalle.edu/histdeptohall>



Part of the [Sports Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Skelly, Bryan and Brightbill, Kevin, "Interview of Bryan Skelly" (2007). *All Oral Histories*. 88.
<https://digitalcommons.lasalle.edu/histdeptohall/88>

This Interview is brought to you for free and open access by the Oral Histories at La Salle University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Oral Histories by an authorized administrator of La Salle University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact duinkerken@lasalle.edu.

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.