

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE

Amanda Cooper

SIUE Marketing & Communications

October 25, 2019



Segue Features Michael Moore, Athletic and Equestrian Extraordinaire

On this week's episode of Segue, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's weekly radio program exploring the lives and work of the people on campus and beyond, Chancellor Randy Pembroke interviews Michael Moore, the owner, breeder and managing partner of Saddleback Stables in O'Fallon.

This episode of Segue airs at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 27. Listeners can tune in to WSIE 88.7 FM The Sound or siue.edu/wsie.

Moore graduated from SIUE in 1973. As a Cougar athlete, he played on the University's first men's basketball team, coached by NBA Hall of Fame player Harry Gallatin. Following graduation, Moore continued his pursuit of athletics by coaching soccer on the collegiate and professional level.

"What was it like playing for our first basketball team and Coach Gallatin?" inquires Pembroke.

"I have to pinch myself," responds Moore. "I loved basketball my entire life, but I didn't realize the importance of it or meaning of it at the time. Sometimes, Harry had to tone it down a little bit for us, but he was an incredible coach and great mentor."

"After graduating from SIUE, you started your career as a coach for what is now known as SWIC," says Pembroke. "Can you tell us about what you coached there?"

"I started playing soccer my senior year at SIUE and fell in love with it," notes Moore. "Upon graduating, I took a chance working at Belleville Area College to help start the school's soccer team. I went full force into it, but it was the impetus from SIUE that started that career."

Moore spent the next 20 years of his life as a clinician for player and coach development, along with becoming a spokesperson for Nike's soccer division. After developing a private sports complex in O'Fallon, he was hired by the Illinois Governor's Council on Health and Physical Fitness to promote various initiatives, including the Prairie State Games that took place on SIUE's campus.

A slight career shift allowed Moore to serve as director of business development for the Continental Basketball Association (CBA). Later, he served as president and chief executive officer of State Games of America, president of the Illinois Health and Sports Foundation, and athletic director for St. Louis Community College-Forest Park.

“I’m going to fast forward to another phase of your life when you and your wife, Maureen, created Saddleback Stables,” says Pembroke. “Did that feel like a natural evolution or a big leap?”

“The opportunity fell into our laps,” Moore responds. “We live on my grandparent’s farm, and I loved spending summers out there and riding horses. Maureen’s uncle, Bud Singer, had about 80 racing and breeding horses. When he passed away, we took in a couple of the racing horses and interest grew from there.

“Now, I look at it as being a general manager of a sports team. The horses are the athletes, the trainers are the head coaches, and I’m the general manager evaluating talent. It’s very enjoyable and a continuation of what I’ve already done.”

“Before we run out of time, I want to get to the next phase of your life by talking about Saddleback Chocolates,” says Pembroke. “How did you decide to go in that direction?”

“I have to credit Maureen,” answers Moore. “Once, we spent \$40,000 on a stallion to breed with our mare. After the purchase, the seller gave Maureen an ink pen, and she thought that he needed something better to give to buyers. We started making equine-themed chocolates and went from there.”

Now, they have their own facility in O’Fallon, where fresh Saddleback Chocolates are manufactured daily. Initially, their chocolates were sold on various farms in Lexington, but the business has expanded their services to create chocolates for corporate gifts, weddings and Schnucks stores throughout Illinois.

“When I look back at the things you’ve done, I see a college basketball player, college soccer coach, professional coach, director of basketball operations, CEO of a stable and chocolatier,” notes Pembroke. “Do any of these stand out as the favorite?”

“I’ve enjoyed every one of those jobs,” says Moore. “I don’t know if I could pick just one. There were some challenges, but I’ve learned from every one of them.”

Tune in at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 27, to WSIE 88.7 The Sound to hear the entire conversation.

-SIUE-

The Alumnus Profile below appears at:

<https://www.siue.edu/alumni/profiles/profile-moore.shtml>

Michael C. Moore - '73 BS Physical Education

Athletic Director - St. Louis Community College at Forest Park
Owner of Saddleback Stables - O'Fallon, IL



Michael Moore, a '73 graduate of SIUE, is a former Cougar athlete who helped bring two Olympic-style festivals to the SIUE campus - the Prairie State Games and the State Games of America. Now, Michael is dealing with four legged athletes and was featured in a news segment on KSDK Channel 5.

Moore owns regally bred thoroughbred racehorses at his Saddleback Stables in O'Fallon, IL. One of his two year olds in training is Breeder Cup nominated. The current Moore family farm was purchased in 1950 by his Moore's grandparents. "My father was a horseman and we grew up with quarter horses," Moore said. "We have been foaling, raising and breeding thoroughbreds in O'Fallon the past six years."

Prior to his current position as Athletic Director at St. Louis Community College at Forest Park, Moore managed the highly successful State Games of America, a national Olympic style sports festival held in the St. Louis Metropolitan region in 1999 and 2001. He also served as Director of Business Development and CBA Properties for the Continental Basketball Association, the official developmental league of the NBA. Additionally, he coached soccer on the collegiate and professional level. Moore began his coaching career at the former Belleville Area College (now Southwestern Illinois College) in 1973 after graduating from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in 1972. Moore and his wife, Maureen, have two children, Patrick and Kyle. They own Saddleback Stables, for Thoroughbred racing and breeding and reside in O'Fallon, Illinois.

About SIUE: "From Coach to Cowboy"

"I have always had a love for sports but it was my experience at SIUE that afforded me the opportunity to gain a career in coaching, sports management and athletic administration. The skills I learned in the classroom, the discipline ingrained on the athletic fields, and the opportunity to organize intramural sports at SIUE really laid the groundwork for my career. Major influences were my basketball coach, Harry Gallatin along with soccer coaches Bob Guelker and Pat McBride. More important than the degree conferred, are the relationships that were initiated at SIUE that remain emotionally embedded today. Bob Meyers and I continue to share life's joys and challenges. Even my good friend and Cougar teammate, Jack McDole, showed up to take the horse and farm photos below."

