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Forward Falcons: Women's Sports at Bowling Green State University, 1914-1982

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Forward Falcons
Women’s Sports at Bowling Green State University
1914-1982

Janet B. Parks    Ann Bowers    Adelia Hostetler Muti
Forward Falcons: Women’s Sports at Bowling Green State University, 1914-1982
Janet B. Parks, Ann Bowers, and Adelia Hostetler Muti

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Forward Falcons

FORWARD FALCONS

Wayne R. Bohnstedt

Forward Fal-cons
Forward Fal-cons
Fight for Victo-ry

Show our Spi-rit,
Make them fear it
Fight for dear Ac-Gee.

Forward Fal-cons
Forward Fal-cons
Make the Con-test keen

Hold up the fame of
our mighty name and
Win for Bow-ling Green.
This book started with Addie Hostetler’s master’s thesis in 1988. After a 17-year hiatus, we re-initiated the project in 2005. Along the way, dozens of people and organizations helped us retrieve and document the history of BGSU women’s sport. Without their help, the project simply would not have been possible.

For their assistance, support, and encouragement, we extend heartfelt gratitude to:

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We offer special thanks to Larry Fielding, Indiana University, for reading a very early version of this work and encouraging us to persevere.

**Legend:**
BGN - BGSU Student Newspaper
CAC - Center for Archival Collections
DST - *Daily Sentinel-Tribune*
KEY - BGSU Yearbook
MKT & COMM - BGSU Marketing & Communications Collection
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Dedication

Forward Falcons is dedicated with sincere appreciation and admiration to the athletes, coaches, and administrators who paved the way for BGSU women’s sports. We hope you enjoy your trip down memory lane!

Tribute to Addie from Ann & Janet

In her 1988 master’s thesis, A History of Women’s Sport at Bowling Green State University: 1910-1972, Addie Hostetler [Muti] documented the history of women’s sport at BGSU. Through an impressive collection and analysis of primary and secondary data, she revealed the rich heritage of BGSU women’s sport programs prior to Title IX and provided a record of these programs for posterity. Many of the quotations in the book came from interviews that Addie conducted for her thesis. Without her research and attention to detail, Forward Falcons would not have been possible. Thank you, Addie, for your very important and lasting contribution!
For much of the 19th and 20th centuries, the majority of women’s athletic contests took place within colleges and universities, rather than between them. Perhaps it is for this reason that documentation of collegiate sport has traditionally accorded limited attention to women’s collegiate sport, giving the impression that it was nonexistent (Gerber, Felshin, Berlin, & Wyrick, 1974). One consequence of this practice has been the misconception that women’s competitive sport emerged in U.S. colleges and universities only after the passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. We hope to rectify this false impression, particularly with respect to the women’s sport program at Bowling Green State University.

The Bowling Green Legacy

BGSU was established in 1910 and opened its doors to students in 1914. Most of these students were women, and they began to compete in organized sports almost immediately. Two literary clubs, the Wilsonian Society and the Emerson Society, were established in 1914. Soon after, both societies formed women’s basketball teams, and highly competitive games between the two were scheduled during the year. Following these early athletic endeavors, hundreds of BGSU women competed in sports such as archery, softball, baseball, golf, tennis, field hockey, volleyball, fencing, basketball, soccer, bowling, gymnastics, track and field, lacrosse, swimming and diving, and synchronized swimming. These athletes, in concert with the coaches and administrators who led them, established and sustained a strong women’s athletic presence at BGSU, one on which current athletics opportunities for women are built. These pre-Title IX athletes, coaches, and administrators were, in every sense of the term, “forward Falcons.”

Although the early BGSU women’s athletics teams were characterized as “clubs,” by the 1960s most of them clearly had become varsity intercollegiate teams. They represented BGSU in competitions with teams from other universities, their coaches were full-time employees of BGSU, they practiced on a regular basis, they were administered through an official university unit, and media reports of their activities referred to them as “varsity” and “intercollegiate” teams. The obvious conclusion, therefore, is that although Title IX did create numerous new opportunities for the women of BGSU, the foundation had been laid long before the law was enacted.

In the years following the passage of Title IX, BGSU female athletes began to receive a greater degree of recognition and respect. Along with this post-Title IX validation of women as bona fide intercollegiate competitors, however, an institutional memory loss also occurred. Forgotten were the hundreds of women who had competed
prior to the implementation of Title IX. Forgotten were the many coaches, who had volunteered to coach and officiate and had spent countless unpaid hours teaching skills and strategy, setting up fields, holding practices, and scheduling competitions so that BGSU women who wanted to compete were given opportunities to do so. Forgotten also were the administrators who organized the program, oversaw policies and, in later years, meted out meager finances for the teams. These forgotten athletes, coaches, and administrators had been forward in their thinking and forward in their actions, overcoming many obstacles to sustain and advance athletics programs for BGSU women.

To their surprise and delight, well-deserved recognition was given to these forward Falcons on February 4, 2005. At this time, the BGSU Department of Athletics, with the assistance of a committee of former coaches, acknowledged BGSU’s pre-Title IX women athletes at a celebration aptly titled, *The Leadership Years.*

In the presence of over 500 friends and family members as well as university faculty, staff, administrators, and attendees at an academic conference being held at BG, more than 200 Falcon alumnae received their long-overdue varsity letters. Special recognition was also given to their coaches and administrators, without whom they would not have been able to compete.

**Purpose and Organization**

The purpose of this book is to document and preserve the history and accomplishments of the BGSU athletes, coaches, and administrators whose vision made current BGSU women’s athletics programs possible. It is intended to celebrate the past, not to serve as a record book.

The book encompasses activities that occurred between 1914 and 1982, the years during which most BGSU women’s sports teams were coached by female physical educators, and
the program was administered according to standards recommended by organizations composed primarily of women. In 1982, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), a governing body for men’s intercollegiate sport, elected to include Division I women’s programs under their purview. This action ultimately led to the demise of the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW), the national governing body for women’s intercollegiate sport. Since then, BGSU women’s athletics accomplishments have been well-documented; consequently, we did not include them in this book.

We begin with a chapter that provides an overview of women’s collegiate sport in the 20th century, nationally as well as at BGSU. The organization of this chapter is based on the structure provided by Uriel Simri (1983). Chapters 2 through 14 briefly describe specific BGSU teams that enjoyed varsity status at any time between 1914 and 1982. Chapter 15 highlights legacies of the forward Falcons in the form of named spaces and awards as well as some of the numerous accomplishments of the coaches, athletes, and administrators of the women’s program. Chapter 16 incorporates poignant memories and reflections of numerous individuals who participated during the time periods covered in the book. Finally, the Epilogue presents images from the 2005 Leadership Years Celebration and the Title IX conference. Throughout all of the chapters are comments and reminiscences from athletes, coaches, officials, and administrators, as well as many photographs and clippings, thus providing a narrative and visual history of women’s athletics at Bowling Green State University from 1914 through 1982.

Forward Falcons reveals that, without question, countless college women have always wanted to compete in sport. During the time periods covered in the book, some women’s desire to compete was so strong that they were willing to challenge prevailing social norms to do so. The idea that women of previous decades were not interested in sport is a myth that the stories in this book happily and undeniably debunk. We are hopeful that current and future generations will learn from these stories and will gain renewed respect for the pioneers who paved the way for the extraordinary intercollegiate athletics opportunities enjoyed by contemporary female athletes.

We are hopeful that the information in the book is accurate. If, however, you find errors of omission or commission, please bring them to the attention of Steve Charter, University Archivist (scharte@bgsu.edu), who will take your suggestions under advisement. We will keep all suggestions and accompanying documentation on file with a copy of Forward Falcons in the BGSU Center for Archival Collections for use by researchers.

And now, we go forward, Falcons...
Historical Overview of 20th Century U.S. Women’s Collegiate Sport
Throughout the history of the United States, women’s participation in sport has floundered or flourished in concert with a society whose view of their participation has been influenced by cultural factors such as religion, social Darwinism, medical assumptions, and gender role expectations. In the Colonial days of the 17th and 18th centuries, for example, Puritanism severely restricted recreational activities for both women and men who resided in the New England states. In some other areas of the country, however, social, non-competitive games and dance were considered acceptable, particularly for the wealthier women of the leisure class.

In the 19th century, many people in the medical community were concerned about alleged negative effects of physical activity on a woman’s reproductive and psychological health. These concerns worked to discourage college women’s participation in sport. On the other hand, some enlightened educators, such as Catharine Beecher and Matthew Vassar, believed that women students would actually benefit from physical exercise. These educators advocated training programs designed to counteract the excessive strain that intellectual work was presumed to put on women’s health. It was also expected that exercise would help women develop the strength to fulfill their domestic duties more efficiently and that a vigorous woman would be in a better position to assure the stability and harmony of family life.

The 19th century was a time of social evolution in the U.S. The first wave of feminism, spawned by the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention on Women’s Rights, led to a resurgence of interest in women’s suffrage, the entry of more women into the workforce, and the growth of women’s interest in sport. One of the more popular sports was bicycling, an activity that liberated women from the confines of the home and the restrictive clothing of the time, leading Susan B. Anthony to observe,

“I think it [the bicycle] has done more to emancipate woman than any one thing in the world!”
(Cited in Harper, 1898-1908)
From their inception, women’s collegiate sports programs were typically administered through institutions’ physical education programs. Due to the efforts of many forward-thinking physical educators associated with these programs, women in the last half of the 19th century began to experience more opportunities to participate in sport. Prominent among these women was Senda Berenson, a physical educator at Smith College in Massachusetts. Berenson is credited with introducing basket ball [it was two words back then] to women and organizing the first women’s interclass basketball game in 1892, only one year after it had been invented by James Naismith at a YMCA training school in Springfield, Massachusetts. In tune with the times, Berenson also modified the rules of the game so that it would be less strenuous and, therefore, more “suitable” for women. In 1893, Clara Gregory Baer introduced basketball to women at Sophie Newcomb College in New Orleans. Two years later, she wrote the first unofficial rules for the game that she named “Basquette.”

At both predominately White institutions (PWIs) and historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), women students enthusiastically embraced basketball, and it became wildly popular on campuses across the country. Indeed, basketball’s place in the history of women’s sport is secure, as the first women’s intercollegiate athletic contest was the 1896 basketball game between Stanford and the University of California-Berkeley in San Francisco (Emery & Toohey-Costa, 1991, p. 138).

**The Adolescent Years: 1900-1918**

As the basketball craze swept the country, girls and women in high schools and colleges across the U.S. formed varsity basketball teams and began to compete extensively, including participation in championship contests. Photos of many of these teams were published in the 1905 Spalding’s Official Basket Ball Guide for Women. Senda Berenson, editor of the guide, extolled basketball’s benefits with the following passage:
Now that the woman’s sphere of usefulness is constantly widening, now that she is proving that her work in certain fields of labor is equal to man’s work and hence should have equal reward, now that all fields of labor and all professions are opening their doors to her, she needs more than ever the physical strength to meet these ever increasing demands. And not only does she need a strong physique, but physical and moral courage as well.

Games are invaluable for women in that they bring out as nothing else just these elements that women find necessary today in their enlarged field of activities. Basketball is the game above all others that has proved of the greatest value to them. (pp. 33-34)

During these years, intercollegiate contests for women became increasingly popular across the country. Swimming and tennis competitions were held in Oregon, basketball tournaments were organized in the Midwest and South, and field hockey and basketball were the chief sports in the East. Intercollegiate sportswomen were rewarded with school symbols such as letters, sweaters, and chevrons. Facilities for sporting activities proliferated, and women had access to gymnasiums, natatoriums, and playing fields. Even as sporting opportunities for women increased, however, female physical educators were beginning to drift into two philosophical camps—those who endorsed “play for play’s sake” and conformity to middle-class notions of femininity and those who advocated for more competitive programs to meet the needs of highly skilled athletes. These divergent points of view affected the development of college women’s sport for many decades (Coffey, 1965).

Standards for Competition
As sport for college women developed during the 20th century, it became apparent to female physical educators that athletic opportunities for girls and women needed guidance. Toward that end, numerous organizations, most of which were associated with PWIs, emerged. These organizations proposed standards for competition, recommended best practices for the administration of women’s sport and, ultimately, sanctioned national championships. They also changed their names several
THE second annual demonstration of the Physical Training Department was given in the gymnasium, March 27. The purpose of these demonstrations is to acquaint the public with the character of the physical training carried on at the college to safeguard the health of students.

The large number of people present at the demonstration showed that the public is intensely interested in this phase of the college work.

Program

Part I
Training School

1. The Muffin Man (Song and Rhythmic Game) ........................................... Third Grade
2. Black Tom (Active Game) ........................................................................ Fourth Grade
3. Ace of Diamonds (Rhythmic Game) .......................................................... Fifth and Sixth Grade Girls
4. Athletic Memetic Drill ............................................................................... Fifth and Sixth Grade Boys
5. Indian Club Relay Race ........................................................................... Fifth vs. Sixth Grade
6. Dance ........................................................................................................ Elizabeth Beyermann (Third Grade)

Part II
College Girls

1. Indian Club Drill ........................................................................................ College Class
2. Swedish Gymnastic Drill ........................................................................... College Class
3. Wand Drill ................................................................................................ College Class
4. Maze Tag .................................................................................................. College Class
5. Indian Club ................................................................................................ Miss Stella Canright
6. (a) Norwegian Mountain March ................................................................. College Girls
    (b) Blecking. ..............................................................................................
7. Minuet ....................................................................................................... Sophomore Girls

The last three dances were given in costume and were very effective. In the “Norwegian Mountain March” and in “Blecking” the girls wore the costume of the Norwegian peasants. The sixteen girls in the Minuet were dressed in the quaint costumes of the early Colonial days.
Emerson Basketball Team

Keller  Bechtle  Crane  Lattin  Bimer

Jensen  Spicer  Miller
times as they merged and morphed through time. We attempted to minimize confusion associated with the history of these organizations (see table 1 at the end of this chapter).

With the increase in opportunities for women to participate came the question of how and by whom women’s sport would be governed, a question that would not be definitively answered for many decades. The struggle for control of women’s sport began in 1914, when the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) sponsored a national swimming meet for women, thus becoming the first national sport organization to recognize and register female competitors. Although women had never questioned men’s authority to govern men’s sports, they had always expected to have the autonomy to govern women’s sports (Hult, 1991, p. 14). The actions of the AAU clearly challenged that authority.

In 1917, two new women’s organizations were formed, both of which provided guidance for women’s sport (Gerber et al., 1974). Blanche Trilling founded the Athletic Conference of American College Women (ACACW) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the National Committee on Women’s Athletics (CWA) was created within the American Physical Education Association (APEA). The ACACW focused on working with the student members of the Women’s Athletic Associations (WAAs) and Women’s Recreation Associations (WRAs) that had been emerging on campuses across the country since the first one was founded at Bryn Mawr in 1891 (Ainsworth, 1930, p. 76). The CWA, the precursor of today’s National Association for Girls and Women in Sport (NAGWS), addressed standards and best practices for women’s sport participation, always adhering to the motto, “The sole purpose for athletics for girls is the good of those who play” (Metheny, 1955, p. 270).

The CWA traced its roots to an 1899 APEA conference in which Alice Foster, a medical doctor and physical educator from Oberlin College, had presented a paper on women’s basketball. Following this conference, a National Women’s Basket Ball Committee was appointed, with Foster chairing the committee (Spears, 1991). As a result, the first official women’s basket ball rulebook, Spalding’s Basket Ball for Women, edited by Senda Berenson, was

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**Left and Next Page**

*Two of the campus literary societies formed women’s and men’s basketball teams. Beginning in 1918 these teams, the Emersons and Wilsonians, competed with the results being published in the student newspaper, the Bee Gee News.*
Wilsonian Basketball Team

Canright  Tucker  Foltz
Good     Leatherman  H. Housholder
N. Housholder  Kiefer
published in 1901. When the CWA was established in 1917, the National Women's Basketball Rules Committee became the Women's Rules and Editorial Committee, which continued to oversee the rules for girls and women's sports for the next several decades (Hazelton, 1954).

Members of both the ACACW Faculty Advisory Committee and the CWA were primarily female physical educators who feared that the men of the AAU would gain control of all women's sport and would exploit female collegiate athletes for the enjoyment of spectators. The AAU was powerful in amateur sport in general, while the ACACW and the CWA exercised influence over women's school sport. Beginning with conflicts among the AAU, the ACACW, and the CWA over the proper place and conduct of women's sport, governance of women's sport remained a hotly contested issue for the next 65 years!

Common Misconceptions

Across the years, several misconceptions about women's intercollegiate athletics have emerged. The first is the idea that the female physical educators who set the standards for women's athletic opportunities did not believe in athletic competition. The truth is that they did believe in competition. Many of them, however, were opposed to some aspects of the men's more competitive and commercial model—aspects such as sponsorship, gate receipts, and extensive travel. The underlying philosophy of most of the female physical educators in the early days was that the sole purpose of sport was “the good of those who play.” As Eleanor Metheny stated in a retrospective presented at the 1958 convention of the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (AAHPER):

> But always, no matter what we argued about, we were genuinely concerned with “the good of those who play.” And we shall go on talking about that, no matter what our structure, our squabbles, our name, because this is really the reason for our existence as an organization. (Metheny, 1965, p. 147)

Another misconception is that all of the leaders who addressed standards for women's sport had a single, monolithic view of the nature of the competition associated with sport participation. The truth is that among both PWIs and HBCUs, diverse opinions existed. From the beginning, there was tension between those who believed in “play for play's sake” and its attendant conformity to middle-class notions of femininity and those who promoted more intense competitive opportunities for very highly skilled female athletes.

A third misconception is that highly skilled female college students at PWIs were denied opportunities for competition while those attending HBCUs were encouraged to compete. The truth is that the sporting experiences of college women depended on the philosophy of the physical educators in their institutions. Consequently, women at some PWIs and some HBCUs enjoyed highly competitive experiences while the competitive experiences of women at other PWIs and HBCUs were more restricted.
1919-1928
The Decade of Battles

Women’s Field Meet, May 1926

One of the big events of the year is field day. Last spring 67 girls participated in the meet. Every girl was offered an opportunity to try her skill because of the wide scope of events. Those who were good runners, or enjoyed that sport, were entered in the 50 yard dash, 75 yard dash or the shuttle relay. Some excelled in hurdles and they participated in the the 60 yard low hurdles. Others entered the meet for the basketball throw, baseball throw, high jump, discus throw or javelin throw.

The day of the meet was an ideal one. The meet was well handled by the heads of Women’s Physical Education Department. Ora Knecht was in charge of announcing results and calling events. Girls from classes taught by Mr. Landis timed the various events.

No girl was allowed to enter more than three events. The following girls won first place in the various events: Lucile Wahl, Sadie Bell Clement, Esther March, Merle Gray, Agnes Spierl, Olive Bowersox, Marion Kishman, Mae Grendow, Virginia Smith, Loretta Seiple and Helen Whipple.

Above
A Field Day was held in the late spring. This event was similar to a play day except that play days involved combined competition with two or more schools, and field day competition was within the college.
In 1923, Carolyn Shaw became the first woman appointed to the physical education staff. With her appointment, the women’s sport program at Bowling Green began in earnest. The slogan of the women’s physical education department was “Athletics for All.” Bowling Green did not compete with other colleges at this point because of the distances that women would be required to travel. Even so, as early as 1925, Shaw taught a basketball coaching class. Although the class was not offered for credit, many women took the class for practice in coaching and refereeing class games. During this time period, other members of the physical education staff who assisted Shaw with the women’s sport program included Cora Purdy (1924-1925), Myra Stephan (1925-1926), Dorothy Haskins (1926-1928), and Helen Marva Hough and Dr. Helen Todd, both hired in 1928. Shaw retired from BGSU in 1950.
The “Roaring Twenties” that followed World War I brought economic prosperity to many Americans, as well as more social change to the country. In 1920, one of the goals of the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention was realized when women won the right to vote. More women began to work outside the home, and women’s fashions reflected this new independence as flappers cut their hair, shortened their skirts, and shed their corsets. In tune with the liberated attitudes of the time, women’s participation in sport became more extensive.

While more women were taking to the fields, courts, and pools, disputes over the conduct and control of women’s collegiate athletics raged on. The AAU and the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) continued to attract female athletes to their competitive events at the national and international levels. At the same time, some women physical educators worried that the commercialism and competitiveness of men’s athletics would infiltrate and contaminate collegiate women’s sports. Although no studies had been conducted regarding the effects of competition on women’s reproductive health and psychological stability, these concerns also continued to be part of the national debate about the degree to which women should participate in sport.

**Standards and Practices**

In 1923, the Women’s Division of the National Amateur Athletics Federation (WD-NAAF), under the leadership of First Lady Lou Henry Hoover, was established to promote athletic competition for girls and women and to improve the standards and practices in women’s sport programs. Members of the Women’s Division were also interested in research on women’s sport participation, and they published the results of several studies of high school and college sports programs (Sefton, 1941).
The Women’s Division established a 12-plank Platform that provided the working basis for the ideal program. Among the more interesting and insightful planks was the one suggesting that the administrators, leaders, and officials associated with girls and women’s sports programs should be qualified, well-trained women. Helen McKinstry provided an interesting rationale for this plank when she stated,

...(Women understand the physical, mental, and emotional actions and reactions of adolescent girls as few men can, no matter how sincere may be their interest and desire to do the best for their students. What is more, girls know that women instructors understand them and that bluff, evasion, and explanation have far less effect on women instructors than upon men. (Sefton, 1941, p. 21)

With the exception of representatives from the American Child Health Association and the YWCA, the members of the first executive committee of the Women’s Division were female physical educators, who were affectionately referred to as “The Old Guard” (Sefton, 1941, p. 6). These leaders believed in the value of physical activity and sport for all girls and women, but they differed sharply from the AAU and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) regarding commercialism and championship competition. The philosophy of the Women’s Division was based on three principles: participation for all rather than just for the exceptional few, participation for the joy of the game rather than just for winning, and development of the participants through sport rather than sport for the enjoyment of the spectators. Their vehement opposition to championship competition was not, as was frequently alleged, because they were prejudiced against “unfeminine” pursuits. To the contrary, they encouraged women’s participation in competitive sport but believed that championship events violated their principles (Sefton, 1941).

The philosophy of the Women’s Division, which was shared by the CWA of the APEA, was appealing to many female physical educators, and the emphasis on participation in intramurals, interclass contests, play days, sports days, and telegraph meets began in earnest at numerous universities. These programs were...
1925 KEY

1928 KEY

BGN, JUNE 1928

W. A. A. BANQUET

On May 31st the Women’s Athletic Association met at the Women’s Club for their Annual banquet. The theme of the banquet was baseball and tiny bats and “ball” programs were laid at each place. The tables were very pretty with the orange flowers, orange candles and orange programs.

The program was baseball as well as decorations.
The First Inning—Virginia Smith.
Batter Up—Eva Beiswenger.
Tagging All the Bases—Esther Ross.
Musical Selection—Kathryn Sams.
Scoring A Run—Miss Shaw.
Box Scores—Pres. Williams.

Pres. Williams gave awards to the following girls:
- Emblem—300 points
  Mildred Danklefsen 300
  Helen Fillman 325
  Helen Graham 425
  Margaret Kellar 300
  Verona McKee 200
- Chevron—600 points
  Anna Stifert 650
- Double Chevron—900 points
  Virginia Smith 1110

Between courses the girls sang the W. A. A. songs and all in all it was a fine banquet.
consistent with the slogan of the Women’s Division: “A Game for Every Girl and Every Girl in a Game,” and they were designed to allow as many women as possible to participate (Sefton, 1941, p. 12). In these programs, the emphasis was on the joy of sport as well as its character-building potential and social values. As a result, varsity competition, which was presumed to favor the few highly skilled athletes at the expense of the masses, fell into disfavor.

Another significant event occurred in 1923, one that affected intercollegiate sporting opportunities for African American women. The College Alumnae Club, which had been founded by Mary Church Terrell in 1910, expanded and became the National Association of College Women (NACW). The purpose of this organization, which is known today as the National Association of University Women, was to advance Black women in higher education (Perkins, 1990). In the years to follow, the conservative position of the NACW regarding intercollegiate sport for women would have a chilling effect on athletics programs at many HBCUs (Liberti, 1999).

In 1927, the Committee on Women’s Athletics (CWA) became the Section on Women’s Athletics (SWA) within the APEA (Hult, 1985). The following year, the SWA formed the Women’s National Officials Rating Committee (WNORC) and began to establish rating boards in universities across the country (Koenig & Weston, 1991). The intramural, interclass, play day, and sports day games were often used to rate officials, and for the next several decades, generations of women physical education majors were required to earn officiating ratings as part of their professional preparation programs. Sports Guides, which the Rules and Editorial Committee of the CWA had begun to publish in 1922 (Hazelton, 1954), were an indispensable source of information for these women.

**SPORTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN**

Although intramural and extramural sport programs were very popular in academic institutions, they did not totally replace the highly competitive sporting opportunities that women outside the schools had grown to expect. Some women participated in national and international AAU and Olympic events. At the local level, industrial leagues and community-based sport
2019-1928: The Decade of Battles
for women also thrived. At some universities, female physical educators believed that highly skilled college women should have more challenging opportunities to compete. Contrary to the standards recommended by the CWA and the Women’s Division of NAAF, these educators fielded varsity sport teams for women at their institutions.

Similarly, the extent of African American college women’s sporting experiences depended on the philosophies of the leaders at the specific school they attended. At some HBCUs, sport was seen as a vehicle for personal and educational development, and female students were encouraged to develop their skills and compete at a high level (Cahn, 1994; Chepko & Couturier, 2001). At others, the leaders embraced philosophies more reflective of prevailing middle-class social norms (Wiggins & Miller, 2003).

At the collegiate level across the country, therefore, women’s sporting experiences were somewhat of a “mixed bag” as competitive athletics programs were either restricted or expanded, depending on the philosophy of the individuals responsible for them within specific institutions. It would not be long, however, until widespread pressure to provide varsity competition for women would alter the collegiate landscape.

Above
Intramural tennis players participated in ladder or round robin tournaments to identify the campus champions.

Experimental fields of oats and rye were situated along Ridge Street in 1923. The present Fraternity Row was the site of a demonstration barn, and a cow pasture occupied the space that is now the Commons. All this was a part of our agricultural department. It was in the cow pasture that Miss Shaw finally found a place to start an archery course. There was one problem, however. Every night the cows were led out, and they chewed the straw on the targets. A man with a two-wheeled cart was hired to pick the targets up at night and replace them in the morning. (B-G News, November 10, 1959, p. 6)
In 1929, the economic prosperity of the ‘20s came to an abrupt halt in the form of the stock market crash and the onset of The Great Depression. As a result, people had little money and more leisure time. The popularity of women’s sport skyrocketed, particularly with regard to industrial leagues and Olympic sport. To accommodate the large influx of sport enthusiasts, governmental agencies began constructing numerous physical education and recreation facilities around the country. This building boom would last for several years.
By 1929, 500 women were participating in the major sports in addition to class gymnastics instruction, which was a requirement for all students. The 1930 Key gave women’s athletics a substantial amount of attention. Included in this Key was a section containing coaches’ comments about the benefits of physical exercise and sport. Interestingly, a description was provided of the competition held between town and college teams for all women’s sports. The town was divided into North and South sides and competed with college teams organized by dormitories.

Ruth Milkey Holzhauser attended Bowling Green from 1926 to 1930. She played baseball, track, tennis, and basketball. She described earning her letter sweater as a senior at Bowling Green in 1930: “It took me all the four years to earn it, to play on teams, hike, etc. When I first taught, I wore it on cold days. When my students asked me what B.G. stood for I said, ‘bad girl’ and they believed me.” (Letter to Janet Parks, February 26, 1990)
SHOULD WE OR SHOULDN’T WE?
Although women were participating in sport at record levels, some in the medical field continued to suggest that women who participated in strenuous physical activity were at risk of damaging their reproductive organs and acquiring a masculine appearance. On the other side of the argument were physicians who believed that differences between women and men were more cultural than biological and that women would benefit from participation in sport. Irrespective of the controversy, women’s sports at the international and Olympic levels developed during this decade more than they had at any time in the past (Simri, 1983).

During these years, the growth of women’s sport outside the educational setting had a dramatic effect on the development of opportunities at the collegiate level. Inspired by the exploits of women such as aviator Amelia Earhart and tennis legends Ora Mae Washington and Helen Wills Moody, female college athletes sought out greater numbers of opportunities and aspired to greater heights of achievement. They participated extensively in intramurals, extramurals, play days, and sports days at numerous colleges and universities.

As women’s sport grew and prospered, many female physical educators became concerned that the programs were being patterned on men’s programs.
and that female athletes were being exploited and “masculinized,” especially through their participation in AAU and Olympic events. Consequently, in an effort to enhance the public image of female athletes, professional leaders increased their efforts to emphasize the character-building aspects of sport, its inherent social values, and the importance of maintaining a feminine appearance and “ladylike” demeanor. Indeed, many female athletes of this era and later will recognize the lectures of their physical education instructors, as expressed by Margaret Coffey (1965):

\[
\text{The sportswoman learned to compete in her own local environs, to refrain from chewing gum, to accept an official’s decision, to act with moderation, to play for play’s sake, and to be a lady at all times. (p. 41)}
\]

Although many women physical educators of these days were opposed to public display of women’s physical skills, a number of them argued quite to the contrary, suggesting that public demonstration would make sport more popular and would encourage even more women to play. These physical educators advocated for women’s right to varsity competition, stating that they deserved the opportunity to develop their skills and that they would also “learn the give and take of life” through playing games (Gittings, 1931, p. 11).

In 1929, a sharp contrast between PWIs and HBCUs materialized when Tuskegee Institute in Alabama established one of the first college women’s track teams. Tuskegee offered work-aid scholarships to promising female athletes, trained the women alongside the men, and added women’s events to their men’s Tuskegee Relays. Unlike their counterparts at most PWIs, female Tuskegee athletes also participated in AAU competitions and in the Olympic Games, dominating the track and field events from 1937 to 1948 (Chepko & Couturier, 2001; Smith, 2000).
Women’s Athletic Association

The W.A.A. is organized to promote the spirit of play among all college women — “play for play’s sake.” Tennis, hockey, soccer, basketball, baseball, archery, horseshoes, volley ball, hiking, bowling, track, and shuffleboard, together with suppers and entertainments make up the program of the year, which is brought to completion with “Play Day” and a banquet.

*Every girl who likes to play*
*Belongs to W. A. A.*
*And W. A. A. follows this scheme*
*“Every girl on a team.”*
Policies and Conduct of Women’s Sport
Organizations that desired to set policies for the conduct of college women’s sport continued to promulgate standards throughout this period. In 1929, an NACW conference was held at Howard University. The women in attendance addressed four issues concerning women students in HBCUs. One of those issues was intercollegiate athletics, which they strongly discouraged because of what they considered to be “undesirable physiological and sociological features” (cited in Liberti, 1999, p. 575).

In 1932, the Section on Women’s Athletics assumed the new name of National Section on Women’s Athletics (NSWA) and continued to propose standards for all aspects of sports for women. It also planned convention programs, established officiating boards, and encouraged research in women’s athletics. The NSWA might be best remembered for a number of important publications relative to women and sport produced by the Rules and Editorial Committee. The most prominent of these publications were the aforementioned Official Sport Guides, which continued to be exceptionally valuable to physical educators and coaches for their articles on topics such as sport skills, strategies, officiating, and philosophy (Hult, 1985). Indeed, from these early days through the mid-1980s, no female physical educator worth her salt would have dreamed of teaching or coaching without the current edition of her ever-present Sport Guide.

In 1933, the ACACW became the Athletic Federation of College Women (AFCW), which subsequently became the Athletic and Recreation Federation of College Women (ARFCW) with state chapters across the country (Schwarz, 1936). As had been the case with the ACACW, the AFCW/ARFCW endorsed the philosophy of the Women’s Division of the NAAF and the CWA/NSWA. Interestingly, though, this philosophy was slowly beginning to depart from the previous rigid stance against varsity competition. The change was evident in the 1937 NSWA standards, which stated, “Occasionally it is stimulating to play against a very superior opponent but it is not wise to plan such competition often” (NSWA, p. 55). The standards go on to note that in many schools, the interscholastic program for girls had been entirely replaced by intramurals in order to provide competitive opportunities for more
Wakan Campfire
Planned For Grads

The Women's Athletic Association is planning a campfire and vespers service, at which the graduating members of the organization will be entertained as guests. It will be held at 6:30 Sunday evening, May 26th, in the hills on the left of Brigham's lane at the end of West Wooster St.

This campfire for the graduates is new this year, and has been named "Wakan", an Indian word meaning "service."

Arrangements are in the hands of several committees, headed by the following people: Wanda DeMongeot, program; Mary Tate, invitations and publicity; Margaret Hurlburt, food; Anne Rimelspach, collections; Betty Boyer, general arrangements, and Dorothy Nantell, site.

The cost is twenty-five cents for non-graduating members, to cover the cost of foods; and this amount should be turned in to the Collection committee within two weeks.

Invitations are extended to all graduating members of the organization, whether seniors or graduating sophomores, to attend this campfire service.

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BGN, MAY 15 1935

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Shaw  Hartman  Cannon

Directors of Women's Athletics
participants but that this action “...does not indicate that the interscholastic system is any better or any worse than the intramural system” because “There is no standard system for all situations” (p. 53). This acknowledgement of the value of interscholastic sport signaled that the NSWA position regarding competition for women was becoming more progressive.

For some HBCUs, however, the tide was turning the other way. In 1958, for example, the NACW went so far as to suggest eliminating intercollegiate athletics for women at HBCUs and replacing them with intramurals and more play-like activities. In addition, a new organization—the Women’s Sports Days Association (WSDA)—opposed competition for women in HBCUs, favoring compliance with society’s notion of femininity (Grundy, 2000; Liberti, 1999). Clearly, at the end of the 1930s, the door to college varsity athletics appeared to be opening for some women but closing for others.

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**The Bowling Green women participated in their first play day in 1931 at Ohio Northern. The activities included everything from basketball to croquet with the day ending in a box lunch picnic on the football field. In 1932, Toledo University invited Bowling Green to participate in a play day. Bowling Green reciprocated by inviting the T.U. women to campus in 1933. The sports played were field hockey, soccer, and volleyball. These play days were sponsored by the women’s athletic associations of the two schools. The day’s program consisted of the agreed upon sports followed by a supper furnished by the hostesses. Some sort of entertainment was provided in the evening, usually folk dancing or a sing along. The exchange of play day invitations continued into the 1950s. During these play days, the focus was on sport as a means of socializing.**

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**GIRLS OF T. U. TO VISIT B. G. FOR SPORT’S AFFAIR**

Members of the Women’s Athletic Association of Bowling Green will be hostesses to girls from Toledo University, when members of the T. U. association visit Bowling Green, Friday, Nov. 24, for an afternoon of sports. Hockey, soccer and volleyball games are planned to last until 6:00 p.m. in the evening. The hour from 3:00 to 4:00 is to be set off for registration.

Supper for the T. U. girls will be served after 6:00 in the Women’s gym. A program of games and old fashioned dances has been planned for the evening. Any members of the W. A. A. who wish to attend the supper must sign up at the W. A. A. bulletin board.

Girls in charge of arrangements for the occasion are: Mary Silva, general chairman; Mabel Grauer, entertainment; Ruth Andrews, hockey; Dorothy Zieg, soccer; Helen DeTray, volleyball; and Genevieve Swain, refreshments.
Starting in 1934, a regular Homecoming weekend activity was a hockey game between WAA members and returning alumnae. The game was usually accompanied by a tea or luncheon. This tradition continued well into the 1960s.
Women’s intercollegiate athletics developed during this era. In a departure from the format of playing several sports for play days or sports days, the WAA invited Toledo University to send their field hockey team to Bowling Green in 1935. This annual field hockey match between BGSU and Toledo was repeated for several years. In 1937, two hockey games were played and Bowling Green won both. The social aspect of the events continued with the two teams going to dinner together, and then as a group they sang and danced. A 1937 Bee Gee News article described the game as intercollegiate.

**Sticks Click On the Hockey Field**

Not only sticks against sticks, but also sticks against ankles, shins, and what have you? Bruises were evenly distributed between twenty-five of the Toledo University and an equal number of Bee Gee girls at the annual hockey play day which Bowling Green enjoys with Toledo. The score however, was 2-1 in favor of Bee Gee, decided in a snappy overtime period. We are looking forward to our trip to T. U. in the spring.

**WOMEN’S SPORTS**

Some of the girls from Toledo University will be guests of the W. A. A. Friday afternoon. At three o’clock there will be the intercollegiate hockey game, and any spectators, who are interested, are quite welcome to come out and watch the game. Rita Snyder, who is the head of hockey and who will be Captain of the varsity team, says, “We have a good team, and are planning to defeat T. U.” After the game the Toledo girls will be guests at a special Sports Supper sponsored by the local W. A. A.
BGSU women also competed in archery. “We had telegraph meets in archery and you had someone come out and certify that the lengths were the exact distances and you had some outside judging to see that the scoring wasn’t tampered with. And everybody would shoot a certain weekend for two to three days and by telegraph you sent the results of certain individuals.” (Dorothy Luedtke, March 31, 1988)
The WAA members continued to be active on the state and national levels of organizations governing women's athletics. Their trips were financed largely by money raised during the annual WAA Carnival that was held in March. These carnivals were huge successes on campus, many times drawing over 500 students and faculty. The carnivals included game booths, circus-like performers, and traditional carnival foods.
CAC mid-1950s
Women’s sport was in the midst of rapid national and international development when World War II broke out in Europe in 1939. Throughout the six years of the war, many international sporting events were held in abeyance. Sport at the national level, however, continued in many countries, including the United States, where teams such as the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, the Philadelphia Tribune Girls basketball team, and the barnstorming All American Red Heads professional basketball team enjoyed great popularity.
World War II changed the emphasis of the women’s physical education department at Bowling Green. Its main job became the preparation of women for war work through calisthenics, body mechanics, hiking, and marching. “Keeping fit can be fun” and “For victory you must help by keeping fit” became the new catch phrases for physical educators during the war years.

The women’s physical education department offered an extensive activity program that even included a course in touch football.

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Women’s Physical Education Largest in University History

By Betty Long

“This year’s physical education program for women is the largest in the history of Bowling Green,” Miss Gertrude Eppler, head of the Women’s Physical Education Department, said today.

“We have one of the largest major Physical Education Departments in the state. There are over one hundred majors and minors enrolled, forty-six of which are freshmen. Nearly seven hundred girls are participating in the various service classes and WAA activities. Because of increased enrollment of women students, it was necessary to add two extra courses in swimming, two in bowling, and one in hiking.”

“After an increase in staff, it will be possible to add Fencing and Lacrosse as part of the major program in the department.”

Due to the shortage of men coaches in high schools, women are asked to assist in training the boys in football. As a result a short course of touch football has been added to the curriculum of the physical education majors.

The three divisions of the department are working very hard to make this year’s program a success. The physical education division is furnishing every girl an opportunity to have a choice in some service course sponsored by the Physical Education Department; the WAA division offers a 4 o’clock recreational hour four days a week, it also sponsors the following clubs, Table Tennis, Modern Dance, Archery, Badminton, Bowling, Outing Club, and the Swan Club.

Miss Eppler has been working on a major course in Recreation in the Physical Education Department because of the demand for recreational leaders.

“Due to the increase in demand for camp counsellors it is hoped that in the future the Department will have a camp site so that the students will receive practical camping experience in addition to the theory camp course which is already being offered in the Physical Education Department.”

The department is planning to have a table tennis and badminton exhibition in the near future.
During the war, the attention of the country was focused on physical fitness because many of the young men drafted into military service for World War II had been found to be alarmingly unfit. This emphasis on fitness led to physical education curricula that offered more fitness activities to women as well as to men. The rationale for these programs was that women needed strength and stamina in order to replace men in the workplace.

The women of the NSWA recognized and embraced their opportunity to contribute to the war effort. Their unique role was suggested in the 1942 comments of Ruth Atwell, NSWA Chair, as she exhorted her colleagues to join with her in providing sport-related expertise to the National Defense Program,

"...our work is an essential phase of the country’s defense program. Through it, we contribute to the morale of the people. I am convinced...that our programs are vitally needed and that we who are trained leaders should make work on expanded and better programs our “defense job”.... Please write me suggestions or questions whenever you have them.” (Diamond, pp. 197-198)

Members of NSWA rallied to this call by expanding and improving basic training as well as sports and recreation programs for servicewomen. The opportunities presented to women through these programs would have a profound effect on the expectations of postwar female college students.

STANDARDS FOR COMPETITION
In addition to engaging in fitness activities, college women were also clamoring to participate in competitive sport. Female physical educators were enthusiastic about offering women these opportunities—within limits. Organizational leaders believed that particular principles and procedures should be established to protect female athletes from the highly competitive and commercialized atmosphere that characterized men’s intercollegiate and AAU programs.

In 1942, the WAA donated $135 from the proceeds of an indoor carnival to the United Service Organizations (USO) to help provide comfort, services, and entertainment to U.S. troops. WAA was the first campus organization to contribute to the USO. (Bee Gee News, November 25, 1942, p. 3)
In 1940, the Women’s Division of the NAAF merged with the NSWA and the following year, the NSWA published “Desirable Practices in Athletics for Girls and Women” in the Health and Physical Education Journal (Duncan, 1941). Proposed as a guide for the administration of girls and women’s athletics, this document addressed the following topics: standards (e.g., athletic activities for girls and women should be taught, coached, and officiated by qualified women); leadership (e.g., the teacher or coach should establish the concept of treating the opposing team with courtesy); health (e.g., athletes should be required to have an annual examination by a qualified physician); types of competition (e.g., intramurals, extramurals, play days, sports days, and telegraphic meets); general policies (e.g., social events associated with athletic contests should be promoted); publicity (e.g., the achievement of the whole group rather than individuals should be emphasized); and education of spectators (e.g., pre-season demonstrations should be held, in which fouls, current rule changes, and team plays could be explained). Many of the concepts embodied in the 1941 guidelines have withstood the test of time and continue to be viable principles for athletic competition today. For example, athletics programs still require physical examinations, and most coaches still encourage athletes to treat the opposition with courtesy. Other guidelines, however, such as the notion that competition should be restricted to a small geographical area, were abandoned as organized women’s competition intensified in subsequent years.
During this era, a trend began that was to lead women’s athletics toward the formation of varsity teams at Bowling Green. With the increased enrollment at the University, more individuals desired leadership opportunities. One answer to the situation was to increase the number of clubs on campus. Many of the women sport enthusiasts formed groups such as the archery club, the bowling club, the badminton club, the table tennis club, and the Swan Club. These groups remained financially connected to the WAA and the women’s physical education department, but many developed their own guidelines for membership. Gertrude Eppler was named director of the women’s physical education department in 1941, a position she would hold until her retirement in 1969.
INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORT
The year 1941 produced the first U.S. national intercollegiate athletic championship event for women, a controversial golf tournament held at The Ohio State University. Although the National Association of Directors of Physical Education for College Women (NADPECW), the NSWA, and the ACACW joined forces in vehemently opposing this event (Lumpkin, 1977), it went on as scheduled, with 30 women from 19 different universities competing. The fee for the tournament was $5.00, which included greens fees and transportation to and from the Scarlet course (Ohio State University, 2007-2008).

During this period, most PWIs in the U.S. contented themselves with women’s sports programs that adhered to NSWA guidelines. Among HBCUs, on the other hand, tension between a desire to conform and a desire to compete persisted. Irrespective of the debate, both Tuskegee Institute and Tennessee State continued to train the highly skilled female track and field athletes whose AAU and Olympic accomplishments would bring them worldwide attention and respect.

OPPOSITE PAGE
The Swan Club, or synchronized swimming team, was perhaps the best known sport club. Formed in 1939 by Jean Drake [Hendrickson], its purposes were to promote interest in swimming and provide recreational opportunities for advanced swimmers. The Swan Club performed during the men’s intercollegiate swim meets and put on their own show every spring.

GIVE THE GIRLS A GYM!
It is a known fact a girl’s gymnasium is useful and necessary, and it is appreciated that the girls have been taken care of as well as it is possible under existing circumstances. However since they have become accustomed to adjusting themselves to rather cramped quarters, are they going to have even those taken away? Should not the women physical education instructors be given a break, and be provided with an adequately large gymnasium to take care of the large number of girls in their gymnasium classes?

Since the Training School gymnasium has been built, it has been used for regular college classes instead of for Training School purposes, because the girl’s gym was not large enough. There also seems to be about one half dozen showers for the use of over five hundred girls.

A large gym has been built for the boys, but the girls’ gym remains the same.

Miss Shaw and Miss Hartman, physical education instructors for women, have been cheerful about the lack of adequate gymnasium space. Now when the main gym is being torn up, the need at this time is felt—to inquire why adequate provisions for physical training for girls cannot be arranged here.

ABOVE
The completion of the Natatorium and the Women’s Building provided much needed space for the growing women’s sports program. The Natatorium opened on October 9, 1939 with women’s swim classes. The Swan Club performed in this facility until it was razed in the fall of 1979 to make way for what would become the Eppler Complex (Bee Gee News, October 11, 1959, p. 4).
The Women’s Building was dedicated on January 19, 1940. It provided two gyms for physical education classes, classrooms, shower rooms, laundry, locker rooms, and offices for faculty and staff. One of the highlights of the dedication evening was a table tennis match between Bowling Green women and a team from Findlay College. In 1944 the Women’s Building also served as a dormitory for women who moved from Williams Hall when the Navy used it to house soldiers being trained at the University.
Intersorority competition in intramurals began in 1943. Tournaments for intramural competition and participation in national telegraphic tournaments continued.

Women Golfers Form Campus Organization

Feminine golf aspirants of Bowling Green State University held an organization meeting Saturday morning, February 22 in the women's lounge. The following officers were elected to head the newly formed Women's Golf Club: Jean Smith, President; Ann Murry, Vice-President; and Mary Honor Crowley, Secretary-Treasurer.
In 1945, Iris Andrews organized the first fencing club on campus. According to Andrews, “I saw we had seven face masks and foils. They weren’t being used. I thought, ‘How ridiculous. Here is this beautiful equipment.’ So I organized the first fencing club, and we had an intercollegiate fencing club. We fenced against Ohio State and Michigan.” (March 31, 1988)
The archery club continued to compete on an intercollegiate level throughout this period. The team entered the Intercollegiate Telegraphic Tournament and the October Postal Tournament, which Bowling Green won five times between 1940 and 1945. The club also sponsored the Ohio-Intercollegiate Tournament in the spring and fall of 1944.
The post-World War II period was a time of changing gender role expectations in the United States. The achievements of the women collectively known as “Rosie the Riveter” had demonstrated that women were capable of far more physical exertion and athletic accomplishment than previously had been believed. During the war, many female physical educators had built and administered fitness programs in schools and on military bases, and competitive sports had been a major part of these programs. The experience of the American woman now included athletic competition, and she believed it was not only acceptable, but also highly desirable. This enlightenment resulted in intercollegiate competition for women becoming somewhat more palatable to female professional physical educators, as long as it was governed by strict NSWA guidelines (Gerber, 1971).
Consequently, after World War II, college women continued competing in intramurals, extramurals, telegraph meets, and sports days. The sports programs served as training grounds for female officials because many were needed to satisfy the NSWA preference for female officials. Colleges and universities responded to this need, and by 1949, the Women’s National Officiating Rating Committee (WNORC) noted that 93 rating boards were active in U.S. colleges and universities (Schellberg, 1949).

On the downside, many of the women who had assumed jobs outside the home during the war had to give them up to returning servicemen. To make matters worse, the specter of a Cold War with Russia loomed ahead, and women were expected to project the image of the United States’ economic superiority by showing that they could stay home, take care of their children, become efficient consumers, and fight Communism by conforming to White, middle-class values (Chepko & Couturier, 2001). Although women had developed more self-confidence in their physical abilities during the war years, and they were able to participate in sport to a greater extent, they were still expected to engage only in feminine sports. Among the activities enjoyed by the women of this era were dual and individual sports such as bowling, skiing (both water and snow), golf, and tennis. Field hockey, which U.S. women had been playing since 1901 and was considered an acceptable sport for women, remained popular, as did synchronized swimming.

The 50s were the return to the home for the women who were out working during the war, and the commercials that you see show women in heels and dresses in their kitchens, dancing around the kitchen hugging their refrigerators! I mean, come on! That was the era. No wonder girls were not involved with sports. But at Bowling Green, there was the Swan Club, and there was a competitive swim team, and I finally got to do something, thanks to Ms. Luedtke and Ms. Andrews. Ah, what an experience.” (Lynne Fauley Emery, Feb. 5, 2005)
Sports In Shorts

By Kathy Arnold

The boys from Sherwood forest can go back to their place in history now. Bee Gee’s Archery Club, hitting the top mark in the flight of arrows department, took their place this fall.

Final results in the Ohio Intercolligate Postal Archery tournament show the Bee Gee female stringers in top place, ranking eight other teams. Tallies ran like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Hits</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bowling Green</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>1591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiram 1st Team</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>1400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Wesleyan</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>1194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denison</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>1060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami University</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>1087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio State University</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>1040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling Green 2nd Team</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>1031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiram 2nd Team</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiram 3rd Team</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western College</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>833</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Individual scoring for girls on the Bee Gee club team was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girls’ Names</th>
<th>Hits</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Hobensack</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Bottgerus</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carnoch Lawler</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy Neundor</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In over all competition, the local team placed entries in 2nd, 4th, 10th, and 14th places for individual ability.

Basketball Competition

Never suspended and better each year, that’s the basketball intramural tournament. Some keen competition has been seen in the three different leagues.

Any team that might be scheduled for a ‘bye’ must report for roll call if the members want WRA credit. No one may play on a team unless her name has appeared on the team entry sheet as of Monday. Check your entry sheet, because anyone playing who isn’t eligible will disqualify her team.

If any player didn’t have the heart exam by last Monday, don’t report to play on a team because it will disqualify the team.

Physical Education Club

A future in the Physical Education Club will be in the making Wednesday, Jan. 5, for that’s when the playnight for faculty and students in the department is scheduled.

Members are urged to stop around the North Gym at 7 p.m.

A word to the wise—if you haven’t paid your Physical Education Club dues see your class representative before Christmas. Make your class the first one to reach 100 per cent.

Basketball Clinic

Congratulations to Dorothy Forin, chairman of the Basketball Clinic and Rating Board, and to all others who helped make the clinic a great success.

Attending the program which was held last Saturday were 230 students and 61 faculty members representing 44 different schools from Ohio and Michigan.

Bee Gee’s cagers scored a victory over the University of Toledo team in a demonstration play; the final score being 14 to 6.

Other events of the day included discussions on inter-school competition, interpretation of rules, demonstrations of fouls, methods of coaching, and officiating techniques.

WRA Initiation

Women’s Recreation Association initiated 43 sports enthusiasts into their organization last week.

Merry Christmas

That’s all for this year. See you in 1949.
In the early 1950s, the well-trained Russian female athletes came onto the international sport scene and dominated the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki. In response, the United States Olympic Committee began encouraging colleges and universities to develop their women’s varsity athletic programs. The women of the National Association for Physical Education for College Women (NAPECW) played a role in assuring that there were sufficient numbers of female physical educators to take on this task. As Nancy Bouchier (1998) noted,

> At war’s end it [NAPECW] used Army Air Forces (AAF) resources to uncover ex-service women trained in physical education and recreation and place them back into civilian jobs in the profession. (p. 66)

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**Co-ed’s Physical Education Dept. Has Over 140 Majors**

**BY HAL MILLER**

Did you know that BG can claim one of the largest women’s physical education departments in the country? According to Prof. Gertrude Egpler, director of the Women’s Physical Education Department, the 140 P. E. majors enrolled in the department this year make the department one of the largest of any college in the United States.

To aid in promoting physical education, the department sponsors the Women’s Recreational Association. This group was organized for the purpose of promoting interest in all sports and physical activity for women, as a means for promoting physical efficiency and developing a high degree of sportsmanship and school spirit. Every woman student is given an opportunity to become a member by meeting the attendance requirements of one seasonal sport or one club and paying the WRA dues.

The WRA is composed of the following clubs: archery, badminton, bowling, modern dance, tap dance, swim and tennis. Other clubs sponsored by the WRA are the Cygnets, Splishers, outing, fencing, golf, and the Square Dance Club.

These clubs sponsor their individual programs which include professional and social events. Approximately 450 women students participated in these clubs last year. The intramural program also is having sports managers on the represented in the organization of Women’s Recreational Association Board.

Specific events sponsored by the Association are: sports days for the various activities, Carnival, a Dance Club Recital, Swan Club Show, Basketball Clinics, The Annual Banquet, and a Northwest Ohio High School Sports Day.

The policy-forming group of the WRA is known as the Women’s Recreational Association Board. The board is composed of the presidents of the clubs sponsored by the WRA managers of the intramural sports, and officers of the board. With the guidance of the faculty adviser, Miss Dorothy L. Forna, this is the group which organizes and administers the various activities of the program.

WRA officers are Phyllis Jones, president; Betty Thomas, vice-president; Gerry Neff, recording secretary; Ida Huebner, corresponding secretary; Pat Daugert, treasurer; Jane Abbey, publicity chairman; Ann Nelson, historian-reporter; Carol Greve, social chairman; and faculty adviser, Miss Dorothy L. Forna.

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**Opposite Page**

Field hockey continued to enjoy enormous popularity among BG women. In 1950, 13 Falcon players were selected to travel to Bloomfield Hills, MI to represent the university in the Great Lakes Field Hockey Tournament.

**Left**

The WAA became the Women’s Recreation Association (WRA) in 1948. Most of the members of the WRA were physical education majors who went on to teach and coach after graduation.
In the post-war United States, women’s sports at most PWIs were still guided by NSWA and WD-NAAF ideals. Similarly, liberal arts HBCUs, such as Howard and Fisk, continued to favor the values promoted by the NACW and the WSDA. On the other hand, administrators of programs at some HBCUs such as Tuskegee Institute, Florida A & M, Alcorn A & M, Prairie View A & M, Alabama State, Fort Valley State, and Tennessee State, acknowledged and applauded women’s athletic achievements, including the economic advancement that women’s athletic equality with men might bring (Wiggins & Miller, 2003). Tennessee State, in particular, actually increased the emphasis on women’s track and field in the postwar years and, as a result, dominated international track and field events from 1947 into the 1960s (Chepko & Couturier, 2001).

By 1952, even at PWIs, attitudes toward varsity athletic competition for girls and women had begun to change. Highly skilled female athletes were actively seeking competition at a higher level, and physical educators were more open-minded about providing those opportunities (Hult, 1999). Clearly, the winds of change were blowing in girls and women’s athletics programs, but no one could have predicted just how much change would occur over the next 30 years!
Alice Marble, one of the world’s greatest tennis players, told students last Wednesday that they have grown up when they realize “they have nothing to fear but themselves.”

The outstanding athlete contended that good living consists of proper food, proper exercise, and the power of relaxation.

Advising aspirants to “aim high at a goal,” the queen of the tennis courts said, “Work and pray hard for that goal. All celebrities have worked hard for success and have employed patience and self discipline,” the versatile sports-woman continued.

How time is utilized makes the difference between a success and failure according to Miss Marble, who has four occupations and ten hobbies.

She directs her energies toward giving exhibitions, writing articles, designing women’s sport clothes, and lecturing. An excellent cook, she also finds time to play the Mexican guitar and sing.

Displaying her skill in a demonstration after her speech, the most outstanding athlete of 1939 showed the techniques used for the forehand and backhand strokes, and serving.
Dorothy Luedtke explained how the clubs within the WRA were started. “We didn’t start teams unless there was a group of students that were requesting it. I didn’t set out just to start basketball teams. But we had students who were skilled and wanted competition and they were going to Toledo and trying to play on AAU teams on which they had to play three or four games in one day in a tournament. We decided as a profession that we would better help our students to enjoy competition by at least having some professional encouragement.”

(March 31, 1988)
The Swan Club continued to be very active. They sponsored swim meets between dormitories and competed intercollegiately. According to Iris Andrews, who coached the Swan Club from 1945–1976, “We did competition in 1947 and 1948 and we had to do some club competition because, again, there weren’t any adequate pools in Ohio for us to compete. We were allowed the proximity of 200 miles in which to travel” (March 31, 1988). Ohio’s first synchronized swimming workshop, held in April 1948, was sponsored by the Bowling Green Swan Club. The club grew so large that the first-year members were named Cygnets (baby swans). They went through practices and tryouts before becoming actual members of the Swan Club.
An outgrowth of the Swan Club was the Splashers, the speed swimming club. Organized in 1948, the Splashers’ original objective was to “attend intercollegiate invitational swimming meets and to visit colleges in Ohio and Michigan to tighten the bonds of friendship between Bowling Green State University and other schools.” In a display of amazing clairvoyance, the Splashers “promised to develop into a club of major importance in future years” (Key, 1950, p. 182).

The bowling club competed in telegraphic meets and postal tournaments and sponsored sports days in 1947 and 1948. In 1948 the club won the annual intercollegiate telegraphic meet sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Teachers College. Interest in the bowling club was so great that restrictions for membership in the club were necessary.

Dorothy Fornia was a sports specialist who came to BGSU in 1947. She taught courses for first-year physical education majors and soccer service classes. She was also in charge of junior majors who were officiating and coaching. Fornia served as the advisor of the WAA/WRA from 1947 to 1953, sponsored the bowling and badminton clubs, coached the first field hockey team, and administered the intramural program (Bee Gee News, Oct. 8, 1947).
When we thanked Dorothy Fornia for her contributions to the BG women's sports program, she replied, "It was my pleasure" (March 7, 2010).

By 1948, a woman needed to participate in eight seasons of sport and have membership in two physical education clubs to win her BG sweater. In March 1949, the WRA Board voted to discontinue awarding letter sweaters. Subsequently, they voted to discontinue awarding medals and letters as well. The WRA philosophy was that students should participate in a sport solely for its intrinsic rewards (Dorothy Luedtke, January 15, 2010).
The WRA continued to sponsor all of the clubs plus the annual High School Play Day, which became a Sports Day in 1950. Sports days were held throughout this period with schools such as Heidelberg College, Toledo University, and Ohio Northern University. These sports days usually included two or more schools with the schools exchanging invitations, which allowed the women to visit various campuses to meet and compete with a large number of people.

**Left and Above**
Shirley Spork, a founding member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA), accepted a teaching position at BGSU in 1950. The following year, she organized a women’s golf match in which BG golfers competed against Peggy Kirk’s [Bell] golfers from Findlay College. Shortly thereafter, Spork left BGSU to play on the LPGA tour (Shirley Spork, March 4, 2010).
In the early 1950s, the United States was still recovering from World War II. Society was generally conservative during these years, but a significant social event occurred in 1954 when the Supreme Court, in *Brown v. Board of Education* (Topeka, KS), ruled that public educational institutions could not be segregated by race. Society continued to focus on civil rights, and the 1960s brought developments such as the establishment of John Kennedy’s Presidential Commission on the Status of Women, passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, second wave feminism, the founding of the National Organization for Women, the hippie generation, and campus demonstrations in opposition to the military draft and the Vietnam War. Freedom from traditional social constraints was the byword of the 1960s.
The Bowling Club, which described its emphasis as “fun and friendliness more than keen competition,” swelled from 14 members in 1945-1946 to 100 members in 1958-1959. Telegraphic tournaments continued to be the primary form of competition.
Women’s sport was dramatically affected by this renewed emphasis on freedom. On college campuses across the country, unprecedented numbers of women, both students and physical educators, were clamoring for varsity competition and national championships. Although society in general was becoming more accepting of female athletes, the notions of previous generations regarding what was appropriate activity for women remained relatively unchanged. Femininity continued to be a hot topic in U.S. women’s athletics, as physical educators urged those in charge of college women’s sport teams to always consider the “American ideal” of womanhood. Indeed, in the view of many leaders, ladylike behavior was considered to be synonymous with conduct befitting a sportsperson (Hartman, 1958).

GOVERNANCE

As interest in women’s sport grew, governance structures continued to evolve, all the while remaining firmly in the hands of female physical educators. In 1953, the NSWA became the National Section for Girls and Women’s Sports (NSGWS) within AAHPER. Four years later, the NSGWS became the Division for Girls and Women’s Sports (DGWS) and published the 1957 Statement of Policies and Procedures for Competition in Girls and Women’s Sports (Conlisk, 1957). In concert with guidelines espoused by previous governance organizations, these standards noted that participation in competitive sport was the privilege of all women, not just those with exceptional skills. Toward that end, the standards stated that intramural competition, which was designed to complement physical education classes, was the most desirable form of competition. Extramural competition was to be offered only as an outgrowth of intramurals, and the most desirable forms of extramurals were sports days, play days, telegraphic meets, and other invitational events, such as symposia and jamborees. The standards acknowledged interscholastic and intercollegiate competition as acceptable forms of extramurals, provided they occurred within a limited geographic area and did not interfere with the intramural program or other extramural events.

**Falcon Women Take Bowling, Cage Events In Annual Sports Day**

Approximately 145 women from the University, Eastern Michigan University, and Oberlin College participated in the College Sports Day, which was held on this campus Saturday.

Badminton, bowling, table tennis, and volleyball provided the competition for the afternoon, with Eastern Michigan winning in table tennis, basketball, and volleyball games.

Oberlin took first in badminton and also won its volleyball game. Bowling Green took first place in bowling and sent its high-scoring intramural basketball team, the Court Ladies, to a 32-18 victory over Eastern Michigan. Dona Rae Whittaker was high scorer of the game with 20 points. Beverly Staible was captain of the winning team.

Mary Nofziger led Bowling Green’s bowling team to victory over Oberlin with a score of 445 for three lines. Pat Shanahan had the highest total for one line with 169. Also on the team for Bowling Green were Jan James, Marge Elias, and Jan Fenwick. In the first game it was BG, 662—Oberlin, 593. In the second game, BG, 640—Oberlin, 527 and in the final game, BG scored 656 to Oberlin’s 636.

In badminton, Joyce McComb of Bowling Green won the first game in her match against Oberlin but lost the next two.

A recreation hour, consisting of swimming, table tennis, and shuffleboard was held after the competition ended.

**Above:**
Society’s emphasis on femininity was revealed in a study conducted by Laura Elizabeth (Betty) Kratz in the late 1950s. Kratz interviewed 150 non-collegiate women in Columbus, Ohio, querying them about various aspects of sport. Among her conclusions was:

The cultural concept of women’s sports participation is one of athletic activities coupled with distinctly feminine physical attraction. This would eliminate any activity calling for a display of muscular strength. It would immediately disqualify any woman who shows the slightest tendency toward masculinity. The woman athlete, on the other hand, must have muscular strength (whether she displays it or not), and is, at the slightest provocation, accused of having masculine characteristics. What conditions make this ambiguity in attitude apparent should be a matter of deep concern to those engaged in teaching sports and physical education. (p. 167)

Kratz taught in Women’s Health and Physical Education at BGSU from 1965 until her retirement in 1976.
There are three divisions of WIA. The largest division is composed of club activities, including team and individual sports and dance. The clubs are open to any individual who is interested and wishes to participate. The only fees required are to cover the expenses incurred by the Outing and Bowling Clubs. The second division concerns the intramural teams which participate in basketball and volleyball. These teams are formed within the residential units. Tournaments are arranged and excitement prevails throughout the season. The last division is reserved to provide real challenge and competition for those players who are more highly skilled. There are extramural teams in basketball, field hockey, golf, gymnastics, softball, swimming, tennis, track and field, and volleyball. The teams are selected to compete against teams from other colleges. The experience provides advanced training and coaching for those who desire it. Many teams are also chosen from some of the clubs to participate in extramural competition. There are two additional programs within WIA. Open gym provides an opportunity for all types of informal activity, and weekend tournaments in activities such as badminton, foul-shooting, and archery. The pool is open for Rec. Swim for those who enjoy the water, while ice activities are offered at the Ice Arena.

Above Images
In 1959, the WRA became the Women’s Intramural Association (WIA). The 1961-62 WIA handbook noted that women might have opportunities for competition with other schools in field hockey, golf, tennis, swimming, archery, and bowling.

Left
The 1966-67 WIA handbook described the activities of three divisions: Clubs, intramurals, and extramurals. The extramural teams, as well as Swan Club, were actually varsity teams that practiced under the tutelage of coaches and participated in formal intercollegiate competition. Subsequently, these teams were joined by teams in fencing, lacrosse, and cross country. These varsity sports are featured in chapters 2-14 of this book.
Federation of College Women (ARFCW), the National Association for Physical Education for College Women (NAPECW), and the Division for Girls and Women’s Sports (DGWS). The purpose of this committee, which was called the National Joint Committee for Extramural Sports for College Women (NJCESCW), was to administer women’s intercollegiate athletics programs. The NJCESCW operated until 1965, when it relinquished its responsibilities to the DGWS. The following year, the DGWS created the Commission on Intercollegiate Sport for Women (CISW) and charged it with the sanctioning functions (Ley & Jernigan, 1962; Scott & Ulrich, 1966).

In 1963, the DGWS published another policy statement for desirable practices in competition in girls and women’s sports. These standards were consistent with the 1957 standards with the following exceptions: They no longer excluded long schedules, championships, and admission charges, or participating on men’s teams, in touch football, or in co-ed activities. Indeed, they specifically noted that any proceeds from admission charges should be directed toward the women’s sports programs (instructional, intramural, and extramural).

Opposite Page
The Swan Club remained strong in its purpose “to promote interest in swimming on campus, to provide opportunities to aquatic recreation for advanced swimmers and further skill in rhythmic swimming” (Key, 1959, p. 149). They provided demonstrations to high schools and other organizations and acted as ushers, timers, and recorders for the men’s intercollegiate meets. They also competed with schools such as Vassar, Miami University, and Michigan State University.

Mary Watt
The early swim meets included competition in form swimming, an event in which judges evaluated the technique of the swimmers. Mary Watt, who was a nationally rated swimming judge when she came to Bowling Green in 1954, stated that form swimming was “similar to diving, in which you would judge the form” (June 26, 1988). Watt also assisted with the sports program by advising the Bowling Club for several years, hosting visiting coaches and officials in her home during sports days, helping to lay out the hockey field in the absence of grounds crews, and officiating hockey matches with her colleague, Dolores Black. “I was more involved in the officiating than with the playing. If I’d been valuable we would have won, but I didn’t cheat at all” (June 26, 1988). Watt continued to teach physical education at BG until her retirement in 1978.
NATIONAL INSTITUTES ON GIRLS SPORTS
Concern over the Soviet Union and Eastern block countries’ domination of women’s Olympic events fueled the Cold War and ultimately resulted in another landmark event for girls and women’s sport. Although female physical educators at many universities had a long history of opposition to the participation of women athletes in the Olympic Games, a dramatic turn-around in this position occurred in 1963, when the Women’s Board of the United States Olympic Development Committee and the Division for Girls and Women’s Sports of the AAHPER co-sponsored the first National Institute on Girls Sports at the University of Oklahoma. Among the purposes of the Institute were helping women physical educators recognize and accept the need for sports experiences for girls and women and improving their competence in teaching and coaching sports skills. As the organizers of the Institute had hoped, the women who were selected to participate in the Institute did, in turn, teach and coach thousands of female students, thus improving their body mastery and physical fitness (Jernigan, 1965).
1953-1966: From the Cold War to the Femininity Test
The field hockey club also gained its fair share of honors. In 1952 the club won the Buckeye Field Hockey tournament at Denison University. Five players from the Bowling Green squad made first team honors and three were selected to the second team. That same season, four players from the club were named to the National Field Hockey Association Great Lakes Tournament and played on the regional team in the national championship tournament (KEY, 1953, p. 91).
Throughout the years, volleyball was often the most popular sport in intramurals. In response to this interest, volleyball became a varsity intercollegiate sport in 1965.
The 1963 Institute on Girls Sports was a huge success, and additional Institutes were held at Michigan State (1965), Salt Lake City (1966), Indiana University (1966), and the University of Illinois (1969) (Jernigan, 1965, 1974). Photographs of leaders of these institutes reveal that African-American women were members of the Institutes’ organizing committees. There is no doubt that women such as Nell Jackson, who had been a stand-out athlete and coach at Tuskegee Institute and had participated in both Pan-American and Olympic competitions, provided wise counsel and guidance to their less-experienced sisters (AAHPER, 1965).

“Another time during one of Bergen’s famous sports days, when players weren’t being active in one of the sports, they would come to the swimming pool and have free swim. And, of course, we had guards on duty and, of course, I was always available. We ran out of those ‘beautiful’ gray tank suits. So, I was over in the laundry room bringing out tank suits, washing them, and wringing them out. Now you can image doing that today!” (Iris Andrews, March 31, 1988)

Intercollegiate softball also developed during this time. Dolores Black, who began coaching softball in 1966, remembered that the university grounds crew built a diamond in College Park with a sand infield and backstop. Black also was the first coach in this area to hire men as umpires for an intercollegiate game. “We had the Ickes brothers; they were twins. When I played softball in the community, the Ickes brothers were our umps. They were terrific. When they said out, you were out.” (May 5, 1988)

Many of the faculty and coaches in Women’s Health and Physical Education were well-known in their respective fields. Dorothy Luedtke (aka “Bergen”) was an HPER faculty member from 1948 through 1983. She also served as director of the intramural program from 1953 to 1968. Luedtke coached the university’s first intercollegiate women’s swimming, basketball, and volleyball teams. She also coached field hockey. She was selected to participate in the 4th National Institute on Girls Sport at Indiana University in December 1966. Upon her return, she conducted workshops for coaches and players.
Basketball was also a very popular intramural sport. Extramural competition occurred in 1953, when a BG team competed against Miami, Heidelberg, Toledo, Ohio Wesleyan, Ohio State, and Wittenberg. In 1962-1963, the intercollegiate basketball team played against Adrian College, Kent State, the University of Dayton, and the University of Michigan.

The tennis club set up ladder tournaments to select top players to compete against other schools. This club continued to visit other campuses and host tennis clubs from other schools. In 1958, Bowling Green players made it to the semifinals in singles and doubles at the Ohio Women’s Intercollegiate Meet held at Oberlin (Key, 1958).
Estimates of the impact of the five National Institutes suggest that over 1,025 teachers and coaches received training and, through their efforts upon returning to their communities, over 100,000 more teachers and city recreational personnel were able to improve their teaching and officiating. Millions of girls and women were offered additional opportunities to increase their fitness levels and to develop their athletic prowess. In reflecting on the Institutes, Sara Staff Jernigan (1974) noted,

*The interest in women’s sports generated by the five National Institutes, and their influence on better quality of teaching and performance, cannot be measured statistically, but will be clearly observed all over the world in the mirror of time.* (p. 86)

**International and National Events**

Internationally, 1966 was an eventful year in women’s sport. In an attempt to control suspected cheating by some of the communist countries, femininity (gender verification) tests for women were introduced at the European track and field championships (Simri, 1983). The International Olympic Committee and other international organizations soon followed suit, and the tests were a controversial element of women’s sports for over 30 years. These tests, however, were never used at the intercollegiate level.

In the United States, the future seemed bright, as a corner had been turned in women’s intercollegiate athletics. The CISW/DGWS had already offered on-site national championships in golf and tennis, as well as postal tournaments in archery and bowling. The DGWS was working with NAPECW to identify additional sports that would be suitable for championship tournaments. The research Committee of NAPECW was planning to poll its members regarding appropriate directions of sport for college women. Through all of these developments, the CISW continually emphasized its commitment to the DGWS motto, “The one purpose of sports for girls and women is the good of those who play” (Scott & Ulrich, 1966, p. 76).

“You say a name in the Midwest that had a positive connotation in terms of professional preparation in physical education...and athletics, it was Bowling Green State University.” (Patricia Peterson, April 28, 1988)

“We didn’t have anyone that knew much about teaching football, so women of the sororities went ahead and had some powder puff football. We never got into football or touch football in the early days. Now, of course, it is perfectly acceptable.” (Dorothy Luedtke, March 31, 1988)
In 1965 a club was created for women interested in gymnastics. The purpose of the club was to offer a combination of exhibition and competition. Gymnastics provided an opportunity for women to promote physical fitness and to perform. The club activities included performing at half-time of a men's basketball game, participating in three official competitions, and daily two-hour practices.
During this era a major national trend was the acceptance of competition for the highly skilled female athlete. As a whole, the Women’s Health and Physical Education Department agreed that the highly skilled athlete should have the opportunity to participate in athletics. According to Ina Temple, “There needed to be something for the really highly skilled individual for them to be challenged” (May 4, 1988). Pat Peterson saw intercollegiate competition as an “opportunity to acquire, develop, and exercise skills that were beyond those being offered by other kinds of programs” (April 28, 1988). But the majority of the women on the faculty were prepared to be teachers, not coaches. Sally Parent Sakola explained her coaching philosophy as “much more educationally centered. Winning wasn’t a big goal” (May 5, 1988). Carol Durentini saw coaching as an “extension of the teaching experience and as a philosophy. To me the important thing was participation rather than winning or losing” (May 2, 1988). Dolores Black also approached coaching with a teaching philosophy: “We were basically teachers. We taught them things. And even if we didn’t teach them all the advanced techniques, they had good basics behind them” (May 4, 1988).
A revolution in women’s intercollegiate sport occurred in the years between 1967 and 1979. Fueled by Olympic competition with the Soviets, the revived feminist movement, and legislative and court mandates, women’s sport flourished throughout the country. The changing philosophies held by society, female athletes, physical educators, and women in athletics governance structures led to the establishment of many more competitive opportunities for college women. In 1968, DGWS devised a new set of standards that emphasized the leaders’ commitment to competition for highly skilled athletes (DGWS, 1969). Interestingly, for the first time in DGWS history, these standards mentioned athletic scholarships and recruiting, stating disapproval of both. Nonetheless, attitudes toward varsity competition for women were becoming increasingly positive.
In 1967, the CISW was re-named the Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (CIAW). It continued to operate within DGWS as it expanded championship opportunities for women. When the leaders of DGWS and CIAW realized that continued success would necessitate additional financial and human resources, they created a governing body with fee-based institutional memberships and duly elected representatives. Thus, the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) was established in 1971 (AIAW, 1979-80; Hult, 1999). In 1972, the AIAW assumed responsibility for the national women’s intercollegiate championships that the CIAW had started in golf, gymnastics, track and field, badminton, swimming and diving, volleyball, and basketball. The AIAW continued the traditional women’s model of athletic competition as an educational experience that ensured fair and equitable treatment for female college athletes (AIAW, 1979-80; Chepko & Couturier, 2001; Grant, 1989). In 1974, DGWS became the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport (NAGWS), and the AIAW remained under its auspices until 1979, when the AIAW became a separate legal entity.

**Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972**

Arguably, the most significant event in the history of women’s sport occurred in with the passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The enabling clause of Title IX reads as follows:

\[
\{ \text{No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.} \}
\]

The saga of Title IX is a little known story that deserves to be told. In 1969, a woman named Dr. Bernice Sandler had an unpleasant experience at the University of Maryland. Sandler (1997) had been teaching part-time at Maryland both while working on her doctorate and after she finished the degree. Seven faculty positions became available in her department, but she was not considered for any of them. When she asked a colleague why she had been passed over, he said, “Let’s face it, you come on too strong for a woman.” Sandler went home, cried, and was encouraged by her then-husband to recognize...
the fact that this was sex discrimination. She began to read about antidiscrimination laws and found that laws such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Pay Act of 1963 did not cover sex discrimination against women employees in education or students. Her review of laws outlawing race discrimination led her to an Executive Order signed in 1965 by President Lyndon Johnson. This Executive Order prohibited federal contractors from discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, and national origin. Alas, there was no mention of sex discrimination. There was, however, a footnote and, being an academic, Sandler read the footnote. She found that in 1967, effective in 1968, President Johnson had amended his Executive Order to include discrimination based on sex.

Dr. Sandler has reported that, although she was alone at the time, she shrieked aloud as she made the connection that many universities and colleges had federal contracts; hence, they were forbidden to discriminate on the basis of sex. Working with Elizabeth (Betty) Boyer, a 1937 graduate of BGSU and President of the Women’s Equity Action League (WEAL), Sandler began filing charges of sex discrimination against approximately 250 colleges and universities, including Bowling Green.
Sue Hager is named acting associate athletic director

Sue Hager, coordinator of women's sports and director of women's intramurals in the physical recreation and recreation department (PER) at Bowling Green State University, has been named acting associate athletic director for the intercollegiate athletic department, director of athletics Dick Young announced today.

Hager's appointment will be in effect until July 1 and is the first step in a reorganization of the intercollegiate athletic department which will place the 24 men's and women's varsity sports under one total intercollegiate umbrella.

Since Hager assumed her duties at Bowling Green in 1968, the women's competitive sports program has been administered by the PER department.

Hager's duties will include the coordination of the non-revenue sports programs which currently includes the sports of men's and women's track, cross country, swimming, lacrosse, golf, and tennis; men's soccer, wrestling, and baseball; and women's volleyball, field hockey, fencing, gymnastics, synchronized swimming, and basketball.

During the recent winter season, the women's swimming team won the Ohio and Midwest championships, the basketball team finished fourth in the Ohio championships and the gymnastics team finished second in the state.

Hager has coached the women's basketball team since 1968 and the Ladybirds have finished second in three of Ohio's five state championships.

A 1960 graduate of the University of Dayton, Hager was a teacher and coach in the Dayton school system and the University of Dayton from 1960 to 1968. After one year of teaching at a junior high school in Michigan, she joined the Bowling Green staff as an assistant professor of physical education and recreation. She earned her master's degree from Miami in 1964 and has taken additional course work at Ohio State University.
Bernice Sandler was not the only woman thinking about women’s rights in the late ‘60s and early ‘70s. Representative Edith Green (D-Oregon) had long known that sex discrimination in education at all levels was rampant. Sandler’s complaints helped convince her that the time was right to introduce legislation prohibiting sex discrimination in education. She introduced the bill that eventually became Title IX and began holding hearings on the topic in 1970. Many witnesses provided ample evidence of egregious sex discrimination in U.S. education.

Senator Birch Bayh (D-Indiana) and Representative Green shepherded the bill through many battles in their respective chambers of Congress. Bayh’s and Green’s efforts were strongly supported by Rep. Patsy Takemoto Mink, whose interest in educational equity for women had been fueled by her sex-based denial of admission to many medical schools in the late 1940s (Blumenthal, 2005). President Richard Nixon signed the Education Amendments into law on June 25, 1972. In 2002, Title IX of the Education Amendments was renamed the Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act in honor of the late Congresswoman who had worked so hard for its passage and implementation (Levin, 2007).

**Effects of Title IX**
In addition to other areas of education at all levels, Title IX had a dramatic effect on women’s intercollegiate sport experiences. Nationally, the number of teams for women increased, and athletics budgets grew as well. Not all of the effects of Title IX in colleges and universities, however, were viewed as positive. In the mid-1970s, many universities merged their women’s and men’s athletics programs, as well as their physical education programs. Women’s athletics programs, which had typically been housed in physical education, were often re-aligned with the men’s programs. Moreover, in every case of these merged athletics departments, the male athletics director retained that position and, if the women were retained at all, they were relegated to an assistant or associate position. Many of the women administrators either went back to teaching, retired, or were released (NACWAA, 2004).

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Opposite Page

Although Title IX did not require men’s and women’s intercollegiate athletics programs to merge, financial considerations led University President Hollis Moore to mandate a merger in 1976. As the transition was taking place, President Moore tapped Sue Hager to be the Acting Associate AD, the first woman to serve in that position. President Moore, a strong supporter of women’s athletics wrote to Hager with the following directive:

...in order to enhance administration of women’s intercollegiate athletics, at least two criteria should be followed: (a) that we would have an integrated intercollegiate athletics program and would not duplicate services, and (b) that women’s intercollegiate activities would no longer be an activity of a department of instruction. (February 4, 1976)
The merger of the women’s and men’s intercollegiate programs marked the first time that BGSU women’s competitive sports were not under the auspices of women’s physical education or intramurals. Most coaches and athletes were grateful for the additional opportunities this new structure created but were also mindful of the possibility that traditional educational values were at risk. Issues involving the awarding of athletic grants and administrative authority over women’s competitive sports were critically discussed in several memos among Moore, Hager, and Athletic Director, Richard Young. By the fall of 1976, Carole Huston was serving as BGSU’s Associate Athletic Director. Huston was the first woman in the U.S. to be hired as a full-time administrator of women’s and men’s nonrevenue sports in an NCAA Division I institution.

Enrollment of women increases

By Jolie Rolfe
Staff Reporter

Although enrollment of women at the University has increased three per cent in the last four years, there have been no noticeable changes in academic programs because of the increase, according to Provost Kenneth W. Rothe.

As of fall, 1976, the ratio of women to men was 55-45. "It’s very difficult to see what the short-term effects are," Rothe said, adding that an increase in women’s courses is the only apparent effect.

Before fall, 1973, the University had an admissions policy that attempted a balance between entering freshmen men and women, according to Glenn Van Wermes, assistant vice president for institutional planning.

Van Wermes said that policy was discontinued to comply with federal regulations against discrimination.

The 1971 enrollment was 58.8 per cent men and 41.2 per cent women and in 1973, 48 per cent men and 52 per cent women.

"We attempted to maintain an enrollment that was virtually equal men and women," Van Wermes said. "It usually didn’t vary more than a percentage point or two."

Van Wermes said a balance is maintained because there are more incoming freshmen women fall quarters while other quarters have more men.

"I would hate to see Bowling Green have 75 per cent women and 25 per cent men or the other way around," Rothe said. He said a 40-60 ratio either way would be acceptable, but he expects the ratio to stay at 50-50.

Women enrollment in graduate school has also been increasing steadily.

In 1966, 38 per cent of graduate students were women, compared with 46.4 per cent in 1973. Currently, 42 per cent are women, Van Wermes said.

Different enrollment data for men and women probably reflect different goals and objectives, he said.

"We’re seeing a definite shift into the fields that have been traditionally male-oriented," said Flo Lehman, assistant director of career planning and placement.

Lehman said those fields include accounting, finance, sales, marketing, retailing and pre-law.

It is easier for women to get jobs after graduation because of equal opportunity and affirmative action programs, she said.

But employers are seeking women who are highly qualified, responsible and mobile (willing to relocate), she added.
At BGSU, the mandates of Title IX led to many changes. For example, the admissions office ceased the archaic practice of maintaining a 50-50 ratio of women-to-men students, regardless of applicants’ high school grades and test scores. The result was that many more women were admitted, and the gender ratio of the student body began to change. Today, the majority of students at BGSU and, on average, in universities across the U.S. are women.

In 1975, men joined the Cygnets and were referred to as Drakes. The fencing club was also coed. The men and women trained and traveled together, but competition and scoring remained separate.

Left

The fencing club was also coed. The men and women trained and traveled together, but competition and scoring remained separate.

1975 KEY

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OTHER SCHOOLS...
No looking back for women

By Bill Estep
Sports Editor

EDITOR’S NOTE: The following is the first of two articles analyzing the emergence of women’s athletics and the recent reorganization of the Falon athletic department.

By now the women are joining their male counterparts in this “sporting” state-ace, at Bowling Green and nationwide. But are they ready for this sudden exposure and high-powered pressure to be a winner?

WELL, in light of the recent reorganization of the Falon athletic department, simile developments at other schools with and without a help from Title IX, they’d better be.

There’s no turning back now for the women and who says they want to?

Sue Hager, named temporary associate athletic director in charge of non-revenue sports in BG’s new “cone-umbrella” department setup, claims the women will just have to accept the inevitable.

“The firing of coaches is inevitable,” Hager said. “It’s something we’re going to have to accept. I just hope our coaches are strong enough to maintain their integrity.”

WHENEVER spectators enter the arena there’s definitely going to be that pressure to produce.

“Out students and coaches have put their own pressure on themselves in the past, a sort of self-pressure. I think the non-revenue sports in general have done the same thing.”

Where would the women’s programs be without Title IX—probably not alongside the men’s, that’s where.

“Title IX was the catalyst that moved us faster,” Hager said. “The women’s sports in general were thrust into the number one position.”

ADMINISTRATORS and the women weren’t ready for it. The skill level of the student and of the general public is not where the government thought it was.

“And the recruiting has not progressed as the skill level and coaching level has.

“I sure don’t think anyone would say we’re trying to tear down the men’s program.”

And BG’s reorganization, which contrary to rumor, was done strictly in the Administration Building and not in the Stadium, is a unique one.

WITH THE three revenue sports—basketball, hockey and football labeled as “self-supporting”—and the non’s and women’s non-revenue sports ranging funds strictly from the Advisory Committee on General Fee Allocations, it is apparently the only one of its kind in the country.

For instance, at Ohio State University, the women’s program is a separate entity under the men’s administration and not combined as is BG’s.

But unique or not, the headlines for Athletic Director Dick Yow and others are obviously many—with grants for women and budgets carrying top priority.

Home festival week

Today
Baseball vs. Findlay (2), 3 p.m.

Tomorrow
Women’s lacrosse vs. Ohio Wesleyan, 4:30 p.m.
Basketball vs. Miami (2), 1 p.m.

Friday
Women’s tennis vs. Central Michigan, 1 p.m.
Men’s tennis vs. Toledo, 3 p.m.
Spring Football Game, 1:30 p.m.
Baseball vs. Ball State (2), 1 p.m.
Track vs. Ohio University, 3 p.m.
Men’s tennis vs. Cincinnati, 1:30 p.m.
Men’s tennis vs. Ball State, 9 a.m.

SATURDAY
Baseball vs. Findlay (3), 3 p.m.

Sue Caser
Women athletes come of age

By Sue Caser
Sports Writer

“Equal this and equal that. We want to be given the same opportunities as the men!”

Well, ladies, your cry has been heard and answered. Ever since Title IX went into effect in 1972, women have felt the spotlight in almost every field of male dominance, including athletics.

What has this done to the woman and athlete and how has it affected the coaches of women’s competitive sports?

It seems to me that coaches can no longer sit back and hope for that superstar to stroll casually in on the first night of tryouts. And likewise, the all-around “girl jock” who was voted most athletic of her senior class can no longer expect to make an intercollegiate team just because she played high school sports.

SO WHAT’S happening is that coaches are producing winning teams. They are being very selective, very careful. They are even offering grants-in-aid to the highly skilled. And very shortly, recruiting will become an important facet of women’s athletics.

Everyone knows the key to a successful season depends greatly on the physical condition of the participants. And Bowling Green coaches are turning out some of the most physically conditioned women athletes ever.

Check this out, guys. Are you dedicated enough to get up every day at 6 a.m. to run seven miles? Then later on the same day, add two hours of speed training? BG’s cross country girls are.

What about track? Well, that doesn’t start until spring, you say. But if you intend to run women’s track for the Falcons, you have already started with two-hour workouts five days a week on the weight machines. But this is nothing new to male athletes—they’ve been doing it for years.

WEIGHT TRAINING is now a requirement in all 12 women’s intercollegiate sports. Girls are notorious for weak muscle groups, but by the time a particular sport season ends, no athlete on that team can “boast” of sagging triceps or flabby quadriceps.

You know, there was a time when conditioning for women athletes was used as a negative reinforcement.

“You girls did real well in practice tonight, so I won’t make you run laps or lift weights,” a coach might say. But this is no longer the case, and it is quite evident that conditioning programs are on the rise and that they are quite effective at Bowling Green.

But what is it for the athlete? There aren’t as many opportunities for women as there are for men to pursue a professional athletic career.

So why would a woman athlete come to school a week early to practice volleyball six to eight hours a day, seven days a week?

What motivates a field hockey enthusiast who seems to enjoy hour after hour of stick work and scrimmaging?

And let’s not forget the monetary involved when swimming laps in the infamous natatorium.

As one athlete put it, “there is a lot of personal satisfaction in playing. It is also an experience in self-discipline and interacting with others on the team.”

NOT ONE of the intercollegiate coaches I spoke with felt their job was on the line if they could not produce a winning team. Not yet, anyway. They all seem to agree the educational experience being given to the participants is much more important than winning or losing.

So why all the time and effort spent in developing women athletes? Well, no one likes to lose.
Throughout the 1970s, BGSU boasted an outstanding intercollegiate tennis program. Before BGSU began giving grants-in-aid, more than 100 women would try out for the team every year. According to Coach Janet Parks the team was frequently “three deep in every position” (May 4, 1988).
1967-1979: The Major Breakthrough of Women’s Sports
During the 1970s, women’s sports continued to expand at BGSU, as described in the 1976 media guides: “Women’s intercollegiate athletics have certainly come of age in the 1970s and Bowling Green stands ready to meet the challenge with a well-planned program designed to appeal to both the enthusiastic participant and the highly skilled athlete. Over the past decade, Bowling Green has been a Midwestern leader in the number and quality of its women’s athletic teams. The Ladybirds currently field teams in basketball, cross country, fencing, field hockey, golf, gymnastics, lacrosse, swimming, synchronized swimming, tennis, track, and volleyball. Bowling Green also offers athletic grants-in-aid for women in all 12 sports along guidelines recommended by the University’s financial aid office and the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women.”
Above
Coach Jean Campbell’s Swimmin’ Women were M’m M’m good as they won the 1975 state championship and the International Invitational at the University of Waterloo.

Above Left
The 1975-76 golf team came in fifth in the state tournament, and Peg Gibbons and Karen Parshall qualified for AIAW nationals at Michigan State.
Above
With good showings in speed and field events, the track team placed second in the BG Invitational and third in the Buckeye Invitational.

Below
The first-ever cross country team gained valuable experience in their regular season meets and posted a 21st place finish in the 74-team field at Nationals.
As the 1980s dawned, women’s intercollegiate sport in the United States was thriving, and the future looked bright! The AIAW was firmly established as an independent legal entity. In 1981-82, the AIAW had more than 960 member schools, both PWIs and HBCUs, making it the largest intercollegiate athletic governing body in the country (AIAW, 1979-80). It conducted 41 national championships in 19 sports in 5 divisions, with approximately 6,000 teams and 99,000 athletes. The traditional opposition to commercialism in women’s sport had eroded as evidenced by lucrative television contracts with NBC, which broadcast 10 national championships, and ESPN, which broadcast 2 national championships (Grant, 1989; Hult, 1999; Lopiano, 1981; Morgan, 1999; Wu, 2000). Corporate sponsors were beginning to pay attention to women’s intercollegiate sport, and the AIAW had 2 major award programs: the AIAW/Kodak All-American Basketball Team and the Broderick Cup for the outstanding female college athlete. On the administrative side, the AIAW had created 1,200 leadership positions for women and a few men (Grant, 1989). The mood among the members of the AIAW was one of exuberance!
Women’s sports at the University have moved from club status to intercollegiate competition since 1976, a change that has moved them into the athletic "big leagues."

That change was assisted greatly in 1975 when the federal government passed legislation, which became known as Title IX, that prohibited sex discrimination in education programs or activities that receive federal funds.

"There was a nationwide lack in women’s sports,” said Carole Huston, associate director of athletics and in charge of women's and non-revenue sports. "Bowling Green was interested in equality in women’s sports, so they increased their expenditures and the programs have improved."

According to Huston, the University has 200-275 women participating in sports with the track and swimming squads largest by virtue of the number of events in each.

There were some problems in making the change from club status, under the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, to varsity, said Huston.

"The fall of 1976 was when women’s sports started and BG never gave a woman athlete a scholarship prior to 1976,“ Huston said. "There was a philosophical approach by many coaches when we made the move into a bigger league and decided to quit. We’ve remedied that situation and over the years we’ve hired coaches who have the philosophical outlook of competing with the big leagues."

Huston pointed out that many coaches had other problems when they made the move.

"Many of the coaches of women’s sports did not know the tricks of the trade of recruiting when it came time to go out and recruit people,“ Huston said. "Recruiting is now part of the coaching responsibilities. The intensity is just the same as the men’s sports coaches have. They give campus tours, lunches for the prospective students and their parents and set up appointments within their academic interest."

In 1978 the University awarded $55,000 in funds and aid to women athletes. In 1977 an extra $28,000 was added to that amount and distributed to women athletes, and in 1978 a total of $84,000 was awarded to women sports.

"In 1979, no extra money was awarded because Bowling Green had met the compliance of Title IX," said Huston.

In 1980, 15 more grants were awarded worth about $45,000. The same year, 45 scholarships were given out, below what Title IX requires.

"We need between 84 and 85 grants," said Huston. "The University cannot afford another 40 grants, but we are making strides. Over the next three years we hope to reach the goals set by Title IX."

"I don’t think BGSU will be punished for being beneath the 84 grants because we are striving to make all sports equal," she added.

Although the University is below that provision of Title IX, that does not necessarily reflect the progress the University has made with women’s sports.

James Lesieg, director of athletics, said, "I think BG has done an excellent job with the women’s program in the last five years. There are 12 programs for men and 12 for women, and I think the programs have grown tremendously."

Kathleen Bole, women’s basketball coach, said she doesn’t feel shortchanged by receiving fewer scholarships than do men’s sports.

"I look at scholarships as a blessing and a problem," Bole said. "We demand so much more from a person when we put them on a scholarship. They’ll play 26 games instead of six.

"When you put that much money into someone, you want something back on your investment. We put pressure on a person to compete, they have to be at practice and get a certain GPA."

Bole has seen both sides of women’s athletics at the University having played for the University as a student in the 1970s and now as a coach.

"I played before women were given scholarships," she said. "My main purpose was to get my degree and education. We now demand so much more of our athletes."

In 1980, the University awarded 183 scholarships for athletics with 135 for men and 45 for women. Football awarded 75, ice hockey 20 and basketball 15. Women’s sports, basketball awarded nine scholarships; cross country-track, swimming, gymnastics and volleyball each awarded seven.

The University gave about $455,000 for scholarships on its revenue sports (football, basketball and hockey), $108,000 for male non-revenue sports (all others), and $150,000 for women’s sports.

"There has been a great increase of spending in women’s programs," said James Krone, assistant director and business manager of athletics. "One reason is because the women’s sports are pretty well established and the only increases we face result from inflation. Whenever the University increases their cost for tuition, we have to increase the money for scholarships."

Krone noted that the average cost for a scholarship is about $4,200. But a decision to allow women’s sports in the NCAA may change that.

From 1981-1985, women’s sports can remain in the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women and join NCAA activities, but after that, women’s teams will have to decide on one or the other.

The decision to allow women’s sports in the NCAA passed by a substantial margin, according to Lesieg.

"I think the AIAW is reluctant to change because they’re somewhat fearful they won’t be given as much of a say as the men," he said.

"The NCAA has already begun installing women on its committees and I think by 1985, they’ll be fairly well integrated," he said. "It will give college sports much more stability to have them under one organization."

Lesieg said BGSU will wait to decide if it will make the change.
A cloud was on the horizon, however, and the AIAW was destined to fall victim to its own success. For a number of reasons, leaders of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) had been interested in acquiring control of women’s intercollegiate athletics since 1964, when they had invited DGWS officers Sara Staff Jernigan and Marguerite (Mickey) Clifton to speak at their national convention (Wushanley, 2000). In 1973, the NCAA had opened the door to women even wider by removing its proscription against women participating in NCAA championships. The following year, they had established a committee on women's athletics (Carpenter, 2001). The increased attention of the NCAA to women’s programs had led some women to be wary that the NCAA was trying to control not only all of intercollegiate athletics, but all amateur athletics in the country (Wushanley, 2004). Consequently, the events that occurred in the early 1980s did not come as a complete surprise.

The AIAW managed to maintain control of women’s intercollegiate sport until 1980, when the NCAA offered women's championships in Divisions II and III. The following year, the NCAA announced plans to offer Division I women’s championships (Hult, 1999). Ironically, although the NCAA had initially opposed the inclusion of intercollegiate sport in the regulations for Title IX, the NCAA decision to offer women’s championships was defended on the basis of gender equity as mandated by Title IX. In a vote that received little attention at the time, the National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) also decided in 1981 to offer national championships for women (Hult, 1999).

This was not the first time that a men’s organization had tried to assume responsibility for women’s sport. In the early 1980s, when the women of AIAW heard of the NCAA and NAIA plans regarding women’s sports, they must have felt much like Agnes Wayman felt in 1923 when she heard a rumor that men wanted to take over women’s sports. Her first reaction was, “Heaven help us!” Wayman went on to state,

\[
\text{Let us Stop, Look and Listen! And I say to the men—although I appreciate the fact that their motives may be of the best in trying to take over our sports—“THIS IS OUR JOB.” It can best be done by the women. It is a matter of the women, to be decided by the women. Give us time, please, and allow us to do it.} \quad (\text{Wayman, 1924, pp. 44, 48})
\]
The 1982 golfers won the Wolverine Invitational and set several new scoring records.

The Lawsuit
In response to the NCAA announcement of its intent to sponsors women’s D-I championships, the AIAW filed an antitrust lawsuit, claiming that the NCAA was attempting to establish a monopoly over intercollegiate sport. The court ruled that the AIAW had insufficient evidence to support their claim, and the NCAA went forward with the championships. In a move that was irresistible to university presidents and the mostly male athletics administrators, the NCAA offered very appealing incentives to women’s teams: to subsidize the expenses of teams that came to their championships, to allow the women’s intercollegiate programs to join the NCAA for no membership fee, to standardize the sports rules, and to increase TV coverage for the women (Hult, 1999). The AIAW could not match these incentives, and on July 1, 1982, it ceased to exist. This date marks the first time in history that the majority of U.S. women’s intercollegiate sports programs were not under the direct influence of female physical educators.

National Association for Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators
Although women’s voices could have been lost with the mergers of women’s and men’s athletics programs under the umbrella of the male-dominated NCAA, the National Association for Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators (NACWAA) stepped up to keep women’s influence alive. This organization is “dedicated to providing educational programs, professional and personal development opportunities, information exchange, and support services to enhance college athletics and to promote the growth, leadership, and success of women as athletics administrators, professional staff, coaches, and student-athletes” (NACWAA, 2010). Toward this end, NACWAA holds national conventions, organizes professional development conferences, and sponsors other similar initiatives to reinforce its commitment to women in intercollegiate athletics. Today’s athletes can be assured that although many aspects of women’s sport have changed since that first basket ball game in 1896, the spirit of the pioneers continues to be reflected in the principled leadership of strong, dedicated women, who have the best interests of the participants in mind. ✤
The 1981-82 season saw improvement in the basketball team. The team’s 18-12 performance set a school record for most wins in a season.
In the spring of 1981, Falcons Carole Schnug and Chris Werner were selected to play in the United States Women’s Lacrosse Association national tournament in Worthington, Ohio. Playing on the Midwest II team, both players scored during the tournament. Women’s lacrosse was dropped after the fall 1981 season.
The swim team won its first MAC Championship in 1981. In 1982, they came in second at the MAC, setting nine school records and five MAC records.
The track and field team won its first Mid-American Championship in 1981.
In the fall of 1981, the field hockey team competed for the first time under NCAA rules and as a recognized Mid-American Conference sport. The team ended one of its best seasons with an 11-6-3 record and shared a three-way tie for second place in the MAC.

Many of the sports teams were not afforded the luxury of traveling by bus as were the revenue-producing sports. This especially was the case with the women’s teams, which traveled by van or car when competing away from BG. According to Cary McGehee, a basketball player in 1982, “It’s a good experience and you get to see a lot of different places. The ride in the van is crowded though, and even though traveling during the day isn’t bad, coming back at night after the game can be a long ride” (Key, 1982, p. 145).
Table 1
Organizations and Events Associated with U.S. Women's Intercollegiate Sport: From the National Women's Basket Ball Committee (1899) to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (1982)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Women's Organization</th>
<th>Parent Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1899</td>
<td>National Women's Basket Ball Committee</td>
<td>American Association for the Advancement of Physical Education (AAAPE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>National Women's Basket Ball Committee</td>
<td>AAAPE becomes the American Physical Education Association (APEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Committee on Women's Athletics (CWA)</td>
<td>APEA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Women's Rules and Editorial Committee</td>
<td>CWA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Athletic Conference of American College Women (ACACW)</td>
<td>Independent national organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Women's Division of the National Amateur Athletic Federation (WD-NAAF)</td>
<td>National Amateur Athletics Federation (NAAF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>National Association of College Women (NACW)</td>
<td>Independent national organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924-25</td>
<td>Women's Physical Education Section (WPES)</td>
<td>Ohio College Association (OCA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>CWA (aka Women's Athletic Committee) becomes Section on Women's Athletics (SWA)</td>
<td>APEA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>Women's National Officials Rating Committee (WNORC)</td>
<td>APEA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>Section on Women's Athletics becomes National Section on Women's Athletics (NSWA)</td>
<td>APEA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>ACACW becomes Athletic Federation of College Women (AFCW)</td>
<td>Independent national organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>AFCW</td>
<td>APEA becomes the American Association for Health and Physical Education (AAHPE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>AFCW</td>
<td>AAHPE becomes the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (AAHPER)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Women’s Organization</td>
<td>Parent Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>NSWA and WDNAAF merge</td>
<td>AAHPER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>NSWA becomes National Section for Girls and Women's Sports (NSGWS)</td>
<td>AAHPER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>AFCW becomes Athletic and Recreation Federation of College Women (ARFCW)</td>
<td>Independent national organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>NSGWS becomes the Division for Girls and Women’s Sports (DGWS)</td>
<td>AAHPER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>ARFCW, National Association for Physical Education for College Women (NAPECW), and DGWS form the National Joint Committee for Extramural Sports for College Women (NJCESCW) to sanction intercollegiate events</td>
<td>AAHPER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>ARFCW affiliates with DGWS</td>
<td>AAHPER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>NJCESCW disbands and relinquishes sanctioning functions to DGWS</td>
<td>AAHPER</td>
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<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>DGWS creates Commission on Intercollegiate Sports for Women (CISW)</td>
<td>AAHPER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>CISW becomes Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (CIAW)</td>
<td>AAHPER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>ARFCW becomes College Women in Sports (CWIS)</td>
<td>Independent national organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) replaces CIAW within DGWS</td>
<td>AAHPER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>OAISW</td>
<td>OCA/WPES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Athletic and Recreation Federation of Ohio College Women (ARFOCW) becomes Ohio College Women in Sport and Recreation (OCWSR)</td>
<td>Independent national organization; advised by OCA/WPES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year</strong></td>
<td><strong>Women’s Organization</strong></td>
<td><strong>Parent Organization</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>NACW becomes National Association of University Women (NAUW)</td>
<td>Independent national organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>DGWS becomes National Association for Girls and Women in Sport (NAGWS)</td>
<td>AAHPER becomes the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (AAHPER)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>NCAA announces plans to establish a Committee on Women's Athletics</td>
<td>National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Council of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators (CCWAA); in 1992, it became the National Association of College Women Athletic Administrators (NACWAA); later, added “s” to “Athletics”</td>
<td>Independent national organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>AIAW separates legally from NAGWS</td>
<td>AAHPER becomes the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (AAHPERD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>AIAW</td>
<td>Independent national organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Final AIAW tournaments</td>
<td>Independent national organization</td>
</tr>
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</table>
References


Liberti, Rita. (1999). “We were ladies, we just played basketball like boys”: African American womanhood and competitive basketball at Bennett College, 1928-1941. *Journal of Sport History, 26*, 567-584.


Almost from the beginning of the college, BG women engaged in spirited competition in basketball. In 1918 two literary societies, the Emersons and the Wilsonians, formed women’s and men’s basketball teams. For several years, both the women and the men engaged in annual 3-game series and published the results in The Bee Gee News, the student newspaper. Interestingly, the final scoring was combined, with the club winning the most out of the six games being declared the victor (Bee Gee News, June 15, 1921).

As time went by, basketball proved to be a very popular sport for BG women. In the beginning, competition was in the form of intramural and interclass games. By the 1930s and 1940s, women were playing basketball at play days and sports days. In 1947, a BGSU basketball all-star team traveled to neighboring colleges to compete in tournaments. As the game’s popularity grew, the 1948-49 WRA sponsored a Michigan-Ohio Basketball Clinic to teach the fundamentals of the game to scores of women (Key, 1949).

In the early 1950s, the basketball club became one of the largest and most popular athletic clubs on campus. By 1955, the club had become a team that competed against Miami, Heidelberg, Toledo, Ohio Wesleyan, Ohio State, and Wittenberg (Key, 1954). Dorothy Luedtke, basketball advisor, remembered how she had to study up on strategy before she could coach the team: “I got a bunch of books! And had to read; I didn’t know anything about X’s and O’s; I only knew technique” (Feb. 5, 2005).
During the 1962-1963 academic year, the Falcons competed against Adrian College, Kent State University, the University of Dayton, and the University of Michigan, defeating all but Michigan (Key, 1963). Many years later, Marcia Conrad Saneholtz, who had been a member of the 1962-63 team as a junior, received a request for a picture of herself as a Bowling Green basketball player. In 2005, she recalled her feelings as she looked for such a picture and her delight upon finding one:

So I went back to the Bowling Green annual and looked up my junior year. There was a little paragraph about the women’s basketball team, and I think we played 4 or 5 or 6 games. I found no pictures, no names, or anything. So I thought, well, my senior year; there must be something. So, I looked in the annual my senior year: absolutely nothing about women’s basketball. And so then I started thinking, did I really play basketball my senior year? Maybe I forgot, because I know I student-taught. But I was gratified to see last night, in the team picture from ’63-’64, I was in it. So, I guess I did play in ’64!

During the 1960s, BGSU fielded two basketball teams, the “A” (varsity) team and the “B” (junior varsity) team. In March 1965, Coach Luedtke’s “A” team, having experienced only one loss in two years, defeated Ohio State University by a score of 33-30 (B-G News, March 2, 1965, p. 3). The following year, Pat Peterson began her five-year stint as head basketball coach. In 2009, Coach Peterson recalled her 1960s-era basketball coaching experience:

My early years of coaching and teaching at Bowling Green were some of the most rewarding years of my life. I loved teaching eager young skilled students and preparing them for competition against other schools. Especially gratifying was the rapport with students and the camaraderie of teammates. (August 8, 2009)

In 1971, Coach Peterson became head coach of the varsity volleyball team, and Sue Hager moved into position as head basketball coach. During Hager’s tenure as coach, her players invented Frieda Falcon, who performed at their home games. The backstory is that the first female
mascot had appeared on the scene in 1966. She was named “Mrs. Freddie Falcon” and was portrayed by a male cheerleader. Contrary to a common misconception, however, “Mrs. Freddie Falcon” did not become “Frieda Falcon.” According to basketball player Judy Brause (1970–74),

Frieda was created because Freddie was asked numerous times to come to our games. He showed up only once, for half a game; thus, Frieda was created by the women. She did not appear at men’s events because she was not recognized or funded by the University.”

(May 13, 2009)

It is important to note that Frieda was neither Freddie’s “little sister” or his “sidekick.” In her original incarnation, she was an independent woman! In 1980, the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics officially adopted Frieda, who was portrayed by Sue Sheard during the 1980-81 academic year.
National rules changes in the 1960s and 1970s included the addition of a rover in 1962, the switch from a 3-dribble limit to the continuous dribble in 1966, and the emergence of the full-court game in 1971. In an article published in the *1972-1973 DGWS Basketball Guide*, Hager argued persuasively that players’ physical conditioning would be the key to their success in full-court basketball.

In the late 1960’s, a student came up with the idea of using “Ladybirds” as a moniker for the women’s teams. The name took hold and for several years, the basketball team and some other women’s sport teams were called the “Ladybirds.” Subsequently, the women’s teams adopted the official school nickname, “Falcons” and, of course, are known as Falcons today. Although members of the media have occasionally referred to BGSU women’s teams as the “Lady Falcons,” BGSU has never officially used that nickname.

In 1974, media exposure for women’s teams began to expand to over-the-air coverage. As noted in the 1974 Key:

> “Women’s sports were given an added ‘shot in the arm’ this year by WFAL sportscaster Denny Castiglione. Through his bi-weekly women’s sports program, he attempted to make up for the previous lack of women’s sports coverage by the media. On January 26, 1974, the first women’s intercollegiate basketball game was broadcast on WFAL.” (p. 172)
Hager experienced one of the most memorable moments of her coaching career on Jan. 18, 1975, when the Falcons defeated Ohio State by a score of 56-50 in a game played before hundreds of cheering fans in Anderson Arena (2009-2010 Media Guide).
Also, during the 1970s, the basketball schedule expanded considerably, and the Falcons competed in several tournaments sponsored by the Ohio Association of Intercollegiate Sports for Women (OAISW). When asked to describe women’s intercollegiate competition during those days, Hager replied:

*Intense, but we only practiced two days a week and played on Saturdays. If we had a close school, such as Ohio Northern or Toledo, we could play during the week. There were tryouts to get on the team. Some years 150 women would come to the [Eppler] North Gym to be selected for the 24 slots we had for “A” and “B” teams.* (August 8, 2009)

By 1976, Hager’s team had amassed a record of 55-20 and had placed second in three of the five OAISW basketball tournaments that had been conducted. She left coaching to continue her career as a physical education instructor and intramural director. The women’s and men’s athletics programs merged that year, and Hager assumed the title of acting associate athletic director, coordinating the women’s and men’s non-revenue sports.

With Hager’s departure from coaching, Nora Liu took the reins of the basketball team. Liu explained that her coaching experience included 2-hour varsity and junior varsity practices two or three times per week, no assistant coach or manager, ten semester hours per week of teaching, and the requirement to conduct and publish research in her field of exercise physiology.

*As I look back during my coaching years at BGSU, I have no idea how I did all those things by myself. I could not do it now even if I had 48 hours a day. But I did it all because I love basketball. The passion and desire to teach and coach basketball gave me strength and energy.* (July 25, 2009)

When Lui returned to full-time teaching in 1978, former Falcon athlete Kathy Bole assumed the head coaching responsibilities. Following a victory over Toledo and clinching a berth in the 1980 state tournament, Bole stated, “I am pleased with the team. We are getting good leadership from our seniors and the younger kids are producing” *(BG News, February 26, 1980, p.7).*
By 1982, women’s basketball had been incorporated into the Mid-American Conference, and the BG program had grown from a 19-game season to a 30-game schedule. Chris Tuttle and Melissa Chase became the first and second players, respectively, in the history of BG women’s basketball to score over 1,000 points in their careers. A noteworthy observation is that they accomplished this feat with the larger basketball and without the 3-point line.

Bole continued to coach the varsity basketball team through 1984, when she left the University for a career in the airline industry.

In honor of the 100th birthday of BGSU in 2010, Sue Hager and Larry Weiss, a longtime fan, teamed up with WBGU-PBS to produce a documentary about the women’s basketball program. The program features intriguing interviews with numerous former players and coaches and includes rich visual images that bring the story of BG basketball to life. Information about ordering the DVD is posted on the WBGU-PBS website.
Cross Country

Head Coaches

David Williams 1976-1978
Sid Sink 1978-1989

The BGSU women’s intercollegiate cross country team made its debut in the fall of 1976. They opened the season with a disappointing third place finish in a triangular meet, but Coach David Williams was optimistic: “Right now, I’m running seven women for points and the rest for conditioning…when we get in good shape, we’re going to win some meets…in cross country, it isn’t important how you start, but how you finish the season…by then, we’ll be in good shape” (BG News, September 28, 1976, p. 11). Williams’ prediction came true, as the Falcon harriers finished their first season placing a respectable 21st out of 74 teams at the AIAW nationals in Madison, WI.

The following year, as the much-improved Falcons were preparing for the Northern Illinois Invitational, Coach Williams told his team that if they won, he’d shave his
mustache. As reported by Steve Sadler in the BG News, “True to his word, Williams is now clean shaven following the Falcons’ impressive performance which saw them defeat Illinois State, Northern Illinois, Augustana, and Southern Illinois” (October 12, 1977, p. 6). The BG harriers were beginning to make their presence felt, prompting Williams to state, “We put together our first winning season, and on that we will lay a foundation for years to come” (Key, 1978, p. 101).

In the fall of 1978, Coach Williams began to focus on his duties as head coach of the women’s track and field team. Three-time cross country NCAA All-American Sid Sink began his first year at the helm of the cross country team. After the team’s fourth place finish in the Western Michigan Invitational, Sink noted, “We’re just looking for improvement and hopefully to move up and beat someone that we didn’t beat before” (BG News, Oct. 17, 1978, p. 7). The Falcons met their goal as they won the Falcon Invitational and garnered a 13th place finish in the MAIAW Regionals (BG News, June 1, 1979, p. 18). Looking back on the 1978 season, Sink said, “There were a couple of reasons that it was so satisfying for me...One was the six girls I worked with. Their attitudes were tremendous. I felt I accomplished something because I saw a lot of improvement in the team as the year went along” (BG News, Sept. 25, 1979, p. 21). As Betsy Miller said, “You could see progress as the season went on, probably because we were a little closer this year” (Key, 1979, p. 150).

In 1979, the Falcons finished in the top half of each meet they entered and came in sixth out of 17 teams in the MAIAW Regionals. Senior Becky Dodson, owner of several records, won all-region honors and advanced to the AIAW Nationals (2009 Media Guide). As she prepared for nationals, Dodson stated, “I want to know at the end of the race that I can say I ran my best. If I can truthfully say to myself that I ran my best, I wouldn’t feel that I let anybody down” (BG News, Nov. 14, 1979, p. 6).

In 1980, Bowling Green won the inaugural women’s Mid-American Conference cross country meet, with Betsy (Miller) Ryan winning the individual title. Falcons Ryan, Stephanie Eaton, Karen McQuilkin, Terri Gindlesberger, Bev Lynch, and Kathy Kaczor were named to the All-MAC team (2009 Media Guide). At Midwest Regionals the following week, the BG harriers captured sixth place, and Ryan earned a place on the All-Region team. Ryan explained the temperament required to win in cross country competition: “That last mile, I was really hurting and afraid I wasn’t going to make it. When you start to think that way, it’s very easy to talk yourself out of it” (BG News, Nov. 4, 1980, p. 7).
Ryan’s positive attitude gave her the perseverance to capture 14th place and qualify for the AIAW nationals in Seattle, Washington (BG News, November 4, 1980). Adding to the year’s accomplishments, Coach Sink was named MAC Coach of the Year, an honor he would win three more times as the Falcon harriers captured the MAC every year from 1980 through 1983 (2009 Media Guide).

The BG harriers continued their winning ways in 1981, placing second in the Eastern Michigan Invitational and winning the All-Ohio meet. For the second consecutive year, they took first place in the MAC meet, where JoAnn Lanciaux won the individual MAC title. Lanciaux, Kaczor, Gidget Wickham, Gindlesberger, Lynch, Rosalie Cocita, and Sandra Cook won All-MAC honors. At the regional meet in East Lansing, Michigan, Lanciaux qualified for the NCAA nationals in Wichita, Kansas (BG News, November 20, 1981). Lanciaux, Kaczor, Cocita, Gindlesberger, and Wickham were named to the All-Region team (2009 Media Guide). Cook summed up the reasons for the Falcons’ success:

“\textit{I think we have a great team. Everyone is always encouraging each other and helping in any way she can. Sid is a great coach. He makes running fun, but he is strict about our training program. He’s the main reason why we have done as well as we have this year. I’m glad to be part of this team.}” (BG News, Oct. 9, 1981, p. 8)

In 1982, the Falcon harriers had a 7-1 dual meet record and won the MAC Championship for the third straight year (1983 Media Guide). Lanciaux once again won the individual MAC title. She repeated on the All-Mac team along with teammates Cathy Schenkel, Kaczor, and Cocita. Lanciaux also repeated as a member of the All-Region team (1983 Media Guide). Although they failed to meet their goals of defending their state crown and qualifying for the NCAA Championship, Coach Sink was complimentary of his athletes: “\textit{As a whole, the season was a very successful one. The girls came through for us at the right times to give us the MAC Championship in what has become a very balanced league...I’m looking forward to next year}” (Key, 1983, p. 155).

Sink continued to coach the women’s cross country team until 1989. He served as coach of men’s track and cross country and as track and field coordinator for men’s and women’s track and field until 1998, when he was appointed assistant athletic director for compliance and certification. Sink retired in 2007.
In 1945, Iris Andrews organized the first fencing club on the BGSU campus, and the members competed against Ohio State and the University of Michigan (Iris Andrews, March 31, 1988). The 1949 Key included a photograph of the fencing club and noted that the highlight of its year had been a round robin tournament held at the end of the season. At that time, the club members were planning to conduct an annual series of regular matches.

There are no more records of fencing club activity until 1952, when an article in the B-G News (February 5) announced that the fencing club was planning a meeting. The 1954 Key listed fencing as one of the 10 clubs sponsored by the Women’s Recreation Association.

In January 1969, a coed fencing club was formally organized with support from the Health and Physical Education Department. Fencing course instructors were WHPE faculty member Beverly Zanger and graduate student and former Ohio State letter-winning fencer, Kenneth Mitchell. It was their intent to expand the sport from club to intercollegiate competition. In describing fencing to BG News reporter, Denny White, Mitchell said, “Fencing is posture building, a constant exercise in problem solving, and a builder of poise and hand-eye coordination. Quickness, hand dexterity, and combined coordination of hands, legs and mind are more important than size and strength.” Mitchell further noted that fencing was “a combination of jogging, ballet, and boxing” (BG News, December 5, 1969, p.16).
In the fall of 1970, Mitchell and Zanger offered an advanced fencing course that served as a bridge from the club team to intercollegiate status. Students who were enrolled in the course eventually competed as a varsity squad. In speaking of the future of the club, a BG News reporter stated, “Some lofty opposition is scheduled starting in December, including Ohio State, Detroit, Wayne State, and Wisconsin” (BG News, September 24, 1970, p.8). Other teams against which the fencing team competed during those years included Cuyahoga Community College, Kent State, Cornell, Case Western Reserve, and Cleveland State.

In 1971 and 1972, Mitchell coached the men, and Zanger coached the women. Although it was a coeducational team, the women and men competed separately, with the men competing in foil, epee, and/or saber categories, and the women only in the foil category (lighter blades and torso as the target). Electrical equipment was used to help train the fencers allowing them to develop quickness, leg strength, and endurance.

As the men’s team faced stiff competition from a number of schools in 1971, Zanger noted that there were some problems involved in scheduling women’s matches. Even so, she was optimistic, stating, “We have a difficult time finding women’s teams in the state of Ohio…but more and more teams are picking up as it is a good winter individual sport.” (BG News, Dec. 1, 1971, p. 11)

By 1975, Zanger was coaching both the women and the men. For financial reasons, the teams traveled together in a team bus, but in most meets, their scores were computed separately. The one exception to the separate scoring was in the Great Lakes Fencing Championship, which BG entered when it was held at Notre Dame in 1977.

The Falcon fencing teams were competitive during the mid-1970s, scheduling matches with teams from schools such as Ohio State, Cleveland State, Wisconsin-Parkside, Michigan, Miami, Kent State, Notre Dame, Oberlin, Windsor, Wisconsin, Culver Military Academy, and Case Western Reserve. In 1975, Zanger noted the improvement in the women’s performance: “This is the first year that there’s been much recognition for the sport. That’s because this is the first year we’ve really put on a pretty good showing” (BG News, February 20, 1975, p. 6). She noted that a number of three-year veterans had contributed to the improvement.
After losing the first four matches of the 1976 schedule, “the BG women then made a spectacular comeback effort as they won their next four matches, blitzing Windsor, 16-0; dumping Cleveland State, 13-3; slipping past Notre Dame, 9-7; and pasting Kent State University, 14-2” (Key, 1976, p. 158). Zanger characterized the women’s victory over Notre Dame as “the highlight of the meet” (BG News, February 19, 1976, p. 8).

In January 1978, the University Athletics Committee recommended that fencing be discontinued as an intercollegiate sport. The sport was dropped at the end of the competitive season, and Zanger returned to full-time teaching in physical education. Coed fencing continued to operate as a club sport for several years.

Coach Beverly Zanger noted a unique problem when Bowling Green hosted fencing matches in the Women’s Building during the early 1970s. “We had to rent from BG Rental a big generator because we did not have enough electricity going into the building. The buildings are so old and we had all of this electrical equipment used for fencing. So, we had to rent this generator that sat outside the building, and it had to be fed with gasoline. So, a team member kept running out and loading it with gasoline so we could pump the auxiliary electricity into those two gyms.” (May 5, 1988)
Field Hockey

Head Coaches

Dorothy Fornia 1950-1953
Debbie DeBottaro 1953-1954
Dorothy Luedtke 1954-1963
Patricia Peterson 1963-1965
Joy Sidwell 1965-1968
Carol Durentini 1968-1976
Sue Gavron 1976-1978
Pat Brett 1978-1982

Field hockey originated in England, where women players considered it the “King of Sports.” After physical educator Constance Applebee introduced hockey to U.S. women in 1901, it soon became very popular at schools in the East (Bee Gee News, December 18, 1924). Carolyn Shaw, who arrived at BGSU in 1925, had attended three colleges in Massachusetts—Smith, Simmons, and Wellesley. Consequently, she had experience in field hockey and immediately began teaching it in physical education classes. She also included hockey in the intramural program that she initiated the first semester she was on campus (B-G News, November 10, 1959; Key, 1924, p. 128). As BG’s first competitive sport for women, hockey quickly became very popular and retained this popularity for many decades.

Field hockey competition was very well-organized in the Midwest. By the time Shaw introduced it at BG, women had been playing the game for several years at Oberlin, Denison, Miami, and Ohio State (Bee Gee News, February 12, 1924). Throughout the area, hockey associations sponsored regional and national competitions at a variety of skill levels, and college players frequently were selected to play in those contests. It was no wonder, then, that BGSU field hockey flourished!
The earliest field hockey competition at Bowling Green was in the form of interclass and all-star games, with the first public interclass field hockey contest being played between the freshman and sophomore teams in the fall of 1926 (*Bee Gee News, October, 1926; Key, 1926, p. 154*). This annual match-up continued until 1934, when the Homecoming game became a contest between a team of visiting alumnae and the regular season intramural champions (*Bee Gee News, October 31, 1934*). During Homecoming weekends of subsequent years, the alumnae would play either the reigning intramural champs, a team composed of seniors, or an all-star team. This friendly competition became a Homecoming tradition that continued for many years.

The first dual intercollegiate sport competition for BGSU women occurred in 1935, when the WAA invited the University of Toledo to send a field hockey team to Bowling Green. A team of BG all-stars won the game by the score of 2-1 (*Bee Gee News, November 27, 1935*). After the game, members of the two teams got together for a steak roast. For several years, BG and Toledo scheduled annual field hockey matches, always followed by a social activity.

A Falcon field hockey club was organized in 1950, when a team went to the Great Lakes Sectional Hockey Tournament in Bloomfield Hills, MI (*Bee Gee News, November 7, 1950, p. 4*). Dorothy Luedtke explained the impetus behind forming the club:

> We had many students from the East, and we also had some students from schools that had field hockey....They were used to having national competition....We called it a club, but actually it was a team....There weren’t enough good field hockey players to have much competition in intramurals. So that is why the field hockey club started then. (March 51, 1988)
In 1951, Coach Dorothy Fornia and three other physical education instructors accompanied 14 players to a Saturday afternoon match with Lake Erie College. On Sunday afternoon, they watched the Cleveland Field Hockey Association play (*B-G News*, October 9, 1951). The following year, the Falcons won the Buckeye Field Hockey Tournament held at Denison University. As a result of their performance in the tournament, Nancy Terry, Patricia Daugert, Jo Case, Betty Thomas, and Sue Carlisle were selected for the Buckeye I team. Selections for the Buckeye II team were Mary Pollock, Mary Lou Kieffer, and Barbara Brown. At the Great Lakes Tournament held later in the season, Terry, Daugert, Case, and Thomas were selected to represent the University in the National Field Hockey Tournament held at Sweet Briar College in Virginia (*B-G News*, November 25, 1952; *Key*, 1953, p. 91).

In addition to participating in regional and national tournaments, BG hockey teams of the 1950s competed against teams from the University of Michigan, Wittenberg, Ohio Wesleyan, Ohio State, Ohio University, Lake Erie College, Oberlin, and Michigan State (*Key*, 1953, 1957, 1958, 1959). Under Coach Dorothy Luedtke, the 1961 team had a 4-0-1 record, defeating Wooster, Eastern Michigan, Michigan, and Ohio University while tying Kent State. Luedtke characterized the team as one of the best that BG had ever had: “Much of the success of the team is due to the large group of seniors on the team who have played together for four years. This year, the team just seemed to click and the defense and offense gelled with fine teamwork” (*B-G News*, November 14, 1961, p. 5).

Patricia Peterson was hired as a physical education instructor in 1963 and was assigned the duty of coaching the field hockey team:

After receiving my master’s degree from Indiana University in 1963, I knew that I wanted to teach and coach at the university level. Based on Bowling Green’s reputation as an outstanding institution for professional preparation in physical education, I applied and was hired as an instructor. Much to my delight, part of my assignment was also to coach the field hockey team. (May 8, 2010)
In 1965, Peterson, who had also been coaching the junior varsity basketball team, moved indoors to coach varsity basketball. Joy Sidwell took the reins of the field hockey team. After Sidwell’s three-year stint, Carol Durentini began what would become eight years at the helm. During those years, the Falcons competed against teams from schools such as DePauw, Ball State, Illinois State, Ashland, Oberlin, Lorain County, Eastern Michigan, Wooster, Wesleyan, and Ohio State and regularly participated in the state tournament.

Hockey talent was deep at Bowling Green, and Durentini would often field as many as three teams in the same season. The varsity would compete against the most formidable opponents, and the second and third teams would hone their skills against teams of comparable ability. Some years, the Falcons would develop their expertise along with many other teams at the Sauk Valley Field Hockey Camp in the Irish Hills of Michigan.

In order to save travel money, field hockey meets were frequently triangular affairs, which required Durentini to coach two or more games in a single day. She always kept a fresh supply of sliced oranges available to fuel her players’ energy. Many years later, Durentini reported that, after eight years of slicing oranges, she lost her taste for them and “still has trouble looking at oranges today” (May 15, 2010).

Coach Durentini was resourceful in those days when women’s teams had limited access to athletic support services. Her ingenuity was tapped to the extreme one year during the 1960s when the lines on the field had washed away before a Saturday morning tri-meet. Durentini solved the problem: “I sent all the players to every dorm on campus to find Ajax scouring powder, and that’s what we used to line the corners and the striking circles” (May 2, 1988).

During the 1970s, several Falcon stickers were recognized as standouts. In 1972-73, Cindy Hubbard and Cindy Williman were named to the all-Ohio team, and in 1975 Lorraine Procacci, Karla Ewald, and Karen Williams were selected for the Buckeye II team. The following year, Ginny McGee, who had played hockey and lacrosse in Pennsylvania before coming to BG, was also tapped for the Buckeye II team. McGee made the following observation: “…the women on the field hockey team are ‘closer’ at BG than in the East. The difference is that here people learn the sport at a later age so it’s easier to learn the team concept rather than the individual concept.” McGee went on to praise her coach saying, “She (Durentini) has really done a lot for field hockey and lacrosse at this university. She has a really good attitude” (BG News, Nov. 15, 1974, p. 8).
For several years, Durentini coached both the field hockey and the lacrosse teams. After the 1975 hockey season, she decided to focus her attention on lacrosse, and Sue Gavron was appointed to succeed her as hockey coach. As Gavron took charge of a young team, she said, “I really don’t know what to expect this season. The skill level of field hockey players is increasing, and Ohio schools have a reputation for being very competitive.... Hopefully, we can put it all together in a team effort” (BG News, September 19, 1976, p. 18). Under Gavron, the Falcons continued to compete against strong teams throughout the Midwest and to participate in the annual OAISW Tournament.

In 1978, Coach Gavron moved into full-time teaching in the School of HPER, and the athletics department employed Pat Brett for the dual role of coaching both the field hockey and track and field teams. As Brett embarked on the season, she said, “...this will be an exciting team to watch. With the depth we’re developing, we’re going to rank with the major powers of field hockey in the state” (1978 Media Guide). In her first year at the helm, the Falcon stickers had a 5-7-1 regular season, which included a 6-1 loss to Ohio State and a 5-1 loss to Ohio University. Their performance at the OAISW tournament was vindicating, however, as they came in 4th in the 16-team field. They again lost to Ohio State and Ohio, but only by scores of 1-0 and 2-0 (overtime), respectively. Brett was proud of the team’s showing at state, noting, “We finally played the way I thought we were capable of playing all season. We surprised a lot of people” (BG News, November 8, 1978, p. 8).

The 1979 season was somewhat discouraging, but in 1980 Coach Brett was confident that with 9 of 12 letter winners returning plus a group of highly regarded first year players the Falcon stickers would enjoy a winning season: “We have a chance to beat a majority of the teams we play, but the key is consistency. They were brilliant at times last season, but they’ll have to be brilliant more often” (1980 Media Guide). Unfortunately, the competition once again proved too strong for the Falcons.
As Brett looked toward the 1981 season, she said, “This is probably the best field hockey team Bowling Green has ever had, but it’s going to be a matter of fitting pieces into the puzzle....On a given day, anybody in the MAC can beat anybody else in the league” (1981 Media Guide). Competing for the first time under NCAA rules and as a recognized Mid-American Conference sport, the Falcons lived up to Brett's expectations and had one of their best seasons ever. They posted an 11-6-3 record, had a streak of 14 games without a loss, held down the top spot in the MAC team standings for three weeks, and garnered a three-way tie for second place in the MAC tournament (Key, 1982, p. 127).

Early in 1982, the BGSU field hockey tradition came to an end. In response to statewide budget cuts, the athletics department discontinued intercollegiate teams in field hockey, wrestling, and women's and men's indoor track. In making the announcement, athletics director Jim Lessig stated,

This is one of the most painful decisions that any athletic program has to make. We feel particularly bad about the young athletes who came to this campus to participate in one of the programs that has been dropped. We realize that we have to be part of the University’s overall financial cutback.” (BG News, February 26, 1982, p. 1)

Coach Brett continued as head track and field coach until 1984, when she left BGSU for a career in the business world.
BEE GEE NEWS
Sports Section
Wednesday, May 7, 1947

Campus Visited by Golfer Betty Hicks Over Weekend
by T. J. Loomis

Maintaining that the principal thing for golf enthusiasts to remember is to always play the game for the pleasure derived from it, vivacious Betty Hicks emphasized that "fun" should be the uppermost objective of all young players.

Miss Hicks, an extremely likable, petite brunette, has been visiting Bowling Green for the past five days as part of a tour scheduled by the Women Professional Golfers' Association of which she is vice-president. While on campus, the famous golf luminary talked before a group representing the Athletic Federation of Ohio College Women and demonstrated various shots and techniques for them. She also instructed all women physical education majors and took over golf service classes on Monday and Tuesday.

The outstanding woman athlete of 1941, Betty has won nine major golf championships and numerous other sectional and invitational matches. Foremost among her laurels are the National Amateur championship of 1941 and the 1944 All-American Open title. She is the holder of 40 course records with an average of 72.

Field Golf

In her interview the comely golfer remarked on the many opportunities for talented women in the professional golfing field due to the great need at this time for capable people to do promotional work.

Asked what her biggest golfing thrill has been, the hard driving fairway expert immediately broke into a grin and replied that the greatest thrill was "winning the National," and that the most gratifying shot she has ever made was the 10-foot putt that beat Mrs. Estelle Lawson Pake on the 18th hole in the semi-finals of the same championship.

Softball and badminton are sports from which Betty now gets more enjoyment and relaxation than she does from the game that made her famous. "Like anything else," she said, "golf can become

Weathervane Golfer Here Monday

MISS MARILYNN SMITH, an outstanding woman golf professional, will offer a golf clinic and exhibition Monday at 3 p.m. at the University golf course.

Miss Smith won recognition as a women's intercollegiate golf champion and also capped the Kansas State championship.

She is going east for the fourth and final round of the Weathervane Transcontinental Golf Tournament and is stopping off here while enroute.

Acting in the capacity of adviser to the A. G. Spaulding Co., provides Miss Smith ample opportunity to tour the country making appearances, playing in tournaments, as well as taking care of her business duties.

While in Bowling Green Miss Smith will play a 9-hole exhibition match with Miss Spork of the University women's physical education staff.
Across many years, a unique feature of the BGSU women’s golf program was the rapport that existed between professional golfers and the University physical education faculty, who arranged for the pros to come to BG to engage in a variety of activities. The earliest recorded visit occurred in May 1947, when Betty Hicks, winner of nine major tournaments and vice-president of the Women’s Professional Golf Association (WPGA), came to campus. During her 5-day stay, Hicks conducted a demonstration for a group representing the Athletic Federation of Ohio College Women, taught several golf classes, and spoke to women physical education majors. Hicks’ career advice foreshadowed the sport management academic program that would emerge more than 30 years later, as she remarked on “the many opportunities for talented women in the professional golfing field due to the great need at this time for capable people to do promotional work” (Bee Gee News, May 7, 1947, p. 3).

Four years later, Marilynn Smith, a co-founder of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA), came to BG to conduct a clinic at the University golf course. While on campus, she played an exhibition match with Shirley Spork, a BGSU physical education instructor and also a co-founder of the LPGA (Bee Gee News, May 18, 1951).
In 1965 and 1966, the women’s physical education department, in cooperation with the LPGA, sponsored National Golf Schools. Spork, by then a regular on the LPGA tour, and Penny Boussoulas, physical education instructor and coach of the BGSU golf team, were co-chairs of the Schools. Eight years later, Spork returned to BG to conduct a golf clinic and hit the symbolic “first ball” in the inaugural event of Grand Opening Week of the back nine holes of the University Golf Course (BG News, June 20, 1974; Daily Sentinel Tribune, June 18, 1974).

Bowling Green students have a long history of enjoying golf. As early as 1950, golf was included among the sports sponsored by the WAA. It proved to be quite popular, and in 1956 BGSU golfers competed against teams from Toledo and Heidelberg in a Sports Day held at the University of Toledo (Bee Gee News, May 13, 1956). Early in 1941, Jean Drake Hendrickson organized BG’s first women’s golf club with the purpose of fostering “interest and enjoyment in golf among the women students of the campus.” The club was open to women who either had had nine weeks of golf instruction or could pass the “efficiency” test (Bee Gee News, Feb. 26, 1941).
LPGA GOLF SCHOOL chairmen Shirley Spork (left) and Penny Boussoulas (center), a woman's HPE instructor at the University, along with Swing Clinic hostess Marilyn Smith discuss some golfing methods with another interested golfer, President Jerome. The clinic held Tuesday at the University Golf Course highlighted the week-long school.
Golf

CAC 1975
In 1957, BG sent a foursome to the Ohio Intercollegiate Golf Tourney at Ohio State (Key, 1957). Two years later, Agnes Hooley, the club’s sponsor, brought more structure to the group, announcing that the golf club would meet “at 3:30 every Tuesday, regardless of weather conditions” (BG News, Oct. 6, p. 5). The same year, in a WIA-sponsored Sports Day with Eastern Michigan, Wooster, and Oberlin, BG golfers captured the top three places (B-G News, Nov. 10, 1959). In a 1961 tri-match on the Scarlet course in Columbus, a BG foursome prevailed over teams from Ohio State and Ohio University. The medalist was Falcon Lorraine Abbott, who ultimately became a professional golfer (B-G News, May 12, 1961).

During the late 1960s, the Falcon golf team matched up well against teams from schools such as Ohio State, Kent State, and Michigan State. They also turned in fine performances in the annual Midwest tournament, the precursor to the MAIAW. These accomplishments occurred with few resources. Many years later, Coach Dolores Black remembered how the team obtained enough shag balls to finish the season: “We played Central Michigan, and a little stream went through the course. On one hole, almost every ball would go in the stream and we retrieved many of them” (May, 1988).

Noel Jablonski (1967-1971), recalled what being on the golf team meant to her in those days:

“I have many wonderful memories about the BG golf team....It was great fun to pile four or five of us and all of our gear into Ms. Black’s big ol’ car to drive across the Midwest to compete in Illinois and Indiana. We stayed in motels, ate in restaurants, and developed friendships with players from other schools. We had to manage our schoolwork and time, cooperate with one another, and encourage each other. We were on the course in Bloomington, Indiana, in 1970, when the Kent State uprisings were closing universities in Ohio. I remember the golfers from Ohio University trying to decide if they could finish the tournament because they had received word that their school had shut down. Every competitor helped to deal with the situation.” (May, 2005)
By the 1970s, Black’s team had become very competitive with teams from across the Midwest. In 1972, BG won the team championship at the Ohio Invitational Tournament, with Falcon Sue Barkhurst winning medalist honors (*BG News*, May 17, 1972). To top off the victory, Carolyn Treece carded a dramatic hole-in-one! The BG golfers repeated the state title in 1973, and Jill Wilhelm played in the AIAW national tournament at the University of Georgia. The Falcons were state runners-up to the Buckeyes in the 1974 Ohio Invitational, which was held in conjunction with the Falcon Women’s Invitational (*BG News*, May 22, 1974).

In the fall of 1974, the Falcons dethroned Ohio State to win the Ohio Association of Intercollegiate Sports for Women (OAISW) Tournament on the BGSU course (*BG News*, Oct. 18, 1974). The Falcon Invitational was again held at the same time, and the Falcons came in third behind Kentucky and Michigan State. Coach Black was proud of her players, stating: “The girls just did a tremendous job. It was good to beat Ohio State” (*BG News*, Oct. 18, 1974, p. 8). In the spring season, the Falcons improved to second place in the Falcon Invitational (*BG News*, April 17, 1975).

At the 1975 Ohio State University Invitational, held on the Scarlet course, Bowling Green placed 6th in a 14-team field that included top golfers from schools such as Kentucky, Alabama, Penn State, and Michigan State (*BG News*, May 21, 1975). Falcon Cindy Bye added to the excitement with an ace on the 8th hole! The spring season ended with a 5th place finish in the OAISW and Falcons Peg Gibbons and Karen Parshall qualifying for the AIAW national tournament at Michigan State (*BG News*, May 21, 1976).
Coach Black returned to full-time teaching in 1976, and Sally Hattig assumed the coaching role. The BG linksters began the season with a third place in the Wisconsin Invitational, prompting Hattig to remark, “The girls really looked good in Wisconsin, but I knew the Bowling Green women golfers have always placed well in tournament play” (BG News, Sept. 19, 1976, p. 19). The spring season ended with a third place finish behind Michigan State and Ohio State in the BG Invitational, where Falcon Karen Parshall was the medalist (2009-2010 Media Guide). Parshall was invited to play in the 1977 AIAW national tournament, which was held in Hawaii.

In 1977-78, Hattig became the coach of the softball team, and Janet Parks began a 4-year stint with the golfers. In her first year, the Falcons placed 2nd at the Central Michigan Invitational, 4th at Cincinnati, and 6th at Purdue. A high point of the season was Karen Parshall’s third consecutive selection for the AIAW national tournament. Held in Haines City, Florida, the 1978 AIAW was the culminating event for Parshall, who had been the top Falcon golfer for four years.

The 1978-79 season was a rebuilding year for the young Falcons. The competition was stiff, but Parks believed that competing with strong players would eventually be to the Falcons’ advantage: “We’re the only team I know of that consistently plays Big Ten and Southeastern Conference teams every weekend...the girls realize the caliber of teams they go up against...they can learn a lot from better golfers” (BG News, April 6, 1979, p. 8). The following year, their experience against the high-powered teams began to pay off, as the Falcons won the 1979 UNC-Wilmington tournament, with Kris McKelvey earning medalist honors. In the MAIAW tournament at Purdue, BG came in 7th of 18, defeating the other MAC schools in the tournament. The Falcons’ experience playing in the winds of Bowling Green worked to their advantage when the second day of the MAIAW tournament turned out to be exceptionally blustery. BG was one of the very few teams whose scores went down as the winds went up. Parks said, “I never heard our players say anything about the wind. They didn’t seem to notice it” (BG News, Oct. 24, 1979, p. 8).
Fall 1980 was a record-setting season for BG. The Falcons came in 2nd in the Longwood (VA) Invitational, where they set school records for 18-, 56-, and 54-hole team scores (BG News, Sept. 21, 1980). Kris McKelvey’s score of 73 tied the 18-hole individual record that Shelley Dye had set at the 1979 Indiana Invitational. McKelvey also set individual records for 56-hole and 54-hole totals (1980 Media Guide). The season concluded with BG’s best-ever finish in the MAIAW tournament—5th place in a 19-team field. Coach Parks was pleased with the record and proud of her team, noting: “We beat a lot of Big Ten schools and beat Michigan State for the first time” (BG News, Oct. 14, 1980, p. 7).

When Parks returned to full-time teaching in 1981, professional golfer A. J. Bonar assumed the coaching responsibilities. Early in the season, Bonar told his players what they would have to do in order to improve: “The prescription is clear. We are going to have to work harder than everyone else at specific skills. We are also going to have to function with the family-type unity that we have shown so far this season” (BG News, Sept. 20, 1981, p. 24).

The Falcons took Coach Bonar’s prescription to heart, and 1982 was a banner year for Bowling Green golf. The team set a new 18-hole record of 307 in the spring Cincinnati Invitational and tied it in the fall Boilermaker Classic. Sally Robinson (Cincinnati Invitational) and Claire Batista (Spartan Fall Invitational) tied the low individual 18-hole record of 73. The Falcons won the fall 1982 Wolverine Invitational, registering BG’s first NCAA D-I victory and defeating Michigan State for only the second time in the history of BGSU women’s golf. As Bonar looked toward the next season, he had high hopes, saying: “I feel that the 1982-83 season is the beginning of a new era in women’s golf at Bowling Green...this is only the beginning. We are bringing in talented players and are on the verge of having a major collegiate program” (1983 Media Guide).

Bonar coached the women’s and men’s teams through 1984, when he left BG for San Diego to become the golf director of the San Diego Golf Academy. He currently operates the AJ Golf School in Rancho Santa Fe, Ca.
In the fall of 1965, Betty Jean Maycock came to BGSU to study for her master’s degree and to start a gymnastics club. Maycock was well-prepared for this assignment as she had participated in the 1959 Pan American Games and had won gold medals in the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome as well as in the 1961 U.S. State Department’s Good Will Tour of Russia. As she embarked on her goals at BG, Maycock noted, “Gymnastics is exploding at the present time all over the country, probably due to the television coverage of national competition…and the Olympic Games….The gymnastics club being established will later enter competition with other universities” (B-G News, October 12, 1965, p. 6).

During the next few years, the Falcon gymnasts had a three-pronged approach—performing as a club, as an exhibition group, and as a team. As a team, they competed against other universities such as Ohio State, Eastern Michigan, Kent State, and Miami. As an exhibition group, they performed during the halftimes of men’s basketball games, and as a club, they taught the basics to beginning-level university students and conducted clinics for area secondary and elementary schools. Decades later, Maycock [Roys Harrington] reminisced about those early days: “Gymnastics competitions at the collegiate level were more like exhibition matches because the sport was still in its infancy stages in the U.S. I guess our team—the first of its kind at BGSU—represented pioneering and could be considered a breakthrough. Gert Eppler made it all possible” (survey, 2009).
When Maycock Roys left the University in 1970, former BG gymnast Coni Hartley Martin was appointed coach. Characterizing gymnastics as “women’s most demanding sport,” Coach Martin explained, “Women don’t have the power of men in gymnastics, so they rely more on leverage and momentum...developing the beauty of their body movement” (BG NEWS, February 18, 1971, 8).

In the fall of Martin’s first year of coaching, the gymnasts found themselves practicing on the cold, hard marble floors of Memorial Hall because, as Martin explained, “We signed up for the men’s gym originally, but evidently the men signed up for the same time, and both teams received permission to use the men’s gym from two different authorized people” (BG NEWS, February 18, 1971, p. 8). By second quarter, however, the South Gym in the Women’s Building had become the practice facility for the women’s team. This space, known today as the Mary Elizabeth “Eli” Whitney Dance Studio, must have been quite conducive to skill development because the Falcon gymnasts quickly became very good. Later that year, they had become so proficient that they captured second place in the Division II field of 10 teams in the 1971 Midwest Intercollegiate Women’s Gymnastics Championships, being outpaced only by the University of Michigan. Falcon Franny Lowe won individual championships in the uneven parallel bars and floor exercise events (BG NEWS, March 5, 1971).

The Falcon gymnasts continued to develop over the next two years, always scheduling tough competition and focusing on individual improvement rather than on winning. As gymnast Laurel Dodd stated, “Friends—that’s the most I get out of it. The competition is more with yourself than with anyone else. Usually we don’t feel like we’re competing against the other team. We’re just trying to do our best” (BG NEWS, March 1, 1973, p. 8). Even with the emphasis on participation, improvement, and camaraderie rather than victory, they captured second place in the 1972 Midwest meet (Class II), and senior Beth Edwards qualified for the floor exercise competition at the national meet sponsored by the Division for Girls and Women’s Sport (DGWS) (BG NEWS, March 29, 1972).

In 1974, Coach Martin [Stanley] left the University, and Charles Simpson took the reins of the gymnastics team. As Simpson began what would become a 24-year odyssey, he explained his approach and expressed admiration for the gymnasts’ work ethic: “We’ve been getting used to each other....I’ve spent the majority of practices seeing what the kids can do and teaching them new skills. I admire the kids for the tremendously hard work they’ve been doing” (BG NEWS, January 10, 1975, p. 6).
With Simpson’s arrival, the focus on the competitive aspect of the team intensified. As with other BGSU sports, gymnastics offered both varsity and junior varsity opportunities. As Simpson explained: “There were two levels of competition held on the state and regional levels. My main team competed at level I, and the less highly skilled gymnasts at Level II. Level II was discontinued in the late ’70s” (April, 2010). In Simpson’s first season, the Falcons had a 6-2 regular season record and came in second to Kent State at the 1975 Ohio Association of Intercollegiate Sports for Women (OAISW) meet (Level I). The highlight of the state meet was sophomore Theresa Hoover’s championship in the balance beam. The Falcons went on to participate in the 1975 MAIAW regionals at Illinois State (BG News, March 6, 1975).

In 1975-1976, the Falcons again came in second in the OIASW meet. They placed ahead of Ohio State, Youngstown State, and Miami, but lost the top spot to their nemesis and perennial powerhouse, Kent State. The Falcons’ strong showing qualified them for the MAIAW at Wisconsin-Eau Claire, which led Coach Simpson to remark, “The teams are going to be strong out there, but we’re going to show them what Ohio has, besides Kent State” (BG News, March 11, 1976, p. 7).
By the 1976-77 season, the Falcon gymnasts had completed the evolution to a highly competitive team. Many years later, standout gymnast Cheryl Vasil recalled a moment that marked this transition: *At the end of my freshman year we competed in a Regional tournament with many states and colleges represented. I won a 2nd place medal in vaulting and Coach Simpson grabbed my medal and jumped around. He was so darn excited to see our team starting to be competitive at a higher level* (Survey, 2009). The gymnasts finished that year with an 8-2 record, and, for the third straight year, came in second to Kent State in the OAISW meet.

As 1977-78 season dawned, Simpson declared, “*Our goal is to be No. 1....With the fine talent on the team this year, we should go a long way*” (1977-78 Media Guide). The Falcons did have an excellent season, winning 14 of their 15 regular season meets. Although they once again ranked second to Kent State in the OAISW, the margin of difference had shrunk from 15.45 points in 1976 to only 1.75 points in 1978. Plus, this year the Falcons could brag about sophomore Cheryl Vasil’s first place finish in vaulting!

After four years of being runners-up to Kent State in the OAISW meet, the 1978-79 Falcons were determined to be the first team in the history of OAISW gymnastics to defeat the Golden Flashes. Toward that goal, they practiced three hours a day, five days a week. Ultimately, their hard work paid off as they carried a 16-2 regular season record into the state meet, where they finally prevailed over Kent to win their first OAISW title (BG News, June 1, 1979). Another highlight of the 1978-79 season occurred when first-year student Linda Baxter captured 7th place in the all-around competition at the MAIAW, thus qualifying for nationals (BG News, March 29, 1979). Baxter was only the second Falcon gymnast in history to qualify for a national meet and was the first to do so at Level I competition. She was also the first Falcon gymnast to qualify for nationals since the advent of the AIAW.

As the 1979-80 season dawned and with the coveted state championship under his belt, Coach Simpson observed: “*Our goal in the past has always been to beat Kent State. Now is the time to set new goals and work toward them*” (1979-80 Media Guide). The Falcons were up to the challenge as they had an undefeated regular season (11-0-1) and placed only seventen-tenths of a point behind champion Ohio State in the OAISW meet (1980-81 Media Guide).
During the next two seasons, the Falcon gymnasts continued to excel. In 1980-81, Simpson’s 7th season with the team, they finished 2nd to perpetual rival Kent State in the inaugural MAC gymnastics meet and 5rd in the final OAISW gymnastics meet, which was held at Miami University. Individual gymnasts began to shine, as Mary Anne Kruppa was state champion in floor exercise, and Dawn Boyle and Laurie Garee were MAC champions in vaulting and balance beam, respectively (1981-82 Media Guide).

The 1981-82 Falcons were spectacular as they stole the show before a home crowd at the MAC meet. They not only won the championship, but they also took three of the five individual MAC titles: Laurie Garee—all-around competition and uneven bars and Dawn Boyle—floor exercise. Their team performance gained the Falcons a bid to the first annual NCAA Northeast Regional Gymnastics meet, which was held in Pittsburgh (1982-83 Media Guide).

Charles Simpson, who was selected MAC gymnastics coach of the year in 1983, continued coaching the gymnastics team until his retirement from BGSU in 1996. In 2007, he was inducted into the BGSU Athletics Hall of Fame. Two years later, Simpson looked back on his coaching career and stated: It was the best of times and the worst of times. We cried a lot and laughed a lot. We worked hard...I loved every one of them (survey, 2009).
In the fall of 1970, HPER graduate assistant Annella Petkovich, approached Sue Hager about starting a women’s lacrosse team in the following spring. As Carol Durentini recalled, “Sue didn’t want to start a lacrosse team unless someone would continue with it. So, since I was the coach of the field hockey teams, she asked me if I would take over lacrosse when Annella completed her degree. I assisted Annella that first year and went to a lacrosse camp in the Poconos that summer.” (February 15, 2010)

Typically, women students entering BGSU did not have prior experience in lacrosse. Most of the players acquired interest and skill through Durentini’s lacrosse courses. In spring of 2009, Betsy Kenniston (1975-1979) recalled: “I was a physical education major, and chose lacrosse as one of my beginning level activity classes in the spring of my freshman year. I quickly fell in love with this sport, and tried out for (and made) the team in the winter of my sophomore year.”

As the lacrosse program opened its 1971 season, an article in the BG News explained differences between the women’s and men’s games, making sure to mention the proper attire of those days: “No physical contact is the major difference between the men’s game and the women’s version...the 100-yard distance between goals remains the same in both male and female sports...Customary dress for the ladies will be kilts and tunics” (April 7, 1971, p. 7). In an interesting approach to skill development, the women’s and men’s teams would occasionally scrimmage against each other to help the
men focus on their footwork and stick-checking skills rather than on body checking. Later, Durentini noted that women’s rules rendered lacrosse “a type of sports ballet” that relied on agility rather than physical contact (BG NEWS, April 19, 1973, p. 8).

The lacrosse team finished the 1973 season with a 7-1 mark, which included a 13-1 rout of a team composed of players from various Midwest schools. Throughout the rest of the 1970s, the lacrosse team continued its winning ways, sporting a 52-9 record from 1975 through 1976. The prowess of BG players was acknowledged regionally as Falcons were consistently among those selected to play on Midwest I and II teams in U.S. Women’s Lacrosse Association (USWLA) national tournaments.

In 1975, Durentini responded to increased student interest in lacrosse by adding a second team. She acknowledged that the junior varsity would not play many matches because most other schools could field only one team (BG NEWS, April 4, 1975). Nonetheless, the “B” team did play several matches during the season, preparing several of its members for eventual elevation to the varsity.

At the 1975 Midwest Women’s Lacrosse Association (MWLA) Tournament, Durentini’s coaching peers selected her to coach the Midwest I lacrosse team in the USWLA national tournament at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA. The excellent performance of Midwest I in the first match prompted Durentini to observe, “I think we surprised the people from the East. They didn’t think we’d be as strong as we were” (BG NEWS, May 29, 1975, p. 8).

In 1976, the club had a 12-2 record, the best in its history, and they also performed well in the MWLA Tournament at Earlham College. During the season, they defeated traditional powerhouses such as Oberlin, Wittenberg, and Wooster. As a fitting conclusion to her lacrosse career, senior Ginny McGee was named to the Midwest All-Star team for the fourth straight year. Jill Durnwald [Fick], a player on the 1976 team, reminisced about her experience playing for Coach D: “Many of her players (including me) never played lacrosse before college. So she truly was as much a teacher as a coach. And we were very competitive, thanks to Miss D’s patience and teaching. She pushed us to be the best we could be, on and off the field” (SPRING, 2009).
The following year, Durentini led the Falcons to a 9-4-1 performance. In the spring of 1977, citing the dearth of high school lacrosse programs in Ohio and in the greater Midwest area, the University Athletics Committee recommended replacing women’s lacrosse with fastpitch softball, which was played in many Ohio high schools (BG NEWS, April 20, 1977). After Coach Durentini and several players presented a petition and made persuasive arguments for the continuation of the team, the committee agreed to reconsider (BG NEWS, May 13, 1977). During the same time period, a Title IX review committee from Washington, DC made a visit to BGSU, and Durentini presented her case to them. Ultimately, even though softball was added, women’s lacrosse was retained.

In 1977, Durentini left for a one-year leave of absence to begin work toward a doctorate, and former men’s lacrosse coach Mickey Cochrane took the reins as interim coach. “It’s nice to be back coaching the game ... We’ll start out concentrating on our defense, but gradually be putting more emphasis on the offense so we can play well at both ends... We want to have a balanced team, which is what you have to do to win” (BG NEWS, April 7, 1978, p. 10). Cochrane’s approach paid off as the Falcon laxers again had a winning (5-4-2) season.

In January 1978, the Athletics Committee recommended that both the women’s and men’s lacrosse teams be dropped, as well as synchronized swimming and fencing. President Hollis Moore approved dropping the latter two sports but recommended that both lacrosse teams be continued, while phasing out their grants-in-aid. The Committee concurred with this recommendation.

In the fall of 1978, Coach D returned to BG and resumed coaching both field hockey and lacrosse. The 1979 laxers went 9-2-1, outscoring their opponents 149-84 (BG NEWS, April 4, 1980). Graduation took its toll, however, and only four players
returned for the 1980 season. The 1980 and 1981 seasons were the only losing seasons the Falcon laxers ever experienced. A bright spot in the 1980 season was Debi Springer’s selection to compete in the national tournament at Swarthmore College (1980 Key Supplement).

In 1981, Durentini relinquished her coaching duties in order to devote herself full-time to teaching in the School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. She had coached the varsity lacrosse team for 10 of its 11 seasons. During those years, which included one year under the guidance of Mickey Cochrane, eight Falcons were selected for the Midwest I or II teams that played in the USWLA National Tournament: Patti Follansbee (1972, 1973, 1974), Ginny McGee (1974, 1975, 1976), Denise Nearhoof (1975), Debi Delaney (1975), Tina Bryant (1977), Cindy McDonald (1977), Julie Lewis (1979), and Mary George (1979) (1980 Media Guide).

Also in 1981, the Athletics Committee recommended continuing women’s lacrosse for the next year. In a July 14 memo, however, Athletics Director Jim Lessig informed the committee that Interim President Michael Ferrari had declined to approve a search for a new coach. Ferrari had based his decision on the University’s precarious financial condition and outlook. Consequently, women’s lacrosse was discontinued as a varsity sport.

Many years later, in a panel discussion at a Title IX conference held at BGSU in 2005, Mary Jo Beers-Takash (1971-1975) captured the spirit of the BGSU lacrosse team:

{We competed against Ohio University, Ohio Wesleyan, Wooster, Earlham…and we traveled…we had a little van,… and some of the students drove their cars. We had a shoestring budget. Our coach had to make sure that maintenance lined the fields, get the officials, and set up transportation. But we didn’t know any different. It was wonderful! I was excited to be able to participate in intercollegiate activities, and we just had a ball! From 1972 to 1979, we had 8 players that made 12 appearances on the Midwest teams at Nationals…a very, very, very successful program. We were sad to see it go. (February 5, 2005)

In 2009, Tina Durnwald (1980) echoed Beers-Takash’s sentiments: “I was one of the lucky ones to have played lacrosse for four years at BGSU. We fought a hard fight, but in the end, when the athletic committee decided to drop lacrosse…it was a very, very sad day. It was a financial decision, but it broke many hearts…”}
CAC 1979

CAC 1980

CAC 1981
CAC c. 1918-20
Softball has been popular among BGSU women for many decades. Before the women played softball, though, they played both indoor and outdoor baseball. Women began playing both versions of baseball in physical education classes at least as early as 1924. Indoor baseball, which was typically played with a large “mushy” ball, no gloves, and bases that were only 27 feet apart, was a winter sport played in the gymnasium. In the fall and spring, the physical education classes engaged in the outdoor version of baseball, which would not have been unusual for college women of those years. BG women played baseball until the mid-1940s, when “softball” began to be mentioned in the yearbook. By the 1960s, softball had become the name of the game at Bowling Green.

In the early 1950s, the on-campus enthusiasm for softball was extended into the community when physical educator Dorothy Fornia started a girls softball team in Bowling Green. Many years later, Lynne Fauley Emery, who had been a student at Bowling Green High School at the time and later became a history professor at Long Beach State, expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to play:

One summer, one of the professors at Bowling Green organized a softball team for girls. That was the first, but we only played in the summer, and then she left the state. Interestingly, she went to Long Beach State—it was Dr. Fornia—and I ran into her at Long Beach and had to hug her because I got to play softball one summer because of her! (February 5, 2005)
The first extramural softball team at the University was formed in 1965, when Pat Peterson, who was playing on a summer league faculty/student softball team, responded to the students’ request for a team of their own: “The young women were wanting a softball team, and they came to me and asked if I could be the softball coach...so I became the softball coach at that time.” (Interview, 2001)

In 1966, Coach Peterson took the helm of the varsity basketball team, and Dolores Black began to coach the softball team in the fastpitch version of the game. Black was instrumental in persuading the University grounds crew to build a softball diamond, complete with a sand infield and a backstop, at the corner of North College Drive and East Reed Street. In Black’s first year, the Falcons won all three of their games, a highlight being a 22-7 defeat of Michigan State at East Lansing (B-G News, May 17, 1966). In her second season, the softball team compiled a 2-1 record. In 1968, BG hosted Wayne State, Ohio State, and Kent State in a tri-match that was plagued by a constant downpour of rain. By the time the last game was called because of rain, Bowling Green had defeated Wayne State, lost to Kent, and hit two home runs against Ohio State (B-G News, May 8, 1968). According to Cheryl Renneckar, the Falcon pitcher at the time, “It rained and rained...we begged and begged to continue playing, but the rain won” (March 15, 2010).

After the 1969 season, Black left softball to fill the golf coaching vacancy that had been created upon the resignation of Coach Penny Boussoulas. Sue Hager then assumed the softball coaching responsibilities. During Hager’s two years with the team, which had converted to the slowpitch version of the game, the Falcons provided strong competition for teams from schools such as Central Michigan, Defiance College, Ohio Northern, and Kent State. In 1988, Hager reminisced about the lack of support systems such as equipment managers and groundskeepers for women’s sports. Hager noted that one time, it had been raining and the field could not be lined until the morning of the game. The lime that would ordinarily have been used to line the field had been used earlier in the week to dry out the bases.

“So, the only choice was to run to the grocery store. I sent one of the students. She came back with three big boxes of Bisquick. So we used it...we were inside and had the meeting with the teams and ready to go out and it had rained in the meantime and the field was damp and can you imagine running across a line of Bisquick? The ball was real gooey...we don’t forget those things.” (March 31, 1988)
188 | Softball

CAC 1978

CAC 1979
Janet Donahue succeeded Hager as the coach of the intercollegiate softball team for the 1971-72 year. When Donahue left Bowling Green after the 1972 season, the softball team was discontinued because no one on the faculty was available to coach (Sue Hager, March 12, 2010).

In the fall of 1977, fastpitch softball was revived at BG when Coach Sally Hattig sent out a call for try-outs. Over 100 women signed up, and they began practicing in mid-January of 1978. Hattig selected a 17-member team from the nearly 85 final candidates. The Falcons opened their first season in a game against Indiana State at the softball field northeast of the Ice Arena. Although supported by the BGSU department of athletics, the players had to purchase their own uniforms. (BG News, April 6, 1978). In 2010, Hattig reflected on her BGSU coaching experience: “The program was growing and trying to provide competitive opportunities for young women. It was a challenging experience for the students to prepare for and compete at a higher level” (Survey, 2009).

In 1978, former Falcon athlete Kathy Bole was hired to coach both softball and basketball. As Bole looked forward to the season, she predicted that the Falcons would be facing a tough schedule and stated that she didn’t know what to expect, adding: “I do anticipate the women’s softball team to be strong. We have a goal of looking for continual improvement” (BG News, March 29, 1979). After getting off to a slow start, the team did improve and reached the finals of the State tournament, losing the championship game to Ohio State. The 1980 season also saw improvement as the Falcons upped their winning percentage to .400 and again came in second in the State tournament. This time, they defeated Ohio State but lost to Youngstown State by one run.

In 1980, Bole vacated her softball coaching position to focus on coaching basketball. In so doing, she became BG’s first full-time, female coach of a single intercollegiate sport (BG News, June 26, 1980). As she left the softball team, Bole expressed mixed emotions:

“The softball team has finished second in the state both years I have coached it, and I would like to continue with the sport. Yet the softball team as well as the basketball team, deserves a coach who can be with them 100 percent of the time.” (BG News, June 26, 1980, p. 7)
As former Falcon standout Sandy Haines took the reins of the softball program, she remarked, “I’m very excited about the season...you don’t finish second in the state two years in a row because of luck. We have good players, and that’s why I’m confident we’ll do well this season” (1981 Media Guide). The 1981 season did bring improvement, as Haines led the team to a 15-13 record.

The 1982 season opened with 15 returning letter winners and 2 new pitchers, and Coach Haines was optimistic: “It’s realistic to believe we have a chance of making the NCAA Regional field...and that means we’ll have to have the best, or one of the best records among teams in West Virginia, Ohio, and Delaware” (1982 Media Guide). Haines’ optimism was well-founded as the 1982 Falcons posted a 28-19-1 showing, the best in the history of the program. Their performance earned a berth in the NCAA Regional Tournament, where they lost in the finals to the number one seed, California State-Fullerton. When Haines left BG the following year, her overall winning percentage of .557 (57-45-3) was the highest achieved by any coach since the re-emergence of the softball program in 1977. As of 2010, Haines’ record remained unequaled. Haines left the University in 1982 to pursue a career in the financial industry.
CAC 1948-49

1950 KEY
In the fall of 1948, the following notice appeared in the *Bee*:

**SWIMMING TEAM ORGANIZED:** Any good swimmers on campus. Come out and join the women’s swimming team which is being organized tonight at 7:30 in the Nat. You do not need to be a member of Swan Club to join. Some meets have already been arranged. (October 27, p. 6)

Judging from their record, some excellent swimmers came out for this team, which was dubbed the “Splashers.” By 1951, the Splashers had a national intercollegiate standing of fourth place and had attained national recognition in competition against Western Ontario, Purdue, Ohio State, Michigan State, Ohio Wesleyan, and Michigan State Normal (*Key*, 1951).

The Splashers’ success might have been due, in part, to the forward thinking of Dorothy Luedtke, their young coach. Luedtke was not fond of the old tank suits traditionally worn by swimmers and, instead, purchased a more modern version of swimming attire. Clearly, she was ahead of her time, and her selection of suits caught the attention of her colleagues: “People were upset with me because I bought black nylon suits for my racing team. They thought that was a little risqué” (March 31, 1988).
Luedtke’s Splashers continued to attract highly skilled, experienced swimmers who relished the idea of competition. In 1952, for example, Sue Mignerey came to BG from Connecticut, where she had set several freestyle records and reigned as the women’s state champion. At BG, Mignerey served as captain of the Splashers and broke three records in the Natatorium (B-G News, May 11, 1954). By 1955, with no more than one loss in each of their seven years of existence, the Splashers had added Ohio University, Miami University, and Denison to their schedule (KEY, 1955).

During the 1950s, competition in “form swimming” was often included in the women’s swim meets. Years later, Iris Andrews explained:

In the first swimming meets that we had, we had speed and form. We had to always include form swimming. Now, have you ever tried to judge form swimming? They did the sidestroke and the breaststroke. The winner of the sidestroke was whoever could glide the farthest and look the prettiest. (March 31, 1988)

Occasionally, one of BG’s competitors in these combined meets was the University of Western Ontario in Canada. In 1950, the Splashers defeated Western, with Falcons Joan Wickes and Sallie Buck winning first place in several speed events, and Joyce McCreery and Marie Kenney coming in first in the synchronized duet category (Bee Gee News, Dec. 1, 1950). In 1955, the Falcons lost to Western, even though Mignerey won two speed events, Adella Grove took a first in diving, Connie Wood prevailed in synchronized solo, and Fran Isch and Lynne Fauley won the synchronized duet category (B-G News, Dec. 9, 1955).
In 1956, Iris Andrews, who had been directing the synchronized swimming team since 1945, assumed leadership of the Splashers. In her first year, BG edged out Western Ontario by a score of 53-52. In the speed events, the relay team of Pat Monasmith, Shirley Browning, Zenobia Premo, and Gladys Griesmer took first place in the 200-yard freestyle. Winners in the synchronized events included Linda Tieman (solo), Annalda Toriskie and Browning (duet), and Jeanne Carlson, Grove, Tieman, and Toriskie (team). During Andrews’ 4-year stint, the Splashers also competed against universities such as Michigan State and Ohio State and in the Invitational Swimming Meet at Miami University (Key, 1957).

Former Splasher Dona Rae Whittaker Vogel coached the team from 1960 through 1962, and they competed against swimmers from schools such as Kent State, Ohio University, Miami University, and Wooster College. The Falcons continued to attract talent from beyond Ohio as the co-captains of the 1961 team were Brazil-born Karen Murphy, who had swum for an American team in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and New Jersey native Edwina “Eddy” Fink, who had been a member of the 1957 AAU All American Swimming Team. A high point of the year was Patricia Dow’s intercollegiate record-setting time in the 50-yard backstroke (B-G News, Nov. 10, 1961). Many years later, Vogel looked back on her coaching experience, noting: “Teaching classes, working with students, developing organizational skills, along with balancing the responsibilities of a marriage, graduate studies, and coaching was preparation for many challenges yet to come” (Survey, 2009).
In 1962, Andrews returned to the Splashers, and in the fall of 1963, Paula Weber and Noreen Wolcott turned in DGWS (Division for Girls and Women’s Sports) record-breaking performances in a meet at Miami University. Weber set a new national record in the 50-yard butterfly, and Wolcott shattered the national record in the 50-yard backstroke (B-G News, Nov. 15, 1963). The following year, Wolcott represented the Glass City Aquatic Club at the AAU national championships and finished 6th in the 100-yard backstroke (B-G News, April 24, 1964).

Jean Bailey Campbell took the swimming and diving helm in 1966 and remained as coach through 1977. The Splashers changed their name to the Bowling Green Women’s Intercollegiate Swimming and Diving Team, and their competitiveness, team spirit, and championships continued to increase.

In 1967, the women were happy to be assigned regular practice hours rather than having to work around the men’s swim team practice times. As swimmer, Pat Tabbert stated,

\[ \text{The whole team is quite enthusiastic. The freshman girls are great! We all want to go far and we feel we can. We’ve had a lot of practice, too. In the past, the guys were given their choice of hours to swim and we were to fit in any other time. This year we have regular practice hours assigned to us. (B-G News, October 27, 1967, p. 4)} \]

Referring to themselves as “Campbell’s Swimmin Women” and sporting towels monogrammed with, “M’m! M’m! Good!” the swimming and diving teams of the 1970s took an amazing array of honors and championships. After a second consecutive undefeated season in 1969-70, BG News sports reporter Vin Mannix praised Campbell: “This team was a conglomeration of ‘walk-ons,’ (no grant-in-aiders) whose raw talents were molded into an unbeaten season by a woman, too chipper to be called simply ‘coach,’ and who zips around in her son’s 1971 TR-4” (Dec. 5, 1970, p. 10). The Falcons went on to additional undefeated seasons in 1971, 1972, 1974, and 1978 (1981-82 Media Guide).

By the end of the 1973-1974 season, the Falcons had earned 25 straight victories and only one loss over the previous five years. As they gunned for that 25th win, Coach Campbell pointed to her swimmers in the pool and stated, “This is an unusually lonely business. They bury their heads in the water and get nothing but hurt, pain, and agony.” Their hard work paid off, though, as Campbell observed, “We’ve got kids breaking their own records like crazy this year, and our relay times have consistently improved” (BG News, Feb. 22, 1974, p. 7).
During the 1970s, the Falcons were a force to be reckoned with, as they won the OAISW championship every year from 1974 through 1980 (1980-81 Media Guide). Falcon swimmers qualified for the Association of Intercollegiate Athletic Women (AIAW) national meet every year from 1973 through 1981, finishing among the top 35 teams in the nation several times. They also dominated the annual Midwest regional meet and won an international championship at the 1975 International Invitational held at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. (1976; 1980-81 Media Guides). To top it off, between 1974 and 1977, ten BGSU swimmers earned the designation of AIAW All-American: Barb McKee (100-yard backstroke-1974, 1975); Gail Sailer, Valerie Newell, Betsy Fisher, Becky Siesky (200-yard freestyle relay-1974, 1975); Siesky, Newell, Fisher, McKee (400-yard freestyle relay-1974, 1975); McKee, Sharon Ackron, Fisher, Siesky (200-yard medley); and Holly Oberlin, Lee Wallington, Barb Simmons, Leslie Heuman (200-yard medley relay-1977) (2009 Media Guide; BG News, April 2, 1975; Newell, 2010). In looking back on her experience, 1972-1975 team co-captain Valerie Newell identified values that she had gained from competing in swimming: “Above all, is my comfort with competition.... Being competitive and understanding how to be competitive in life and career have been central to my achievements” (Survey, 2009).
1974 AIAW SWIMMING PARTICIPANTS

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
Coach: John Campbell
Sally Barnwell
Julie Coveney
Kathy Collins
Marjorie Graham
Cyd Kennard
Dolly Hudson
Cindy Johnson
Ann O'Neill

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY
Coach: Jean B. Campbell
Amy Jones
Cheryl Clark
Renee Fisher
Cheryl Kincaid
Kay Mabey
Barbara McElheny
Marsha Beeler

BROWN UNIVERSITY
Coach: Florence M. Filps
Ellen Cohn
Helen M. Drin

BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY
Coach: Kate L. Montgomery
Karen Dier
Louise Guz
Catharine Keppel
Susan Maclntyre

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY — AT FRESNO
Coach: Billie L. Peterson
Therese D'Alessio

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY — AT HAYWARD
Coach: Leonard Chaplin
Reese Dickerson
Lynn Young

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY — AT LONG BEACH
Coach: Linda M. Jones
Dawn Coop
Sally Robinson
Cathy Seiden

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY — AT LOS ANGELES
Coach: Sue A. Powell
Marjorie Branden

CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Coach: Nancy Norman
Bernadine Chandler
Patricia Curne
Sue Graff

COACHES: Thomas O'Brien

COACHES: Linda M. Jones

COACHES: Sue A. Powell

COACHES: Nancy Norman

COACHES: Thomas O'Brien
In addition to coaching the Falcon swimmers and divers in 1976-77, Campbell directed Swan Club, the varsity synchronized swimming team that also staged annual water shows. In 1977, she relinquished her position as swimming and diving coach in order to focus on the synchronized team. Upon leaving the tankers, Campbell stated, “I would love to turn the world over to a group of my girls. There is no jealousy or back-biting, only love and cheers….This is a fantastic group, and they will certainly go places” (KEY, 1977, p. 152). Speaking of her expectations of the next coach, she mused, “I don’t care if they have a PhD as long as they care about what happens to the women because they’ve been like a family to me” (BG NEWS, APRIL 21, 1977, p. 9).

In 1977, veteran men’s swim coach Tom Stubbs assumed coaching responsibilities for both the women’s and men’s teams. In his first year, the “Swimmin’ Women” were undefeated, gliding into first place at every dual and invitational meet of the season and winning the state title (BG NEWS, MARCH 9, 1978). During Stubbs 4-year tenure as coach, the Falcons boasted a 29-5 dual meet record and captured three consecutive state titles (1978-1980) (1980-81, 1981-82 Media Guides). In 1980, seven Falcons qualified for AIAW nationals, where the 200-yard freestyle relay team of Debbie Dourlain, Leslie Heuman, Holly Oberlin, and Cathy Bujorian earned AIAW All-American honors (BG NEWS, APRIL 5, 1980). The following year, the 400-yard freestyle relay team of Bujorian, Terry Alexander, Donna Homberger, and Lisa Mansfield qualified for nationals in Columbia, SC (BG NEWS, MARCH 5, 1981, p. 8).
The 1980-1981 season culminated in a Falcon victory in the inaugural MAC Women’s Swimming and Diving Championship, where the team of Dourlain, Homberger, Cathy Schmitz, and Alexander were champions in the 200 medley relay. Mary Jane Harrison (3-meter) and Lisa Fry (1-meter) won the diving titles and were named co-MAC Divers of the Year (1981-82 Media Guide; MAC Records). Following the meet, Stubbs praised his team, stating, “It was a total team effort. They really held tough through some tough circumstances….They competed like true champions in my mind” (BG News, March 3, 1981, p. 8).

In 1981, Stubbs retired from coaching. He continued as aquatic director and resumed his teaching position in the School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. Ron Zwierlein, former falcon swimmer and diver, was named head coach of both the women’s and the men’s teams. In Zwierlein’s first year, the women transitioned from AIAW to NCAA competition. As he acknowledged Miami’s home pool advantage at the MAC championship meet, Coach Zwierlein expressed confidence in the Falcons noting, “I’ll still take our chances against anyone” (BG News, Feb. 26, 1982, p. 7). Although they finished second to Miami in the MAC, several Falcons again won individual MAC championships: Homberger (200 freestyle, 100 backstroke, 200 backstroke), Amy Kindy (500 freestyle), Alexander (butterfly); Alexander, Lauri Nichols, Kindy, Homberger (400 free relay); Kindy, Midge Hill, Nichols, Homberger (800 free relay); and Homberger, Schmitz, Alexander, Kindy (400 medley relay). Following the meet, Zwierlein praised his team’s passion and unity. “The team spirit and enthusiasm pushed our members to goals that someone of the same physical ability would not have achieved. They’re a family-type of a team” (Key, 1982, p. 166). Clearly, in 1982, the Falcon swimmers and divers were still demonstrating the enthusiasm and cohesion that had been part of the team since they first were known as the Splashers!

Zwierlein continued to coach the swimming teams through 1984 and the diving teams through 1986. In 1984, he was appointed associate director of the student recreation center and later served as the director of recreational sports, interim vice president for student affairs, director of BGSU athletics, and senior vice president for student affairs. Zwierlein retired from BGSU in 2004.
Swan Club / Synchronized Swimming

Head Coaches

Jean Drake Hendrickson 1939-1941
Gertrude Eppler 1941-1945
Iris Andrews 1945-1976
Jean Bailey Campbell 1976-1978

Swan Club was initiated in December of 1939, when Jean Drake invited 32 students from her swimming classes “to practice water formations for a swim pageant, as part of the [natatorium] dedication program” (Bee Gee News, Dec. 6, 1939, p. 4). Although there is no verifiable record of their having performed at the dedication, the creation of this group, originally known as the “Rhythmic Swimmers,” marks the first time that synchronized swimming was organized at BGSU. In a 1940 Bee Gee News article, members of this group declared, “We ‘thinner clads’ are really proud of ourselves, for we swim, we swim together, and, moreover, we swim together with music. With the strains of ‘Beautiful Ohio’ in our ears, we girls make what we hope will be a perfect circle” (May 1, p. 2).

In 1940, Drake selected 18 charter members of “Swan Club,” who then tested prospective members (aka pledges) on speed, form, distance swimming, and diving (Bee Gee News, May 1, 1940). As noted in the 1943 Key, Jean Drake [Hendrickson] “transformed the BGSU girls from chickens to ducks that first year” (p. 95). In spring of 1940, the Swan Club staged the first of several annual water demonstrations for visiting students on High School Day Scholarship Days (Bee Gee News, May 8, 1940).

In the spring of 1941, Hendrickson left her official position at the University. The following fall, Gertrude Eppler, the newly hired head of women’s HPE, began the first of her four years as director of Swan Club. The next year, Hendrickson volunteered to assist Eppler with the club, and the two of them directed the very first Swan Club Show. For two nights in April 1942, the natatorium was packed for “Aqua-fiesta,” an aquatic show with a Latin American theme (Key 1942, p. 64; Bee Gee
News, March 29, 1945). The same year, the Swans also put on formation swimming demonstrations at several of the intercollegiate swim meets, for physical education teachers at a convention held on campus, and for the Bowling Green Woman's Club.

In 1942-43, Kathryn Ruh, the physical education critic in the Bowling Green public schools, served as Eppler's assistant. In the spring of that year, the club presented a water pageant that was a “burlesque on the daily life of a WAVE” (KEY, 1943, p.95). The following year, Eppler and Ruh continued to co-sponsor Swan Club, and the “Aquacade” was again the highlight of the year (KEY, 1944, p.170).

By 1944, there were three sponsors of Swan Club—Eppler, Ruh, and the new dance teacher, Jane Shoemaker (BEE GEE NEWS, Nov. 8, 1944). In presenting the third annual aqua production titled “Wynken, Blynken, and Nod,” the 32 club members were aided by the Modern Dance Club, Alpha Phi and Alpha Chi Omega singers, several members of the speech and music departments, and art students, who assisted with costumes and special masques (BEE GEE NEWS, March 29, 1945). The narrator of the show was Eva Marie Saint, who later became an Academy Award winning star of the silver screen (BEE GEE NEWS, April 11, 1945).
When Iris Andrews arrived on campus in the fall of 1945, she replaced Eppler as advisor to Swan Club. As had been the case from the beginning, membership in the club was restricted to highly skilled swimmers as described in the 1946 Key: “Demonstrating great skill in aquatic sports by swimming eighteen lengths of the pool, surface diving, and by fulfilling many other rigid requirements, a girl may become a Cygnet, or pledge, of the Swan Club. A hilarious informal initiation is given the Cygnets before they become proud owners of their Swan pin” (p. 143).

Andrews’ first show, “The Loves of Apollo,” was presented during Homecoming in the fall of 1946. For 30 years, her Swan Club shows were a campus tradition that generated enormous interest and served as a point of pride on the BGSU campus. These shows were extravaganzas in every sense of the word. Bearing titles such as Scentimental Journey (featuring numbers such as Shalimar, White Shoulders, and Tabu), Aqua Carousel, and Sands of Time, each show had a theme around which all the numbers were coordinated. Swan Club shows featured complicated and dramatic aquatic routines set to music and often accompanied by dancers, campus vocal groups, and members of the men’s swim team, who were affectionately nicknamed the “Drakes.” Several shows offered the additional flair of dramatic readings and living statuary.
Many people who attended Andrews’ Swan Club shows still remember the signature underwater chain that served as the traditional finale for the performances. In an article about the 1968 show titled *Heads and Tales*, Andrews described this chain:

*This year’s big precision finale will be composed of 12 “Swan” pirates who execute the difficult 12-man underwater chain to “March of the Cueballs”...This intricate chain is very difficult; we’re the only university in the country that does it.* (B-G News, May 2, 1968, p. 5)

Twenty years later, Andrews could still describe that chain in detail:

*We had a 12-person human chain where you linked your feet around the other person’s neck and laid out straight around the pool. And the person at the deep end would go down and they would swim in unison. And the first person would go down and stay down and stay down and swim under water until the last person, the twelfth person, was submerged. And at one point in time, the pool would be absolutely calm, because everyone was underneath. Then they would emerge one by one, going the opposite direction.* (March 31, 1988)
Another unique aspect of Swan Club was that the annual show was truly a family affair. As Andrews was busy coaching the swimmers in preparation for the show, her sister, Winnie Wood, was creating the dramatic costumes that became a hallmark of the productions. Jean Bailey Campbell, who ultimately succeeded Andrews as coach of the Swan Club, remembered them well: “Those costumes that Winnie made were absolutely phenomenal!” (March 8, 2010).

From 1952 through 1956, another family member was closely associated with Swan Club. Winnie Wood’s daughter, Connie, chaired the Swan Club publicity committee, performed in the annual shows, and won first place in the solo and duet (with Eve Williams) in several intercollegiate competitions. Many years after her Swan Club days had come to an end, Connie Wood Anderson was asked to identify people who had exerted the greatest influence on her during her college sport experience. Her response exemplifies the family atmosphere she experienced in Swan Club: “Iris was my aunt and Bergen [Dorothy Luedtke] was her roommate…my mom made the costumes for Swan Club. I knew all of the faculty on a personal level from having met them as a child and remaining in touch after graduation. I considered them all personal friends” (Survey, 2009).

As early as the 1940s, Swan Club entered synchronized swimming meets. As the 1946 *Key* reported, “The club took on a competitive aspect this year and vied its form and speed with that of clubs from other campuses” (p. 161). Many years later, Coach Jean Campbell explained the difference between show swimming and competitive synchronized swimming: “Competitive synchronized has no relation to show swimming…What is involved is the performing of figures, similar to figure skating. Scoring is done similarly to that done in diving (BG News, January 7, 1977, p. 6).

As a leader in synchronized swimming programs for college women, the BGSU Swan Club sponsored Ohio’s first synchronized swimming workshop in April 1948. Representatives of colleges in Ohio and Michigan attended the event, and soon thereafter, Bowling Green was competing with schools across the Midwest and beyond. As noted in the previous chapter, Bowling Green synchronized swimmers did exceptionally well in the “form swimming” competitions that were occasionally included in intercollegiate swim meets. At a 1952 meet at the University of Illinois, for example, BG Swans won two second places and a fourth place against 125 competitors representing 13 Midwestern colleges and universities (B-G News, March 7, 1952). They were similarly successful in several international competitions held at the University of Western Ontario (B-G News, Nov. 16, 1956).

As winners of the 1954 AAU meet in Detroit, and the Intercollegiate Meets held at BG in 1955 and Miami University in 1957 (*Key*, 1955, 1957), the BG Swans distinguished themselves in intercollegiate
synchronized swimming competition in the United States. In 1960, BG hosted the Intercollegiate Women’s Synchronized Swimming Meet for the second time. Competitors included Kent State, Illinois State Normal, Ohio State, Michigan State, Purdue, Eastern Michigan, Ohio Wesleyan, Miami University, Baldwin Wallace, and Beloit (B-G News, April 29, 1960). The same year, they were invited to participate in the annual water show by the Association of Synchronized Swimming for College Women at Skidmore College in New York (B-G News, October 7, 1960). During these years, the synchronized swimmers also competed with teams from Michigan, Vassar, Illinois, Ohio University, Central Michigan, and Cincinnati and boasted several champions, including Jo Ann Layford, Margaret Constable, and Bonnie Harris (B-G News, March 2, 1967).

Between 1951 and 1971, Andrews made the Swan Club a known power by capturing an amazing 20 consecutive Midwest team championships (BGSU press release). As she prepared for the 1971 show, she discussed the history of Swan Club with BG News reporter, Meg Crossgrove. Noting that Swan Club was nationally known for its water shows, Andrews explained:

> We have performed all over the East and the Midwest at invitational meets of the best synchronized swim clubs in the country. We have always placed in the top three at the meets and have held many ‘firsts’...Our university has a reputation as one of the outstanding colleges in the country for women’s synchronized swimming. (BG News, Feb. 24, 1971, p. 5)

When Andrews returned to a full-time position on the faculty in 1976, her 30 years of work had ensured BGSU a place among the premier synchronized swimming groups in the United States. Jean Campbell, who was coaching the swimming and diving team at the time, accepted the additional challenge of directing Swan Club and coaching the synchronized swimming team. Campbell continued the high standards for the annual show and competition that had come to be expected of BG’s synchronized swimmers. In her first year, BG competed well against schools such as Ohio State, Michigan, Western Michigan, Western Illinois, and Miami. After one year of coaching both speed and synchronized swimming as well as producing the water show titled The Taming of the Shrew, Campbell decided to retire as swimming and diving coach to devote her full attention to the synchronized swimmers. She explained, “Precision, ability and body language are the keys to synchronized swimming, and the team will take up a vast amount of
The synchronized swimmers require more individual coaching than the swim team does. You almost have to be right there in the water.” (BG News, April 21, 1977, p. 9).

As was the case with many other sports at BG, Campbell had both an “A” team and a “B” team. In her final year as coach, both teams competed in invitational meets at the University of Michigan, Western Michigan, and Northwestern University. They also participated in the BGSU Invitational, a MAC invitational, the OAISW state championship, the MAIAW Regionals, and the AIAW National Synchronized Swimming meet. In addition to taking first place at the MAC and Western Michigan invitationals, the Falcon “A” team also won the championship in their division at the state meet, where Connie Cooper won the state solo title, and placed third in the Midwest Regionals (BG News, April 15, 1978). In the year’s culminating event, they captured 6th place among the 21 teams at the AIAW meet, where Cooper, Marilyn Humphrey, Margo Humphrey, and Mary Heitman won All-American Honorable
All together now... Stroke!
Mention honors (*BG News*, April 18, 1978). In addition to the competition, the Swans staged a show titled *Alice in Wonderland*. That spring, Jean Campbell left the University for Paris, Texas, where she currently resides, teaching swimming and conducting a children’s community theatre.

After the 1978 season, synchronized swimming was dropped as a varsity sport, and the Swans began to function as a club team under the leadership of assistant swim coach Sandy Cox. In the 1979 AIAW National Synchronized Swimming Championships, Margo Humphrey and Kris Humphries were named All-Americans as they led Bowling Green to a second consecutive 6th place finish. In its final three years, Swan Club was once again a “family” affair as former Swans directed the annual shows: Patti Wallace Welt (1980) and Kay Siegel (1981, 1982) (*Key*, 1980; *BG News*, April 15, 1982). The Olympic-sized Cooper pool, however, lacked the intimacy of the venerable Natatorium, which had been demolished in 1979, and the long-loved annual Swan Club extravaganza was discontinued.
1951 KEY

1953 KEY

1955 KEY
Women’s tennis competition at BGSU began in the 1920s with interclass and intramural matches played in the commons area outside of University Hall. In 1925, two tournaments were held, an elimination tournament and a ladder tournament. In the spirit of the “every girl in a game” philosophy of the time, players who lost in the elimination tournament were allowed to enter the ladder tournament:
The college has organized two tennis tournaments for women. The first is the regular elimination tournament, to find the winning player from the Freshman and Sophomore classes. The final INTER-CLASS match between the winners of the class tournaments will be played on Field Day, June 4th. Fifty of our tennis enthusiasts have entered this tournament. The second tournament is called a ladder or perpetual tournament. All those eliminated from the regular tournament may enter this ladder tournament. The names are arranged on a ladder and any player may challenge another player whose name is within three rounds above her. If the challenger wins, the two names change places on the ladder. If the challenger loses, the names remain in the same position. The name at the top of the list on June 6th, represents the winner of this tournament. By this method no one is eliminated, but each may continue to play until the end of the tournament. (BEE GEE NEWS, MAY 15, 1925, PP. 9, 10)

Women interested in competitive tennis organized into a club during the 1948-1949 academic year. The same year, Alice Marble, a professional tennis star and friend of Gertrude Eppler’s, came to BGSU and presented a talk titled “The Will to Win.” Preceding the program, the tennis club held a reception for Marble (BEE GEE NEWS, MAY 18, 1949). Forty-two years later, the world learned that BG’s guest of honor, who was also known as the “Queen of the Tennis World,” had been a spy for U.S. Army Intelligence during World War II. (MARBLE, 1991)
In 1951, physical education instructor Betty Menzi was advising the tennis club. Like several other women’s sports at BG, an interesting aspect of the club was its focus on both competition and instruction. In addition to sponsoring competition in the form of an all-campus tournament, the club offered a tennis clinic and gave members opportunities to gain experience and training in playing the game. The 1951 club selected representatives to play in the Ohio College Women’s Singles Tournament, and the following year, BG hosted the Ohio State Women’s Singles Tennis Championship.

The 1954 tennis club held try-outs twice a year, sent players to the Ohio State Women’s Intercollegiate Tennis Tournament, visited several other campuses to compete, and hosted other tennis clubs at BG. The instructional aspect was maintained as the members met on Saturday mornings to practice and to receive instruction from Mary Spooner, physical education instructor and club sponsor.

Agnes Hooley assumed the coaching responsibilities in 1955, and three years later, the BG netters made it to the semifinals in singles and doubles at the 1958 Ohio Women’s Intercollegiate Meet at Oberlin College. Penny Boussoulas followed Hooley as sponsor of the tennis club, and in the Women’s Sports Day held in October of 1961, the BG netters prevailed over Wooster in doubles play *(B-G News, Oct. 17, 1961)*.

In the early 1960s, Agnes Hooley again took the reins of the tennis club, which practiced on the courts between Memorial Hall and the Men’s Gym. She remembered the difficulty she had keeping men off the courts when the women were practicing:

*No one seemed to listen until one young man walked behind a young lady returning a serve and was cut across his forehead as she was in the middle of her backswing. After that the gate was locked when we practiced!* *(BG News, June 1, 1976, p. 6)*
In 1964, the Falcons placed third out of 17 colleges in the state tournament held at Kent State. “Losing is hard to accept anytime,” said Hooley, “but it was easier considering our players in the tournament lost to the eventual winners or runners up” (B-G News, May 15, 1964, p. 5). The following year, BG hosted approximately 20 other colleges and universities at the All-State Tennis Tournament and placed second. University President Bill Jerome was the featured speaker at the closing banquet (B-G News, May 18, 1965).

When Janet Parks took the helm of the tennis team in 1967, she realized that the budget was insufficient for the type of schedule required for the skill level of the players. In a 1976 BG News interview, she reminisced about those days:

"Money was always a problem for us. In 1968, our budget was $300, so we had to find ways of raising our own money. I can remember one year when we collected pop bottles and used the deposit money to finance a trip. We collected nearly $150!" (June 2, p. 6)
In 1968, members of the tennis club were still participating in both extramural and intramural competition. The intramural teams competed against each other, and the extramural team competed against other colleges. Continuing the original club’s focus on instruction, members of the extramural team helped beginners once a week on the courts between Memorial Hall and the Men’s Gym. As extramural team member Mary Miles noted, “Experience isn’t necessary. We hope to emphasize that one of the purposes of the tennis club is to teach beginners” (*B-G News*, April 25, 1968, p. 7).

The 1968 varsity Falcons placed fourth in the Ohio College Women’s Tennis Tournament at Wittenberg. The next year, Parks dropped the instructional component of the club, choosing instead to work on honing the skills of the advanced players. (*BG News*, June 2, 1976). The 1969 and 1970 teams improved on the Falcons’ record by placing second and third, respectively, in the state tournaments. In 1971, BG hosted the annual Ohio College Women’s Tennis Tournament again, and the Falcons tied with Miami and Ohio State for the state championship.

The best season in the team’s history occurred in 1972, when BG went undefeated (12-0) in the regular season and came in second to Ohio State in the state tournament. The most satisfying victory of that year was the Falcons’ defeat of Ohio State in a regular season match—on the OSU home courts! Another highlight was the selection of #1 singles player Toni Meiss [Scherzer] for the USLTA national tournament at Auburn University, where she won her first-round match.

The Falcon netters were third in the state in both 1973 and 1974. A highlight of the 1974 OAISW tournament, which was held at BG, occurred when University President and accomplished tennis player Hollis Moore delivered the keynote speech at the banquet. He discussed his ideas about strategies leading to Title IX compliance in a talk titled “In Defense of a Soft Second Serve.”

In 1975, the Falcons recorded a 10-1 regular season and sixth place in the OAISW. The following year, Parks’s last as tennis coach, the Falcons improved to third place in the state. In an interview with BG News reporter Sue Caser, Parks reflected on the status of women’s tennis:

> Tennis is finally coming into its own. Attitudes toward the game have changed and people have more of an opportunity to play. It is less of an elite sport, and the stigma is no longer attached to the ‘woman athlete.’ Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs did more for the game of tennis than they themselves probably realize. (*June 2, 1976, p. 6*)
Under new coach Joan Weston, the 1977 Falcon netters continued the Falcons’ winning ways. They captured second place in the state tournament at Ohio Wesleyan and progressed to the Midwest Regional Tournament at Ohio State. Seven of 8 letter winners returned for the 1978 season, and Weston was optimistic:

> All of our returnees did a lot of playing in the summer, and it was really evident when they came back this fall. They seem to have strengthened their consistency, which is really important. (1978 Media Guide)

BG hosted the 1978 Ohio Large College Women’s Tennis Tournament, and the Falcons tied for third place, again progressing to the MAIAW tournament.

After a disappointing 1979 season, Weston acknowledged that there were a number of younger players and that 1980 would be “a developing year.” She expressed confidence, however, that “If they get over their first match nervousness, they will be all right” (BG News, April 4, 1980, p. 6). In this final season for Coach Weston, the youthful Falcons managed a 4-6 record and fifth place finish in the OAISW tournament. Weston left Bowling Green for a teaching position at Berea College.

As new coach Deb Kurkiewicz took over the coaching responsibilities in 1980, she was eager to share her playing and teaching experience with the BG players:

> This is a great personal challenge considering the level of competition women’s tennis has reached in the last few years at the college level. But I’m confident my background as a player and an instructor can help the players here improve their games. I want them to know when they’re doing something well, and I especially want to help them make changes to help their game when they’re not playing well. (1981 Media Guide)

The 1981 tennis team sported a 9-3 record, a fifth place finish in the first-ever MAC women’s tennis tournament, and third place in the state. The following year, as the Falcons were heading into the 1982 MAC tournament, Coach Kurkiewicz stated, “I think that all the girls have a decent chance. If they play well, like most them are right now, then I think we’ll surprise some people” (BG News, April 29, 1982, p. 5).

Kurkiewicz’s confidence was well-placed, as the Falcons improved to 4th place in the 1982 MAC, and the coaches selected Falcons Chris Bischoff and Cindy Schepere to the all-conference team (BG News, May 4, 1982). Kurkiewicz continued coaching Falcon tennis through the 1985 season.
A track and field program started at BGSU in the 1920s, when Carolyn Shaw created a special area on the Training School playground between Hanna Hall and what is now Kohl Hall. At 4:00 p.m., Ms. Shaw would section off this area for a discus and javelin throw, a 50-yard dash, 60-yard low hurdles, and a running high jump. In the years to follow, an annual track meet between the first-year and second-year college women was a highlight of the athletics program *(B-G News, November 10, 1959)*. For many years, track and field events were included in intramurals and were very popular during field days.

By the mid-1960s, the track and field teams coached by Bonnie Motter were competing with other universities such as Kent State, Findlay College, and Ohio University as well as participating in the annual Ohio Relays. Motter also organized competitions among BGSU physical education majors and minors. Interest was high in 1968, as approximately 40 participants showed up for the event, which consisted of discus, softball throw, standing long jump, running long jump, dashes of various lengths, several relay races, 80 meter hurdles, and a 440-yard run *(B-G News, May 23, 1968)*.

In the fall of 1970, 25 women signed up for the track and field team under the direction of Sally Parent [Sakola]. In discussing her plans for one home meet and two away meets during spring quarter, Parent remarked,
Unknown to most students, the Women’s Track team has actually been in existence for quite some time. Two years ago we had successful meets against Ohio University and Kent State. Last year, the same two meets were scheduled, but cancelled due to the campus disorders. (BG News, October 15, 1970, p. 6)

New coach Ellie Robillard started a pre-season training program in February 1973 and narrowed the team to 15 members. She credited the cinderwomen with “having ‘real dedication’ for being able to last through the vigorous workout schedule” (BG News, May 9, 1973, p. 8). After several tracksters turned in excellent times in taking fifth place in the Eastern Michigan Invitational and second in the BG Invitational, Robillard noted, “I am very proud of these performances as well as the overall performance of the whole team. Although the team is well-balanced, I believe our strength comes from our sprinting team, with strong help from the efforts of the field event team” (BG News, May 9, 1973, p. 8).

Cathy Buell guided the Falcons in the 1973-74 season. The following year, under the leadership of new coach Cathie Schweitzer, the Falcons came in second in the All-Ohio, where Linda Helmink (javelin) and the 880-yard medley relay team of Helmink, Betsy Uhlman, Polly Koch, and Jan Samuelson won state championships (BG News, May 13, 1975). A highlight of the year was Jenny Gill’s 8th place pentathlon finish in the 1975 AIAW national meet at Oregon State University (BG News, April 22, 1976; BG News, May 13, 1976).

David Williams, who had been serving as assistant coach, took the reins of the track and field program in the fall of 1975 and began an outstanding 5-year stint in which the BGSU track and field team continued to build its reputation as one of the best teams in the state and region as well as being nationally competitive. Williams’ teams won three consecutive All-Ohio state championships and Mid-American Invitationals (the precursor to the MAC championship that would begin in 1981), while turning in numerous record-setting individual and team performances.

Williams’ team won its first state title in 1976 at the Ohio Twilight Relays at Ohio State. Following the victory, Coach Williams noted: “It was a nice feeling to beat the Buckeyes and actually be able to say, ‘We’re number one in the state.’” (BG News, May 11, 1976, p. 6). Deb Romsek, ran away with individual titles in the 400-meter hurdles, the 100-meter hurdles, and the 440-yard dash, and joined Stanene Strouss, Lynne Heckman, and Samuelson as champions in the mile relay (1977 Media Guide). After a Falcon victory at the Mid-American Invitational, Gill (pentathlon), Romsek (400-meter
hurdles), Strouss (880-yard dash) and the mile relay team of Samuelson, Romsek, Heckman, and Strouss competed in the 1976 AIAW Nationals at Kansas State, where the Falcons ranked 30th among the 145 teams represented. Romsek and Gill finished 4th and 7th, respectively, earning All-American status in their events (*BG News*, May 15, 1976; May 18, 1976).

By the 1977 season, the story of the Falcon cinderwomen had become one about championships, both team and individual. Once again, BG won the team championship at the All-Ohio and at the Mid-American Invitational. State titles went to Romsek (400-meter hurdles), Pam Koeth (shot put), Lorna Miller (discus and javelin), the mile relay team of Becky Dodson, Gail Billet, Samuelson, and Heckman, and the 800-meter team of Samuelson and Billet (1978 Media Guide). Miller and the 2-mile relay team of Dodson, Romsek, Billet, and Samuelson qualified for the AIAW national meet at UCLA (*BG News*, May 18, 1977; *BG News*, May 25, 1978). Along the way, the 1977 team set 10 new school records.

As the 1978 season opened, Coach Williams explained the purpose of the indoor season: “We use the indoor meets as a training phase and also to teach the younger women new skills they might not have learned in high school. It also gives the field event women a chance to work on weights and develop techniques” (1978 Media Guide). The indoor preparation paid off as the Falcons won their third consecutive All-Ohio and Mid-American Invitational team championships. State champions included Romsek (400-meter hurdles), Billet (800 meters), Dodson (1500 meters), Betsy Miller (5000 and 5000 meters), Koeth (shot put), Sue Klembarsky (discus), the mile relay team of Samuelson, Jenny Thornton, Romsek, and Deb Wernert, and the 2-mile relay team of Robin Mansfield, Billet, Dodson, and Betsy Miller (1979 Media Guide). Jane Guilford (100 meter dash), Betsy Miller (5000 meters), and the 3200-meter relay team of Romsek, Billet, Dodson, and Samuelson represented the Falcons at the AIAW nationals at the University of Tennessee Knoxville (*BG News*, May 25, 1978). Mary Zarn (high jump) and Pam Koeth (shot put) qualified for the 1978 AIAW indoor meet at the University of Missouri-Columbia (*BG News*, March 2, 1978; *BG News*, March 7, 1978). Although not reported at the time, Koeth, a 2-time OASIS shot put champion, finished in 7th place, thus earning All-American status (2009 Football Media Guide, p. 124; Survey, 2009).

After the 1978 spring season, Coach Williams left the University, and Pat Brett was hired for the dual roles of coaching both field hockey and track and field. Under Brett’s guidance, the 1979 Falcons continued their winning ways, placing second in the All-Ohio Indoor and tying for first in the Mid-American Outdoor Invitational. It was a record-breaking year for the BG tracksters as 8 athletes set 10 new school records in track events and 5 new records in field events (1980 Media Guide).
In 1980, the Falcons came in second to Ohio State in the All-Ohio indoor and outdoor meets. Stephanie Eaton was state champion in both the indoor and outdoor 800 meter run, and Dodson was state champion in the indoor 5000 meters. The Falcons set 13 new school records in indoor track, 1 in indoor field, and 5 in outdoor track (1982 Media Guide). As Brett looked forward to the 1981 season, she predicted, “We should be a strong team all-around…. If we stay healthy and keep developing our depth, we could be very good” (1981 Media Guide).

As it turned out, Brett’s prediction was a bit of an understatement as 1981 was truly a banner year for the Falcon cinderwomen. They came in second at the indoor and the outdoor All-Ohio Championships and at the MAIAW Regional and finished first in the inaugural Mid-American Conference Outdoor Women’s Track and Field Championship. In addition to the historic team triumph in the MAC, Kim Jamison (100 meters, 200 meters) and the 400-meter relay team of Kelly Jamison, Guilford, Diana Jennings, and Kim Jamison came home with MAC championships (BG News, May 19, 1981). Coach Brett noted that the MAC victory was a true team effort: “We may win this meet again, but it will never be this exciting. In this case, it’s hard to single out people who did well. The team pulled together, which is what we needed.” In what she called “the icing on the cake,” Brett’s fellow coaches named her the first-ever women’s track and field MAC Coach of the Year. “I was recognized because of what my team did,” said Brett. “I had the team of the year, so I was named coach of the year” (BG News, May 19, 1981, p. 8).

In addition to sending Kim Jamison (200-meter dash) to the outdoor AIAW meet and the 880 relay team of Sheila Gibson, Guilford, Kelly Jamison, and Kim Jamison to the AIAW indoor meet, the 1981 team set 18 new school records in indoor track events, 2 new records in indoor field events, 13 in outdoor track, and 5 in outdoor field events (1982 Media Guide).

At the All-Ohio meet in 1982, the Falcons placed third while garnering five first place finishes: Wendy Wumer, Diana Brumbaugh, LaDiedra Ballard, and Jennings (medley relay); Corinne Arnold, Pat Panchak, Robin Reckard, and Laura Murphy (3200 meter relay); Joy Clawson (400 meter hurdles); Murphy (1500 meters); and JoAnn Lanciaux (5000 meters) (BG News, April 20, 1982).

In the 1982 MAC outdoor meet, the Falcons scored more points than they had scored in the same meet in 1981 but this time, it was good enough for only second place. As usual, though, BG boasted several MAC champions: Ballard (400 meters); Clawson (400-meter hurdles); Murphy (1500 meters); the 1600-meter relay team of Ballard, Wumer, Clawson, and Jennings; and the
5200-meter relay team of Debby Chapin, Terri Thomas, Clawson, and Murphy (*BG News, May 18, 1982; 1985 Media Guide; 2009 Media Guide*). Indoors, the Falcons won the 1982 MAC Invitational, and several cinderwomen came home with individual titles: Ballard (400 meters), Clawson (600 meters), Murphy (1500 meters, 1000 meters), Lanciaux (3000 meters), and the 1600-meter relay team of Ballard, Wumer, Clawson, and Jennings (*BG News, March 2, 1982; meet record, courtesy of Nancy Boudreau*). The Falcons’ stellar performance prompted Coach Brett to write the following message at the end of the official meet record:

FANTASTIC!!! One of the most incredible team and individual performances for Bowling Green. Eleven school records and 26 personal bests! Congratulations and thank you for a super effort—you are indeed champions!

The 1982 season was the last for BG women’s and men’s indoor track for several years, as budget cuts resulted in the athletics department dropping both teams (*BG News, February 26, 1982*). Shortly thereafter, Nancy Shafer [Boudreau], a former member of the United States Track and Field team who had been coaching the women distance runners, started an AAU track team called the Northwest Ohio Track Club. For several years, some of the BG track athletes participated with this club during the months leading up to the outdoor season (N. Boudreau, 2010).

The 1982 season also saw the *Bowling Green Invitational* renamed in honor of Jane Herrmann, a 1978-1981 team member who had been killed in a car-train accident in December 1981, six days before she was to graduate. Herrmann, who was deaf, had competed in the discus and javelin at the Deaf Olympics (*BG News, May 7, 1982*). At some point in later years, however, the *Jane Herrmann Invitational* reverted to its original name, the *Bowling Green Invitational*. As Ann Bowers was conducting research for this book, she read a 1982 *BG News* story about the *Jane Herrmann Invitational* and inquired as to why the event was no longer named for Herrmann. When Cami Wells, current BGSU women’s and men’s track and field/cross country coach, heard about this situation, she immediately established the *Jane Herrmann Invitational* as an annual event (*BG News, February 11, 2009*).

Pat Brett continued as head track and field coach and coordinator of special events in the athletics department until 1984, when she left BGSU for a career in the business world.
Volleyball was among the very first sports that women played at BG. In 1923, it was offered through the physical education program and by 1928, it was included in WAA intramural programming. Over the years, volleyball became one of the most popular sports at the college and, for several decades, play days and sports days gave hundreds of women opportunities to compete against other colleges and universities.

In 1965, Dorothy Luettkke organized and coached an intercollegiate volleyball team (KEY, 1965). As with many other women’s sports, an “A” team and a “B” team were formed, and they soon were recognized as varsity and junior varsity squads, respectively. Luettkke’s teams went undefeated over the next two years.

When Luettkke returned to full-time teaching in 1967, Ina Temple assumed the volleyball coaching responsibilities. In reminiscing about her coaching days, Temple recalled the refreshments that always followed the competitions, the prohibition on overnight travel and, quite vividly, the need for students to drive. In 2009, she recounted a rather harrowing incident that occurred as the team embarked on a trip to Baldwin-Wallace: “A snow storm started, and the student driver slid off a ramp in Maumee.” Although Temple and her team returned safely to BG and eventually rescheduled the match, her memory of the nerve-wracking event had not faded over the years.

In 1971, Pat Peterson took the helm of the volleyball team, and many years later, she recalled what coaching was like during that time:

Volleyball

Head Coaches

- Dorothy Luettkke 1965-1967
- Ina Temple 1967-1971
- Patricia Peterson 1971-1980
- Sandy Haines 1980-1982
A significant number tried out, and I had to have cuts... We had a varsity and a junior varsity team, so we carried 24 women on those teams, 12 per team... It was prestigious for the women to be on the team. (Interview, 2001)

Peterson went on to recall her good fortune in having the assistance of Doug Beal, a five-time NCAA All-American from Ohio State who was attending graduate school at BG:

Doug Beal started a men’s volleyball club here, and he helped me a lot with my coaching... Doug later went on to become the men’s U.S. Olympic coach and won the gold medal in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games. There’s a tie to Bowling Green and a piece of history that people may not realize. (Interview, 2001)

Over the course of her nine-year volleyball coaching career, Peterson’s teams established an excellent record as they competed against schools such as Michigan State, Miami, Wright State, Ohio University, Ohio State, Cleveland State, Defiance, Kent, Ashland, Dayton, Cincinnati, Wooster, Cedarville, Ohio Northern, Wittenberg, Mount St. Joseph, and Capital. The Falcon spikers performed consistently well in invitational and the Ohio Association of Intercollegiate Sports for Women (OAISW) tournaments, in which all nine teams reached either the quarterfinals or semifinals. Peterson’s record suggests that her players responded well to her coaching philosophy:

Our goals in volleyball are to establish pride in what we are doing while working for team unity and closeness and to work toward the self-development of the student-athlete. Winning is a valuable by-product of this condition. (Media Guide, 1976)

As the 1976 season opened, Peterson was confident in her players, noting, “One outstanding trait of this year’s squad is its depth. I have 12 people who can enter a game at any time and do the job well” (BG News, Oct. 7, 1976, p. 7). The strength of the competition proved challenging for the 1976 squad, though, and the Falcons recorded a disappointing fifth place tie with Wright State in the OAISW tournament. The season did, however, provide a memorable moment for senior co-captain Gretchen Weitbrecht:
I was coming out of the back row as a setter and the ball was over-passed. Cincinnati had a potential Olympian hitter who unloaded on the ball. I took the hit square in the head, knocked me out cold...never been hit that hard in my life! (Spring, 2009)

The 1976 season was also memorable from a historical perspective. It was the first year that BG offered athletics grants-in-aid to female athletes. Many years later, Beth Basil still remembered the emotions those grants evoked in her:

It was a difficult transition my senior year on the volleyball team when we welcomed our first freshman scholarship recipients to the squad. These were athletes who were taking positions that the ‘veterans,’ including myself, thought we might have earned. When I look back on that year, I am grateful that I played a lesser role. I wish I had realized then what a huge event it was to have scholarship players on our team and how it would change the world of women’s athletics forever. (May, 2005)

In 1977, everything jelled for the Falcons netters, as they had an 18-win season, the first of two such seasons in a row. Eleven of the wins were consecutive, constituting the longest overall winning streak in recorded BG volleyball history. The streak was tied by Denise Van De Walle’s 1991 squad but was not surpassed until 2006, when Van De Walle recorded 17 victories in a row (Media Guide, 2009).
Another high point of the 1977 season was the Falcons’ defeat of Michigan State, the reigning Big Ten champ. Although BG lost the first game by a score of 5-15, they came back to win the match. Peterson was proud of her players, noting: “That’s a mark of a good competitor—to be beat that badly and come back to win two straight games” (*BG News*, Sept. 10, 1977, p. 6). The Falcons capped off the 1977 season by again making it to the quarterfinals of the OAISW.

After reaching the OAISW quarterfinals for each of the previous seven years, the 1978 Falcon netters recorded their best-ever OAISW performance, defeating top seed Miami and finishing in fourth place. Coach Peterson characterized the win over Miami as “the highlight of the tournament” for BG (*BG News*, Nov. 14, 1978, p. 6). The Falcons finished the season with a 18-win record (1979 Media Guide).
After the 1979 season, in which the Falcons again took fourth place in the OAISW tournament, Peterson returned to full-time teaching, leaving behind a 95-79-3 record (BG News, May 15, 1980). She relinquished the volleyball team to Sandy Haines, a standout player whom Peterson had coached only a few years earlier. Haines, said, “This job was an ideal situation for me. I was fortunate the job opened and fortunate that I got it. I respect Pat Peterson very much. I would like to do as much for my athletes as she did for me” (BG News, Oct. 2, 1980, p.9). Starting the 1980 season, Haines noted: "The kids on the team are very coachable…. Technically, as far as starting positions go, they're all freshmen. I expect them to challenge each other for starting positions" (BG News, Sept. 21, 1980, p. 18).

In Haines’ first season, the Falcons played 32 matches, the most ever for a BG volleyball team. The win/loss record was disappointing, however, and with only two returning seniors, 1981 was destined to be a rebuilding year. The Falcons were dissatisfied with their performance in the inaugural MAC volleyball tournament but took second place in prestigious invitationals at Cleveland State and the University of Louisville. These high points at the end of the 1981 season brightened the netters’ outlook for 1982, as eight letter winners were scheduled to return (BG News, August 29, 1982).

Haines’ final season opened with about 300 enthusiastic fans loudly encouraging the Falcons in a home game against Kent State (Key, 1983). The support must have helped, as the 1982 Falcons captured second place in the BG Invitational and fourth place in invitationals at Cleveland State and Eastern Michigan. BG also qualified for the MAC Championship, where Falcon Renee Manwaring was selected for the all-conference team (2009 Media Guide). In 1983 Haines left the University to pursue a career in the financial industry.

Personal growth and social development have always been among the goals of BG’s athletics programs for women. Jenny Uhl, who played volleyball under the leadership of both Pat Peterson and Sandy Haines, expressed how her volleyball experience helped her fulfill those goals: "Sports were instrumental in my development in that they gave me confidence, self-esteem, and the ability to learn how to work with others. The volleyball team at BG also created my friends for life" (Spring, 2009).
Lasting Legacies of Forward Falcons
The long and distinguished history of BGSU women’s sports was made possible through the efforts of three groups of passionate and dedicated individuals: student athletes, who enjoyed athletic competition and represented their University with pride; physical education faculty members, who assumed coaching responsibilities—frequently without pay or recognition; and athletics administrators, whose leadership and vision enabled many generations of women to compete against other highly skilled athletes in the games they loved.

The legacies left by these pioneers have taken several forms: named buildings and spaces both on campus and in the wider community; professional achievement honors and awards; and scholarships, awards, events, and funds that bear the names of many forward Falcons. In this chapter, we describe those legacies in the hope that they will bring pride to those of you who shared the early years and inspire younger readers to aspire to similar heights.
On January 18, 1979 the BGSU Board of Trustees named the soon-to-be-renovated HPER building the *Gertrude M. Eppler Complex*. The following October, Ms. Eppler herself broke ground. Looking on were Assistant HPER Director Terry Parsons, HPER School Director Betty van der Smissen, Dean David Elsass, and President Hollis Moore.

A large, enthusiastic crowd of alumnae, faculty, administrators, and friends celebrated with Ms. Eppler as the partially renovated complex was officially dedicated on October 2, 1981.
On October 21, 1995 HPER Director Mary Ann Roberton presided over the re-dedication of Eppler Complex, which had undergone a $10-million renovation. Other speakers on the festive occasion were President Sidney Ribeau, Chair of the Board of Trustees Jack Laskey, Dean Les Sternberg, and Director of Recreational Sports Richard Bowers.

Later that day, two rooms in Eppler Complex were dedicated to former faculty members Mary Watt and Mary (Eli) Whitney.

An enthusiastic Mary Watt expressed her appreciation for the dedication of the Mary A. Watt Learning Resource Center, a room that reflects her students-first philosophy by providing space for students to pursue a variety of activities.
The Mary Elizabeth (Eli) Whitney Dance Studio, located in the former South Gym, was dedicated to the nationally recognized dance instructor who created many special memories of their dance experiences for multitudes of BGSU students.
Today, Eppler Complex encompasses the former Women’s Building, the former Men’s Gym, and the space where the Natatorium was located.

The Gertrude M. Eppler Complex stands in tribute to the woman who was Head of the Women’s Division of the Health and Physical Education Department from 1941 until her retirement in 1969.

Michigan State Professor To Head Women’s Athletics

Miss Gertrude Eppler, assistant professor of physical education at Michigan State Normal College, Ypsilanti, Mich., will become head of the women’s division of the department of health and physical education of Bowling Green State University, it was announced today by President F. J. Prout.

Miss Eppler, for 10 years a member of the Ypsilanti faculty, will assume her duties here in September. Her appointment completes the personnel of the recently reorganized department of physical education which combines both men’s and women’s divisions under the direction of Harry Ockerman, department head.

Miss Eppler holds degrees from Michigan State Normal College and the University of Michigan. She taught for three years in the Michigan public schools before going to the state college faculty. For three years she was assistant director of Camp Wasquaum, Platt Lake, Mich., and has been on the Highland Park recreation staff for a number of years.

In addition to college teaching, Miss Eppler is supervisor of health and physical education at the Rockham school for handicapped children at Michigan State Normal College.

At the Michigan University, Miss Eppler is advisor of the Physical Education club and the Theta Sigma Upsilon sorority, a national education sorority of which she is also a member. She is a member of Delta Omega, public health honorary fraternity. She is a nationally rated basketball official and has officiated widely at southern Michigan games. She holds the national Red Cross instructor’s certificate in swimming.

The present staff in women’s physical education at the university will continue to serve under Miss Eppler’s direction.
On October 4, 2003 the North Gym in Eppler Complex was officially dedicated as the Dorothy M. Luedtke Gymnasium (aka Bergen’s Gym).

The room was full of anticipation as a large crowd of alumnae, faculty, friends, and family gathered to pay tribute to Ms. Luedtke.

Affectionately known to colleagues and students alike as “Bergen,” the honoree taught physical education and health-related courses at BGSU for 33 years and had a well-deserved reputation as a demanding and caring teacher. She also made numerous noteworthy contributions to the women’s sports program.

Following the dedication ceremony, former students and athletes posed for a photograph that now provides a lasting memory of this very special occasion.
LEFT
Cheryl Renneckar and Bergen shared a laugh as they anticipated their turns to address the audience.

BELOW
Connie Wood Anderson and her family were on hand to witness the historic occasion: (left to right) Scott Sansone, Dan Allen, Kathy Allen, Connie, and Hank Anderson.
Top Left
The smiles of Carol Durentini, Sue Gavron, and Joy Sidwell reflected the atmosphere of the day.

Middle Left
Alumnae Tina Bryant, Jenn Gorecki, Sue Telljohann, and Bobbi Little shared the excitement with Ina Temple (second from right).

Below
The planning committee, seen here with the honoree, was thrilled that the big day had finally arrived. Seated, left to right: Pat Peterson, Dorothy Luedtke, Janet Parks, Mary Watt; standing, left to right: Dolores Black, Sharon Hanna (BGSU Development Office), Sue Hager, Bonnie Berger (HMSLS School Director), Lynn Darby, Joy Sidwell, Roberta Avalos (BGSU Development Office), Jacquelyn Cuneen, Sue Gavron.
During the planning for the dedication of Bergen’s Gym, Leanne Grothe Andreas, a former BG athlete who had been prominent on the national scene of women’s intercollegiate athletics, wrote to some of her classmates requesting donations to assist with the cost of the event. The alumnae were so generous that money remained after the dedication. This windfall led to the mounting of a photo gallery in Bergen’s Gym.

A committee of retired coaches selected more than 20 photographs and had them transformed into banners that were hung high on a wall in the gym. BGSU Executive Vice President Linda Dobb graciously provided frames for the banners, and they now provide a prominent and permanent tribute to the women who participated in sport at BGSU between 1920 and 1977. It is good to know that everyone who participates in Bergen’s Gym today sees the images of these athletes and coaches!
Additional spaces, both on campus and in the greater Bowling Green community have been named in honor of former coaches and faculty members.

**Agnes Hooley**

In 1979, the Agnes M. Hooley Conference Room in the Student Recreation Center (SRC) was named in honor of Agnes Hooley, who played a major role in the creation of the BGSU recreation major during her tenure as a BGSU faculty member from 1954 through 1977. Hooley also served as coach of the tennis and golf teams.

**Mickey Cochrane**

Dedicated in 1980, BGSU’s soccer field is named in honor of Mickey Cochrane, who coached the 1977-78 women’s lacrosse team to a 5-4-2 season. Cochrane, who taught physical education from 1964 through 1985, also coached the BGSU men’s soccer and lacrosse teams for many years.
Iris Andrews

The Iris Andrews Pool in the SRC was dedicated in 1985. It is named in honor of Iris Andrews, who directed Swan Club shows for 30 years, coached women’s swimming and diving, and made many major contributions to BGSU aquatics and physical education programs from 1945 through 1977.

Former athletes and coaches Dona Rae Whittaker Vogel (1960) and Patti Wallace Welt (1953) celebrated with Ms. Andrews at the dedication ceremony.
In the Sebo Center, constructed in the north end of the football stadium in 2007, two-time AIAW All-American swimmer Valerie Newell is the namesake of the **Valerie Newell Women’s Locker Room**. Since graduation, Newell has supported BGSU through her service on the Alumni Board, the Foundation Board, and the Board of Trustees, which she chaired in 2003-2004.
On August 24, 2005, the Dolores A. Black Special Olympics Gymnasium was dedicated in the newly constructed Bowling Green National Guard Training and Community Center. The gym was named in recognition of Black’s more than 40 years of devoted service to the Wood County Special Olympics program and its athletes.
Continuing the Legacy

In acknowledgment of their significant professional achievements, athletic prowess, and contributions to women’s sports, many forward Falcons have received prestigious honors and awards.

**Iris Andrews**  
Honorary BGSU Alumna

**Julie Bender-Cleary**  
(gymnastics)  
BGSU Athletics Hall of Fame

**Mickey Cochrane**  
(lacrosse, soccer coach)  
BGSU Athletics Hall of Fame  
Honorary BGSU Alumnus

**Sue Gavron**  
NAGWS Pathfinder

**Sue Hager**  
OAISW Hall of Fame  
NAGWS Pathfinder  
Honorary member of Varsity BG Club

**Brenda Hollis**  
BGSU Accomplished Graduate Award  
BGSU Centennial Alumni Award

**Agnes Hooley**  
Honorary BGSU Alumna

**Kim Jamison**  
(track)  
BGSU Athletics Hall of Fame

**Dorothy Luedtke**  
OAISW Hall of Fame  
NAGWS Pathfinder  
BGSU Athletics Hall of Fame

**Laura Murphy**  
(track)  
BGSU Athletics Hall of Fame

**Janet Parks**  
BGSU Distinguished Teaching Professor  
Honorary BGSU Alumna

**Charles Simpson**  
(gymnastics coach)  
BGSU Athletics Hall of Fame

**Sid Sink**  
(track, cross country)  
BGSU Athletics Hall of Fame

**Tom Stubbs**  
(swimmer, coach)  
BGSU Athletics Hall of Fame

**Chris Tuttle**  
(basketball)  
BGSU Athletics Hall of Fame  
CoSIDA Academic All-American, Honorable Mention

**Cheryl Vasil Christiansen**  
(gymnastics)  
BGSU Athletics Hall of Fame
The legacies of many pre-1982 female athletes and coaches of BGSU women’s teams live on in the form of scholarships, awards, funds, and events that bear their names.

**Scholarships, Awards, & Funds**

**Andrews-Hooley Recreation and Tourism Award**

**Dolores A. Black Special Olympics Internship**

**Gertrude M. Eppler Secondary Physical Education Award**

**Jane Shoemaker Smith Award - HMSLS Senior with the highest GPA**

**Janet Parks Library Fund**

**Janet B. Parks Research Grant (North American Society for Sport Management)**

**Luann Simler Alleman Elementary Physical Education Scholarship**

**M. Joy Sidwell Outstanding Sport Management Internship Project Award**

**Patricia L. Peterson Academic Achievement Awards (Volleyball)**

**Patricia L. Peterson Scholarship (Education)**

**Events**

**Dolores A. Black Invitational (Golf)**

**Jean Campbell Challenge (Swimming)**

**Jane Herrmann Invitational (Track & Field)**

**Tom Stubbs Relays (Swimming)**
Reflections of Forward Falcons
The women’s records that are on file in the BGSU athletics department date back to 1975, the first year that BG was a regular member of the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW). As documented in previous chapters of this book, however, women’s sport had flourished at BG for many years before 1973. So, an obvious question is, “What happened to the pre-1973 records?”

Unfortunately, the answer to that question is distressing. When the women’s and men’s intercollegiate athletics programs merged in 1976, the files containing the historical records of the women’s program were transferred to the athletics department. Most of the records dating from 1973 were retained in the official files, and the files of previous years were stored along with other athletics department documents under the bleachers of the football stadium. Sometime later, large quantities of water seeped into that storage area. Much to our dismay, all of the files were damaged beyond repair and had to be discarded. Consequently, the only available information about the pre-1973 years is in (a) the memories and scrapbooks of coaches and athletes who participated in women’s sport, (b) accounts published in the *Key*, (c) media guides, which appeared on the scene in the mid-1970s, and (d) articles published in the *BG News* and other news outlets.

This chapter represents an effort to recover and retain the memories of Bowling Green’s forward Falcons. In the spring of 2009, Jackie Giammara, a BGSU journalism major and University Honors student, learned of our project and immediately saw an opportunity to merge her interest in women and sport with our efforts to document the history of BGSU women’s sport. For her Senior Honors project, Jackie designed a survey for the athletes and coaches who had participated during the years covered by this book—1914 through 1982. She sent questionnaires to the former athletes and coaches for whom we had contact information. After receiving responses from more than 100 athletes and 19 coaches, she transcribed the quotations that appear on the following pages. We are deeply grateful to Jackie for her contributions to this chapter and for the important role she played in the preservation of the voices of so many forward Falcons!
We sincerely thank all of the respondents for providing valuable information as well as heartwarming, and often hilarious, memories. Although we could not include quotations from everyone, the complete transcriptions are available in the Women’s Sport Collection (WSC) located in the Center for Archival Collections (CAC) in the William T. Jerome Library.

Finally, we are indebted to Dolores Black (“Bucky”), who encouraged several alumnae to donate to Forward Falcons and to the following women whose generous donations made Jackie’s project possible: Lorraine Abbott, Gladys Griesmer Barnard, Ann McCormick, Mary Miles, Cheryl Renneckar, Sally Reynolds, Thelma Riehle, Jean Scech, Mary Watt, and Linda DePalma Zanni.

And now to the reflections of the forward Falcons...
LIFE BEFORE BGSU
BGSU’s forward Falcons had eagerly participated in sport and physical activity throughout most of their lives prior to arriving at BGSU. Most had played informally with neighborhood children and family. Some had participated in junior high or high school sports through Girls Athletic Associations (GAAs), intramurals, and physical education classes. Others had enjoyed community recreation leagues, city/county leagues, church leagues, private sports clubs, ponytail leagues, YMCA/YWCA sports programs, and industrial leagues. A few women had participated in summer travel leagues, city/state/national/international tournaments, semi-pro leagues, and programs sponsored by the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), United States Field Hockey Association (USFHA), United States Volleyball Association (USVBA), the American Softball Association (ASA), Jr. Olympics, and the Jr. Wightman Cup. Many of them continued to compete in these types of programs after they enrolled at BGSU.

The sports in which these women had engaged were numerous and varied. Neighborhood games included kick-the-can, hide and seek, baseball, street kickball, baseball, and football. The organized sports were softball, volleyball, basketball (from limited dribble to half court to rover to unlimited dribble to full court), tennis, swimming and diving, track and field, cross country, field hockey, synchronized swimming, golf, archery, baseball, badminton, archery, horseback riding, snow skiing, ice skating, and soccer.

Some women expressed disappointment that their high schools had not offered athletics programs for girls. Several indicated that even though they were good athletes, their schools would not allow them to play on the boys teams in tennis or golf. Others were dismayed that they had been required to play softball rather than baseball. On the upside, several indicated that they did play on the boys golf or tennis teams, one tennis player being the first girl to do so in her school!
Life At BGSU
Regardless of graduation year, most of these athletes referred to inter-school competition as “intercollegiate.” Their BGSU sport experiences ran the gamut from play days and sports days, to extramurals, to state, regional, and national intercollegiate tournaments. Quite a few athletes were on two or more BGSU intercollegiate sport teams. Many of them remembered the annual Swan Club shows and intercollegiate synchronized swimming contests with great fondness.

The intercollegiate sports in which they had participated were golf, volleyball, tennis, basketball, indoor and outdoor track, cross country, swimming and diving, lacrosse, field hockey, softball, synchronized swimming, and gymnastics. Many of these sports fielded both junior varsity and varsity teams. Tournaments included dual meets and invitationals as well as competitions at the state, regional, and national levels. Several athletes had participated in MAC championships and AIAW and NCAA national tournaments.

Some athletes had played soccer, lacrosse, and rugby at the club level. Intramural sports included coed volleyball, coed tennis, volleyball, basketball, coed basketball, flag football, coed flag football, softball, styxball, paddleball, and water polo. Some were very proud of having been intramural champions!

All of the BGSU athletes who responded to the survey noted that their experiences playing sports had, and in some cases continues to have, a major impact on their lives. Overall, they credited their sports experiences as instilling in them such values and traits as fairness, tenacity, good sportsmanship, respect for others, the importance of teamwork, strong self-esteem and confidence, setting and obtaining goals, and excellent time management and organizational skills. They also acknowledged that playing sports allowed them to develop lifelong friendships and created an outlet for positive use of their energy, creativity, and competitiveness. They have used these skills and traits frequently throughout their personal and professional lives, crediting them as the basis for many positive outcomes. Remaining physically active also was a common thread among their responses as well as making sure their daughters and sons were physically active and/or involved in organized sports.
Memorable Moments

The respondents told many interesting stories about traveling, competing, playing in not-so-great conditions, earning letter jackets, receiving money for team meals on trips, making friends with members of other teams, achieving individual and team goals, and winning state and conference championships. Several of them reported that their most memorable moments included defeating their counterparts from Ohio State! Quite a few women commented that they had returned to BGSU to receive their letters in 2005 and were pleased that their participation in competitive sports as well as their leadership had been acknowledged.

My sister Mary and I were on the team together. We were a good duet team because we were sisters and thought alike. In those days you couldn’t hear the music under the water so just had to count to yourself and carefully watch your partner. We did consider ourselves athletes and we got some attention in the newspaper and yearbook. Mary and I were sent to Cleveland in May 1949 for a National Duet competition and the Swan Club sent us a telegram at the Cleveland Hotel Statler wishing us luck.

Norma Herge Zorn, 1951
Synchronized Swimming
Refl ections of Forward Falcons

I best remember the fact that it may have been because three of us from the university were playing on an AAU basketball team that the Department, which did not like the idea, decided to initiate a university team coached by, I am sure, "volunteer," Dorothy Luedtke. We only practiced twice a week and maybe played five or six games. I can remember us crawling into Ms. Luedtke's own car early on a Sat. morning to drive down to Columbus to play OSU.

Leanne Grotke Andreas, 1963 field hockey, basketball

CAC 1962-63

BGN, OCT 6 1978

Tough trip faces stickers

By Dave Lammers et

Bowling Green's women's field hockey team faces a demanding weekend, three-game road trip this weekend in the NESCAC. The team will travel to Rhode Island, then return home for a Saturday afternoon game. The Lady Falcons are facing a tough schedule this season, as they try to remain competitive in the tough conference. The team is looking to improve on last season's 7-7 record.

Mary DeLade, 1985 field hockey, volleyball

The field hockey team traveled to Ohio State and were handed a complete beating. We are all just happy to be out there and giving it our best. We are working hard to improve and get better.
I remember traveling to Michigan to play field hockey at Cranbrook where the Detroit Lions practiced. WRA outings were great at Oak Openings.

Pat Walther Hoopes, 1952 basketball, soccer, field hockey, volleyball

It was the semi-final game of the women's basketball state tournament. We were down by 1 and had possession of the ball. I looked at the clock—there were 10 seconds to go—the ball was passed to me just outside of the elbow. My roommate and teammate, Barb, was great at driving in and I considered passing to her to get the foul and maybe even make the shot. Everything went into slow motion as I was making consideration of my next move. Barb yelled, "shoot the ball!" That encouragement was all that it took—I shot, all net, we won!!

Cynthia Williman Spiers, 1974 basketball, softball, field hockey

Oak Openings offers a break from school

BGN, AUG. 26 2002

At issue: Need a new place to relax and unwind? Oak Openings may be a fun place to go to get away from the pressures of school.
Coeds Smash Kettering 40-29; Host Dayton

The potent women's extra basketball "A" and "B" teams host Dayton tomorrow at 2 p.m. in Anderson Arena.

The "A" team drubbed State last Saturday and remain unbeaten in the last two years. Leading the third victory of the season were Nancy Allison with 11 points and Carla Hitt with 10.

The "B" team disposed of its Golden Flash opposition by a 54-27 margin. Paula Lentz and Barb Walls were the top scorers with 14 and 13 points respectively.

Laughter, laughter and laughter characterized our team spirit. We were a group of women that found fun in our sport. Traveling and competing in nationals was a wonderful highlight. I also remember a dual meet where my parents were able to attend. Our relay team came from behind to win. The president of the university was also in attendance and it was a day filled with pride.

BGN, MARCH 3 1964

BGN, FEB. 22 1974

BGN, FEB. 22 1974

Laughter, laughter and laughter characterized our team spirit. We were a group of women that found fun in our sport. Traveling and competing in nationals was a wonderful highlight. I also remember a dual meet where my parents were able to attend. Our relay team came from behind to win. The president of the university was also in attendance and it was a day filled with pride.

Cheryl Dick Boyce, 1976

swimming

By Mark Dedash

Five years and 24 months ago, the Falcon women's swim team began a victory streak which has yet to end. The team's success has come in large part due to the Natatorium's limited facilities.

"We do not have the gold medalist or Olympic swimmer with his pool," Campbell said. "We especially don't have divers, since our pool is small as far as pool sizes go."

Captains Debbie Thorne and Valerie Newell praise the team with leadership.

"We are oriented to a machine-like training schedule," Thorne said. "I hate working out, but women

"There are no excuses for a woman. "I CAN'T SWIM, the swimming pool," the coach says. "And there are no excuses for a woman while she is swimming."

The training routine presents another hurdle for women.
As a senior in college, I remember being part of the first group of women to be offered scholarships to play a sport. Coach Peterson chose to give the money to the players in the program at the time. She offered me a double scholarship worth about $980. I said that I didn’t want to be paid to play but understood that was the direction we were headed.

Gretchen Weitbrecht, 1977

volleyball

State volleyball meet starts tomorrow

Weitbrecht, women eye tournament

You don’t have to play high school volleyball to make the intercollegiate volleyball squad. All members of this year’s varsity team can be products of Bowling Green volleyball.

“Gretchen is very dedicated to the volleyball program here at BG,” Peterson said. “She has worked very hard on improving her own skills and has the ability to be an all-around player.”

ALTHOUGH BGF is the versatile ability, Weitbrecht’s small stature (5-3) has limited her somewhat to the outside, but the intensity of the game’s demands have taken a toll on her. She possesses good court judgement and expected letters to work as a center.”

University (with a current 12-match winning streak) and Miami University.

BGF’s first opponent tomorrow afternoon will be the University of Akron, which sports a record similar to the Falcons’ and is relatively young.

The Ladybirds will then face the University of Cincinnati (UC) tomorrow night. UC defeated BGF earlier in the season.

We needed someone to run the 3 mile at Ohio State to get points to win the meet. I ran it although I had never run that far in a meet in my life. I did it for the team so we would get the points to win. Coach and my teammates cheered the entire race. I will never forget it.

Lisa Hoffman Bowman, 1979

track and field

When we won the Mid-West Championship and got to go to the nationals.

Sue Svenson Smith, 1973

swimming and diving

Women tankers win title second season in a row

The women’s swim team accomplished a winning season last week by successfully defending its Mid-West Championship crown as the

The female tankers won the three-day event, which ran March 14, with a team total of 272 points. Individual was second with 289 points and BGF won third with 301 points.

Eighth times from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Coaches Joan Rockefeller was ecstatic about the team’s performance at Depauw. However, she said she regretted that the team doesn’t have the traveling expenses to compete in nationals. The women’s numbers had a budget allocation this year of $1,000, which they have exhausted.

The team finished the regular season with a 5-0 record.

Women tracksters state champs

By Sue Carter

Sports Writer

BGF, NOV 11 1976

BGN, MAY 29, 1978

BGN, MARCH 8 1973

BGN, NOV 11 1976

BGN, MAY 23, 1978
Probably our most memorable times involved the Swan Club shows. They were not competitive experiences, just wonderful, creative experiences with wonderful people involved.

Eve Williams Phillips, 1956 synchronized swimming

Six swimmers named all-Americans

By Laura Leach
Staff Writer

Due to the unasymmetrical pool weather in Tempe, Arizona, the Bowling Green women swimmers did not swim as well as expected in national competition, but still managed to place in the top 10 out of 154 teams.

Campbell, named all-Americans after the national meet were Falcons Barb McKee, Betsy Fisher, Becky Slavik, Gail Sailer, co-captain Valerie Newell, and Sharon Ackron.

"I think it was unfortunate that the meet was held outside," Campbell said. "It was raining while we were there, and it was only 40 degrees, so the girls experienced a lot of muscle cramping."

SOPHOMORE standout McKee took individual honors by placing 14th out of more than 100 swimmers in the 100-yard backstroke. Becky Slavik was given placing 17th out of 125 swimmers in the 100 freestyle.

Three relays also took all-American honors. The 200 freestyle team of Nevel, McKee, Fisher and Sailer placed 13th; the 400 freestyle, consisting of Nevel, McKee, Fisher and Slavik placed 15th; and the 800-meter freestyle, Fisher swimming butterfly and Slavik swimming freestyle.

The teams that won outside all the time took the top eight places, and none of the Midwest teams did anything," Campbell noted. "There was a lot of good swimming. Most of those girls were on scholarships.

One of the things that really irritated us as young women swimmers was that the entrance to the men's locker room said "Men's Locker Room" and the sign to the women's locker room said "Girl's Locker Room." Although it doesn't seem like a big deal, back then it seemed like a very big deal.

Secretly one afternoon we went in with a ladder, got the sign down, turned it over and repainted it "Women's Locker Room" and put it up without anyone knowing the difference.

Valerie Newell, 1975

swimming
In the fall of 1977, we upset Miami at the "Ohio Big Schools Championships." It was a thrilling win and the talk of the tournament. The chemistry on that team was special.

Anne Eshleman Tiernon, 1979

volleyball
I swam one night (Swan Club show) with a safety pin stabbing me in the chest. In a cowgirl duet, we had a “fight” and I “died” and dropped my “gun” and a little boy from the audience walked over and gave it back to me.

Connie Wood Anderson, 1956
synchronized swimming, speed swimming

Playing Ohio State and playing in the Ohio College and University State Tournament.

Kathy Freese, 1971
volleyball, basketball

BGSU’s women’s basketball team beat Ohio State!
Jo Anne Brause Turner, 1975 basketball

A tennis match at the University of Dayton and hosting the Ohio College Women’s Tennis Tournament in 1971 held at BG. We were all busy helping.

Deborah Drummond Davis, 1972

Lady teams to swim, swing

The athletic facilities on campus will not be confined to the men this weekend with our tennis and softball teams hosting Kent State, Ball The Bowling Green merged individually until all 12 were under water.

The coed tennis squad is 1-0 after a 4-2 win at the University of Dayton last weekend. Dayton scored in
Being the State Collegiate Vaulting Champ during my Junior year was exciting. After that the Toledo Blade Newspaper published a Sunday Supplement huge article on me, and again it was nice to have gymnastics being brought into the spotlight.

Cheryl Vasil Christiansen, 1980


gymnastics

I remember when we were given a pair of tennis shoes for volleyball. I even got high tops because I had an ankle that gave me problems. Even though we had to return them at the end of the season, I thought that was super. The travel was amazing. Having the opportunity to stay in motels and spend time on other college campuses.

If I recall correctly, we played in Cincinnati the day the Reds won the World Series.

Deb Voss-Petro, 1977

gymnastics, volleyball, tennis
My junior year, women athletes earned letter jackets for the first time. I earned one for lacrosse. Looking back, those brown and orange, ill-fitting, polyester jackets were not exactly stylish. Certainly not the cool leather and wool jackets the men earned. But they were OURS. We were proud to get them and proud to wear them. Mine still hangs in my closet.

Sue Rossman Galandiuk, 1979
field hockey and lacrosse

I remember setting a record for the 50-yard butterfly at Miami University my freshman year. Also the 12 woman team won first place in intercollegiate competition. An interesting point is I swam against my sister, who attended the University of Michigan, in this event.

Judith Anne Mesnick Burry-Stock, 1964
synchronized swimming, competitive swimming and diving

My first hand step as a field hockey goalie, when I was merely protecting myself and reacting but received great praise from Ms. Durentini!

Laura "Peg" Brown, 1972
softball, field hockey
Traveling on the bus, singing songs, playing for the love of the game, sharing snacks with the other team after the matches.

Patricia Fleming Galvin, 1973 volleyball, tennis

My memorable moments would include the feel of Anderson Arena for both games and practices; it has such a warm and inviting atmosphere as a basketball venue. Sometimes I would go there just to study in the bleachers before practice and I spent much of the summer playing pick-up games there as well. My other vivid memory would be of the road trips in 12 person vans, which the head coach and assistant coach had to drive, when post game meals consisted of drive-thru fast food eaten on the way back to BG.

Kristie Gordon, 1982 basketball

Volleyballers return

BGV, NOV. 10 1971

The women’s inter-collegiate volleyball team, under the coaching of Miss Peterson, has had its final cut. There will be two teams—“A” and “B”—entering competition, but as yet, the exact divisions have not been made.

The chosen team members are Nancy Brewer, Karen Deliance, Dianne Griffey, Pat Fleming, Dianne Elbrecht, Cathy Jenko, Betty Branca, D’Amico, Sherry Keynock, Joni Pekarek, Cherie Topolski, and Terry Yelin. The first game is tomorrow for team A.

Young women meet nationally

by Rob Bouklisuen

With eight new faces, a schedule that is “tougher than ever” and the loss of its leading scorer Charlisa Urbano to graduation, the Bowling Green women’s basketball team opens its season Saturday at powerful Morehead State.

“We’re young,” second-year BG Coach Kathy Bole said, “but I don’t like to make excuses because of it. As the young players mature, we will improve.”

Those young players are the seven freshmen she recruited last year after the 6-13 record she posted in her initial season as the Falcon mentor. One sophomore is back who had injury problems during that season.

Leading those rookies are senior Tieljohann, Sue Cowman and M. Tollhurst. Tieljohann and Cowman are the captains of this year’s squad.

ANOTHER TOP returning player, according to Bole, is junior Kristi Gordon who had knee problems last season. Bole said that Gordon is 100 percent now and should see a lot of action.

After those four, however, Bole said that things are pretty even.

“I don’t even know who I am taking to Morehead State,” she said. Bole can only take 12 players on the road and she has 15 team members.

“I have a pretty good idea about who the top ten are,” she added, “but I’ll be deciding for sure who can help us at Morehead the rest of this week in practice.”
I went to the indoor track nationals at the University of Missouri. Columbia, when I was a junior. I finished 7th, and then found out years later that I was honored and one of my teammates was an All-American, but no one told us at the time. The track team and Sid Sink honored me and two of my teammates for being All-Americans, even though it was 20 years later.

Pam Koeth, 1979

Betsy (Elizabeth) Miller Ryan Seth, 1981

I west the indoor track nationals at the University of Missouri. Columbia, when I was a sophomore. I finished 7th, and then found out years later that I was an All-American. I went to the indoor track nationals at the University of Missouri. Columbia, when I was a junior. I finished 7th, and then found out years later that I was honored as an All-American, even though it was 20 years later.

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Pam Koeth, 1979

Betsy (Elizabeth) Miller Ryan Seth, 1981

Betsy (Elizabeth) Miller Ryan Seth, 1981

Betsy (Elizabeth) Miller Ryan Seth, 1981
Staying at practice until you made 100 free throws and riding on the big orange bus. We even received meal money.

Diana "Dee Dee" Ross Hastler, 1969

Playing tennis at BG was like playing in a wind tunnel. We knew how to play in the wind but our opponents always struggled. It still makes me laugh today.

Amy Longley, 1975
I was not a member of the synchronized swim club, but one year Ms. Andrews asked me if I would like to be in the show. A momentary thrill faded slightly as I learned I was to be a “statue”; oh, well, fame must start somewhere! In two separate numbers, before the actual swimming began, I was to hold a pose while spotlights flashed on me, giving the appearance of a reflected marble statue. One was the Statue of Liberty and a second was just called “Girl in a Toga.”

Becky Smith, 1962
synchronized swimming

During my Junior year my doubles partner, Carol Rantala, and I were 2nd in the state in 2nd doubles. What a great honor.

Robin Ziska Miller, 1979
field hockey, tennis

I still recall how overwhelmed with excitement I was to really be competing against another collegiate team (so to speak). I don’t think however, my level of play matched my level of excitement!

Carole J. Huston, 1966 tennis

BG To Host Lady Netters

Approximately 20 Ohio colleges and universities will attend the All-State Women’s Tennis Tournament at the University this weekend.

This will be the first time the tournament will be held at Bowling Green. Last year it was played at Kent State where the BGSU contingent finished third of 17 schools competing.

Action will commence at 10:15 a.m. Friday and continue through its elimination cycle till the finals Sunday.

President William T. Jerome will be the guest speaker at the banquet to be held at Pettit’s Alpine Village Friday evening.

Awards will be given...
INTENDED AND UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF TITLE IX

In general, our forward Falcons believed that most consequences of Title IX had been positive, especially the opportunities that it created for girls and women from grade school through college to develop skills, play sports, and compete at higher levels. Additional positive consequences included mandates for proper equipment and uniforms, access to training and practice facilities, travel, and more equitable situations for coaches of girls and women’s teams. Several respondents mentioned that Title IX had made it possible for their daughters to receive athletic grants for college.

Several women blamed Title IX for the elimination of some men’s sports and scholarships. On the other hand, others suggested that the loss of some men’s teams had been the result of administrative decisions rather than an effect of Title IX. In either event, Title IX did inadvertently lead to gender conflict that continues to exist today. Other unintended consequences of Title IX included sport specialization, playing for the scholarship rather than for the joy of participation, male coaches replacing female coaches for women’s teams, a negative effect on women’s physical education programs with the separation of teaching from coaching, and more pressure on athletes and coaches to win.

It has given young women equal opportunities to participate in sports. It opened up opportunities for the young girls to start building their skills at an earlier age. Girls could get scholarships and dream of becoming professional athletes, too.

Bobbie Dunham, 1969
swimming
Welcome Back
Pre-Title IX Athletes & Coaches

Refl ections of Forward Falcons

I think it's wonderful now that women with talent can go a long way and play professional sports.
Mary Lou Kieffer, 1953
field hockey, basketball, volleyball

It helped my daughters!
Betty Thomas Fraser, 1953
intramural basketball, field hockey

It's great to see so many women out there competing in the world's work. I especially like to see the great women basketball coaches, sportscasters, players and journalists.
Colette Williams Brennan, 1953
synchronized swimming, swim team, tennis club

I got my letter, which was a thrilling event, and dinner. Finally recognizing awesome women athletes!
Pat Walther Hoopes, 1952
basketball, soccer, field hockey, volleyball
Title IX has definitely affected women's sport and while not everything is equitable even now, at least we have women's teams, coaches are paid, scholarships are granted, trainers work with the teams and there are facilities for women in the training rooms and the weight room. This was the intended result although scholarship money is still lagging and the budgets for men's and women's sports are not equal. The unintended consequences were men taking over the coaching of women's teams. I still cheer for women's teams coached by women and I think it is wonderful that Pat Summit has won more basketball games than any other coach—man or woman. The other unintended consequence was the removal of women athletic directors as the men took over. While women now serve as Assistant ADs, many women under the AIAW lost their jobs when the NCAA took over.

Lynne Fauley Emery, 1956

Title IX gave women an equal opportunity to participate in competitive athletics, which they truly deserved. Unfortunately, some impact was negative on available funding for men's programs when money was needed to expand women's sports. Title IX was not intended to take from men but bring women's opportunities to men. It gave women scholarship opportunities that would never have been available without Title IX.

Barbara (Bobbi) Kachalk Crane, 1966
It has provided wonderful opportunities for young women. It has helped change the culture of women in sports. I'm afraid that some of the pitfalls of men's intercollegiate sports are being experienced by women. Parents at the high school level are schlepping their daughters around trying to find programs that will best help them get a scholarship. Of course, some men's programs have been dropped at the collegiate level and Title IX has taken the blame although I think it is more about administrative decisions rather than Title IX.

Carol Brausburg, 1966
field hockey and basketball

I like the fact that Title IX has created so many opportunities for female athletes. Along with the opportunities is extreme pressure to win— for players and coaches alike.

Carol Strausburg, 1966
field hockey and basketball

There are still vasty more opportunities for men to compete in intercollegiate athletics and greater sums of money spent on male sports today, despite the fact that more women are enrolled in our colleges and universities.

BGN, April 17, 2007

Men's sporting cuts may be issues of budget, not Title IX implications

One of our members, Rep. Mary Mill, MD, helped to lead the Title IX legislation in passage in 1972 Congress. In the bill, she warned of limited opportunities for women— that is often prevented in the face of decisions to reduce athletics budgets and while their position certainly has some economic and social, it is simply not the case. The culture at high schools and colleges that makes women athletes not finish their studies or drop from the sport is mind-boggling.

Rebecca Regan, guest columnist

The bottom line for everyone who cares about Title IX is that it is not the death knell for women's sports. It is the beginning of a new era for women in sports. The number of women on a college campus is increasing and the opportunities for female athletes are expanding. The number of women entering college is increasing and the opportunities for female athletes are expanding.

Title IX does not mean that men's sports will be cut. It means that women's sports will be expanded. It means that women's sports are not going to be cut because they are not as popular as men's sports. It means that women's sports are not going to be cut because they are not as popular as men's sports. It means that women's sports are not going to be cut because they are not as popular as men's sports. It means that women's sports are not going to be cut because they are not as popular as men's sports. It means that women's sports are not going to be cut because they are not as popular as men's sports.
Clearly, women’s sports would still be in the dark ages without Title IX. Hundreds of thousands of girls and women would not have had the opportunity to participate in sports at the level they can now enjoy. Beside the opportunity to participate, women now have much more respect for their talents, can earn a living in some chosen sports, can enjoy making business contacts on the golf course, tennis courts, etc. Many can now enjoy the fruits of their labor by achieving a college scholarship, playing professionally, being athletics administrators, and the list goes on. I believe the unintended consequences are (a) blaming Title IX for the demise of some men’s sports, (b) blaming the addition of women’s sports for budget woes, (c) the decrease in women coaches, and (d) we’re still fighting battles that should have been addressed thirty-something years ago.

Carole J. Huston, 1966 tennis
Title IX had a huge impact on women's sports. High school teams went from GAA and "milk and cookies" after the games to real competition. Everything improved: numbers of competitions, number of sports offered, uniforms, officials, coaching, money spent, etc. The same is true at the collegiate level. One unintended consequence is that many colleges have had to scale back their men's programs. I don't think the women who supported Title IX wanted men's sports to be diminished. They simply wanted what the men already had. A second unintended consequence is that many more men now coach women's teams.

Sharon Kennedy Paul, 1973, tennis

There were four children at home and college would have been difficult to afford. Volleyball became my path to college and without Title IX, that probably would not have happened.

Patricia Zelinskas Fife, 1981 volleyball

I played before Title IX and we had to buy our own shorts, shoes, etc. When I coached it was just the beginning of Title IX and I was at a small college. They did start giving the women practice gear, uniforms and equal practice times. I think the women are getting a lot but I wish they knew where the sport had come from. I enjoyed competing in many different sports where now one has to specialize at an early age.

Betty Brenner, 1973 volleyball, track and field, field hockey
I look at my Mom, who attended school in the 40s. She did not have the opportunities in sports that I did and she would have enjoyed it. I am thankful for the opportunities I have had.

Zelda Weaver Searls, 1980

My swimming scholarship went up dramatically. We had a trainer that we shared with the men's team. We got new warmer up suits. It just made us more respected.

Jami Dawn Segrist Gray, 1980

The IX elevated women's sports to equal footing and equal opportunity, comparable to men's sports. However, it also subjected women to the same downsides men have experienced: individual focus rather than team concept, overly-hyped parents stressing their daughters, college scandals, burn-out, unnecessary injuries and overzealous coaches.

Judy Brause, 1974

Title IX

Women cagers victorious;
prepare for state tourney;
around McDonald's

Swimmers to national championship;
Jänner Lagrotto, 1980

My swimming scholarship went up dramatically. We had a trainer that we shared with the men's team. We got new warmer up suits. It just made us more respected.

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My swimming scholarship went up dramatically. We had a trainer that we shared with the men's team. We got new warmer up suits. It just made us more respected.

Jami Dawn Segrist Gray, 1980
298 | Reflections of Forward Falcons

BGN, OCT. 12 1977

BGN, DEC. 8 1950

I was in the transitional pe
riod. I saw us leap forward
to have more
opportunities, better practic
e schedules, scholarships, m
ore equipment,
uniforms—stuff the guys ha
d, but I saw the separation
of teaching from
coaching, loss of warm and
fuzzy traditions. The stakes
were higher
overnight.
Jennifer “Jenn” Jean Gorecki,
1978
basketball, volleyball
CAC 1976


Before Title IX, we played only for the love of the sport. Nothing was given to us and if it ever was we were extremely grateful. I just wanted to play and would do anything to compete. We played for fun. Since Title IX, it seems that girls are more interested in what they will get and who will give them the most for playing a sport.

Judy Jeanette, 1975

Women netters undefeated

By Laura Lench
Assistant Sports Editor

Coaches Janet Parks and Jennifer Parks will have their women's tennis teams playing for championships this year, now is playing fourth singles.

Playing first singles for the Blueeyes is Ann Wilson, who finished second in the state in 1979. Last season, Parks will play third doubles.

Parks will place Mary Parks and Jennifer Parks in doubles.

Kurt and Comroy and Jeanette and Longley will play doubles at Ohio State as they play first and second doubles respectively. Sue Popper and illumination will play third doubles.

In their home match of the season, the Falcons won a 6-4 match against Toledo, 5-2 and Grantham, 6-4. In third singles action, Rachel and Jen's 7-6 in the first set, before finishing her off, 9-4 in the second set.

The Falcons played in the first doubles team of Jen and Sandy, and in the last straight sets 6-4, 6-2

Bowling Green had more problems with Miami. Kurt delivered a 6-4, 6-8 win over Paula Begmedi and Javette Longley defeated Miami's first doubles team of Anne Witz and Kyle Schmitt, 6-4, 6-1.

Coors won three sets in their second singles match with Kathy Simon, but lost 6-2, 6-1, 6-1.

CAC 2000
I feel Title IX was the best venue for women to pursue their athletic dreams. It made women more competitive. It gave respect to women's programs. The unintended downfalls are when budget cuts occur, both men and women's programs are cut equally. Title IX created more pressure on women's programs to produce. Overall, willingly accepting the downfalls as they come, I feel it was the best thing that happened in my life for me to become the athlete I was and help me deal with my life's experiences.

Patsy Redmond Overmyer, 1979
swimming

I remember the exact location of a volleyball team meeting when Coach Peterson told us that we were going to get athletic scholarships due to federal law mandating gender equity. We left that meeting saying, "Can you believe we are going to get paid to play?" I am quite confident that everyone on our team would have played without the scholarships money, but we certainly were not going to turn it down.

Anne Eshleman Tiernon, 1979
volleyball
I was recruited for several sports because of Title IX. I really doubt if many schools would have had golf money if it weren’t for Title IX. My opinion is it has been great for women’s sport, but has hurt men’s. Because there is not a women’s team that fields as many players as football, it is hard for schools to sponsor less popular teams for men, like rowing, wrestling and still comply with Title IX.

Shelley Dye Stone, 1983

Gavin aims to turn around women’s field hockey results

by Cheryl Geschke
Assistant Sports Editor

BG, SEPT. 25 1977

Second-year coach Sue Gavron is hoping for a well balanced women’s field hockey team this year, and from the looks of things, she might have it.

With eight returning starters, Gavron expects both the junior varsity and varsity teams to improve.

“As a group, we’d like to remaining rookie players can’t be compared to this year’s roster.”

“They’ve had a year to get used to me,” Gavron said, “and we recruited well.”

Team members who may have a chance to lead the players in their first season include three freshmen recruits and a transfer from the University of Pennsylvania.

FRESHMEN PLAYERS traveling to Sank Valley Michigan Invitational this weekend are Cindy Olesy, Hapre Chinni, and Cindy Bera.

The senior stars are one of 16 teams competing in the exhibition tournament. Teams are matched with schools not included in their regular season schedule earlier.

sponsores Laura Zepeda and Pam Whitehead will also make up the team for Michigan State. She added that the team is looking forward to this season and is determined to make it through to the state tournament this season. That would really be a turnaround.

Shelley Dye Stone, 1983

Women’s golf

By Cheryl Geschke
Assistant Sports Editor

BG, OCT. 14 1977

‘On Cloud 9’

Without Title IX, women would not have had the same opportunities as men in sports. I was a walk-on for the women’s varsity field hockey team I was encouraged by my high school coach to try out for the team. I arrived several weeks ahead of the fall session and worked my butt off to make the team and I was fortunate to not only make varsity, but I was also fortunate to be awarded scholarship money.

Cynthia Jane Vermont, 1980
THE INFLUENCE OF TEAMMATES AND COACHES
The forward Falcons reported that their coaches and teammates had exerted a profound effect on them. Teams were like family, and the teammates supported one another. Many of their friendships have endured throughout their lives. The coaches had inspired the athletes by serving as role models, teachers, advisers, and mentors, and the athletes were impressed with how generously coaches had given of their time. They appreciated how coaches dealt with others, managed with little or no budget, played all of them in various positions to help them develop their skills rather than focusing on winning, pushed them without breaking their spirits, were positive to all players, taught them not to settle for mediocrity, and cared more about athletes performing as well as they could but not worrying about being “the best.” They also appreciated that the coaches had encouraged them, chauffeured them, helped them develop social skills, and even taught them how to dress. Several mentioned that they continue to use what they learned from their coaches in their careers, especially those who became teachers and coaches themselves. When asked what they would say to their coaches today, the athletes enthusiastically expressed gratitude for the opportunity to play, to be part of a team, for the time the coaches gave, for their patience, for fun memories, for teaching them life skills, and for their coaching, advising, and mentoring. A few athletes stated that they would like to find out what happened in the lives of their coaches since the athletes left BGSU, and several noted that they had kept in touch with their coaches and have thanked them personally.
Thanks to the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation department as it was known then! Thank you for the wonderful years at BGSU. For excellent teaching, opportunities to travel, the excitement of learning, being part of a group, discipline, and especially the camaraderie shared amongst students and faculty.

Colette Williams Brennan, 1953
synchronized swimming, swim team, tennis club

I loved Bowling Green because it was a small school and your instructors and many students knew you and called you by name. In my major, there was not one instructor I disliked. Even the tough ones you wanted to be in their class because they offered so much to learn. I know I am a better person for having known my coaches.

Mary "Sue" Schoenlein (Shaner) Gross, 1957
synchronized swimming, speed swimming

Women Participate In State Tourney

Five University women played in the Ohio Intercollegiate Women's Singles Tennis Tournament at Ohio State University May 18, 19, 19, and 20.

The following women attended: Jane Wurtz, Louise Kiss, Jean Eastin, Rita Bosnak, and Colette Williams. Miss Betty Menzi, instructor in health and physical education, accompanied the group.

Dorothy Fornia Added To Physical Ed. Staff

Miss Dorothy Fornia, the sports' specialist from Youngstown, is a new instructor in the Women's Physical Education department.

Before coming to Bowling Green, she taught at Ohio State University, Wilmington College, and Ohio Wesleyan. During the summer she has done camp and park work at
All of my coaches had a positive effect. Since I have had contact with my coaches, I have expressed my gratitude to them many times. However, if I were to talk to them right now, I would thank them for the gift of an exceptional education with skills to be used for a lifetime. I would thank them for their courage for being trailblazers and for refusing to accept that “girls can’t play sports.” They dedicated themselves to the betterment of not only the young women they coached, but to the sport they coached, as well as to their university. They did it without fanfare, thanks and against great obstacles. To all of them, they have my deepest heartfelt appreciation and thanks!

Cheryl Renneckar, 1968

Women’s IM Director Interested In Work; Leads Active Life

By Gordon Morris

Miss Dorothy Luedtke, director of women’s intramurals, is one person who practices what she teaches.

A woman of varied interests, Miss Luedtke enjoys fishing, skiing, reading, and other recreational activities, but her major interest is Bowling Green women’s intramurals.

Miss Luedtke, a native of Sandusky, has been a member of the University family several years, coming here as a freshman in 1943, major in health and physical education.

After being graduated in 1947, she enrolled at the University of California at Los Angeles for post-graduate studies. She later returned to the Midwest and taught at several schools in Michigan before coming to Bowling Green in 1958.

Luedtke
My coaches and friends had the greatest impact. The coaches taught us respect, discipline and how to use it in your activity or sport and my friends were ones to teach teamwork—cheering you on and giving you confidence.

Shirley Griesmer Barnard, 1960
swim team

I think my teammates and coach probably had the greatest influence. I graduated in 1973. During my freshman year, the Kent State incident happened. This was the era of the Viet Nam War, flower power, hippies, drugs and protests. I think being in a college sport together helped us to experience a “normal life” at a very chaotic time and kept us away from some of the campus unrest. A number of my teammates have continued to play and/or coach tennis and I have seen them at various tournaments and clinics throughout the years. We are still “long distance” friends and enjoy spending time together.

Sharon Kennedy Paul, 1973 tennis

I would say my coaches taught me how to become a better person. This in turn, helped me with my teaching and coaching.

Marjorie Moses, 1970 swimming, basketball, softball
My coach was a dynamic individual who was able to push us to do our best without crushing our spirit. We always had a great time.

Patricia Stager Elder, 1973 tennis

Your coach not only teaches you the sport but life in general and in pre-Title IX years, I think that happened more than it does now. I remember our coach loaning me her car to drive home for my grandfather's funeral. I was probably a sophomore and lived in southeast Ohio. I had to drive 4 hours one way and had the car for 2 or 3 days. Who does that—I don't even do that!

Christie Long Knight, 1975 basketball

My golf coach encouraged us, chauffeured us, and talked to us about behavior and dress. Her influence lasted well beyond college for me.

Noel Jablonski, 1971 golf

Ladies play on 2 fields

The women's tennis team will be on display again, tomorrow afternoon, trying to remain undefeated. With a 2-0-1 record, they host Miami of Ohio at noon on the courts behind the Ice Arena.

Early hikers to the spring football game can observe the winning form of BG's singles players, Pat Stager, Toni Meiss and Sharon Kennedy or doubles teams Pat Renner and Patty Browne and Mary Miles and Pam Dean.

The ladies' softball team will be trying to continue their rampage of last weekend when they walloped Defiance, 17-7 and Ohio Northern, 10-8. The winning pitcher in both routs was Cathy Jensen.

They entertain Kent State tomorrow morning at 11 a.m. on a field behind the Life Science building.

Another women's athletic team will be travelling to the Illinois Invitational Golf tournament, represented by Noel Jablonski, Chris Chudzinski, Mary Jo Vecchiarelli and Mary Cathey. Miss Jablonski was the medalist in a win over Kent last weekend with a round of 85.
My basketball coach was relentless when it came to teaching us to demand more of ourselves and not to settle for mediocrity. She cared more about us being our best than being the best.

Randy Mascarella, 1974
basketball, field hockey, softball

I came to BG as a rookie tennis player. My coach allowed me to join the team. My first year, she had me play all of the tennis meets so I could gain as much experience as possible. I played three years before I decided to become a professional in tennis. I would say: Thank you for your long hours with little pay and recognition; Thank you for being there, correcting, cheering, comforting and encouraging; Thank you for helping shape me into the individual that I have become today.

Judy Jeanette, 1975
tennis

I always appreciated how our coach dealt with people as a lady, how she dealt with little or no budget and worked to get money for us and probably most of all how real she was in her interactions with us.

Diane Wian, 1976
swimming

Women swimmers remain undefeated

The BGN, Feb. 19, 1974

It may sound strange... but an undefeated team exists on the campus of Bowling Green.

The BG women's swimming team recorded its fifth victory of the season, a 96-39 romp over Oberlin College last Saturday.

Barb McKee led the Falcon women with first-place finishes in the 100- and 200-yard individual medley and the 100-yard backstroke. Diane Wian was a doublewinner for BG as she capped the 200- and 400-yard freestyle events.

The women, now undefeated in five meets, face a tough upcoming weekend when they travel to the University of Cincinnati to engage in the Ohio college and university state meets.
I thank the professors in the Women's Physical Education Department as they helped to prepare me as an athlete, teacher, and coach.

Robin Lynn Noel Fisher, 1977

To my coaches, realize how influential you are. Teach your athletes to be students first, athletes second, and good citizens of BGSU and this nation.

Jenny Uhl Schirmer, 1981 volleyball

Thank you for being a pioneer for all of us.

Jennifer Gill, 1978 track and field

It is impossible for me to pick one snapshot of the many and place the greatest significance on that specific event. Being an individual that was part of a group that focused on positive outcomes while supporting each other, what could be better?

Lou Ann McInnes, 1976 lacrosse and basketball

Phys. Ed. for College Girls Should Be Made Compulsory
My coaches taught us that we, as individuals, were not the most important thing, but that we were part of something greater. We were a piece of history that would last for many years to come.

Betsy Kenniston, 1979
lacrosse

Thanks for stepping up and supporting women in sport! We didn't have the best equipment or the best facilities, but I wouldn't trade my experiences for anything. For those experiences, I am grateful.

Cheryl Zook Bissler, 1982 softball

I would have to say my teammates—they were like family. We practiced so much together, studied together, traveled together and from so many I increased my knowledge and skills in field hockey through their expertise and modeling. I thank the coaches for teaching me the importance of teamwork, perseverance, goal setting and fun. I appreciated the hard practices, team rules, the high expectations although I didn't really understand why it was necessary until now.

Linda Fairman, 1980
field hockey
I think that it would be fitting for all female sports teams to have a “history lesson” devoted to the development of their sport and how the opportunities that they are currently receiving were earned. It is important for them to know and understand the difficult trail that their pioneering predecessors blazed for them. Only then can they fully appreciate the opportunities that are being presented to them as female athletes today.

Cheryl Renneckar, 1968 volleyball, field hockey, basketball, softball

When asked if they had other thoughts to share, many forward Falcons advised current athletes to make the most of their college experiences. Others added that their time at BGSU had been the best years because of the sports they played and the friends they made on the teams. Many reported that the lessons and skills they learned playing sports at BGSU have carried them through the ups and downs of life and added to their levels of success.

A few highlights:

I still have my orange “BGSU Women’s Track sweatshirt! I wear it to “Pumpkin Show” every year.

Zelda Weaver Searls, 1980 cross country

Women tracksters reign as champs

by Dave Lowandowski

The exploits of the dominating Bowling Green women’s outdoor track team were the headlines of the local sports page, and the team was basking in the records that were being set.

The first-year coach, Pat Brett, used the record books to build his team. Brett saw the team’s potential and began to build it.

Brett, however, has a team that has been in the past, a team that was good, but not great. Brett’s team was a team that could be joined by Liz Sheets who competed in the discus and javelin.

The team included junior Kathy Smith, junior Dawn Hodson, and sophomore Jenny Thorsten, who was the top competitor for the Falcons in the hurdles.

Brett said that the women’s indoor season was more of a challenge than a help for the Falcons.

“The indoor season serves a purpose to bring us together as a team,” Brett said. “But the facilities involved are not the best. Practicing in the 1st gym, we had more injuries than we finished. So we started out on a low note.”
The women on the different teams, especially team sports, followed the other teams. These women also helped the coaches get ready for competition, during the competition and afterwards. They would set up chairs, keep score, line judge or whatever the coaches needed. We did not get paid but did it just because we were BGSU athletes. We also knew that the coaches of any of the sports would help all the athletes if we asked.

Betty Brenner, 1973
volleyball, track and field, field hockey

Women’s athletics has grown and the opportunities provided are amazing. But I am so honored to have been part of women’s athletics when there was a true love and passion for participating and the rewards so much more intrinsic than today. Women practiced hard, played hard, studied hard because of a true love of the sport, very little budgets for travel or transportation, but I believe it gave all of us a true appreciation for sport and those that braved the path before us, and a responsibility to continue a tradition for those yet to come.

Sharon Daniels-Oleksak, 1978
volleyball, basketball
I think our coaches at Bowling Green during that late 70’s had some tremendous changes to deal with. Prior to the formation of NCAA for women, there were no scholarships, recruiting was done on an extremely limited basis and they were coaching women who played for the love of the sport and not a scholarship. Being caught in a time in which they were going to give money and be held accountable for their wins, losses and success of recruiting was a whole new world. Our coaches were first and foremost professors who coached because they loved the sports. But I sense they took greater pride in their classroom success and drive to develop young professionals. It was shortly after that era of the late 70s that you began to see the split between the educators and the coaches. Many of the women who were coaches at BGSU quickly made the decision to focus on the classroom and leave the coaching field.

Gretchen Weitbrecht, 1977 volleyball

The Feb. 2005 gathering of pre-Title IX BGSU women athletes was wonderful. To be surrounded by so many women who participated in sports with even less support than I had in the 1970s was very humbling. To finally be awarded letters was just fantastic. For me, the best part of the gathering was the opportunity to reconnect with former teammates and coaches—many of whom I had not seen or heard from since I had graduated. Even though over 25 years had gone by, many of us picked up where we had left off!

Sue Rossmann Galandiuk, 1979 field hockey, lacrosse
Mostly what I remember about being a BG Swimmin' Woman was the pride that we took in ourselves and our team. We loved beating Ohio State and showing what one of our most popular cheers meant when it said to "Be up like a falcon, ahead of the rest...we've got spirit making us the best...so clear the way we're coming through...the women of BGSU...so look out State here we come!"

Lauri Nichols Kemmerling, 1982 swimming

It can be exciting to be a college athlete because your job in life at that point is simply yourself. You make the best of your own life academically, athletically, and socially. The University affords you so many opportunities and everyone should take full advantage of the opportunities.

Cheryl Vasil Christiansen, 1980 gymnastics

The problem facing Charles Simpson, coach of Bowling Green's women's gymnastic team, is one most coaches would like to have--too much talent. This year's edition of the Falcons is so rich in talent that the sixth year coach can't decide who to take on the road when BG travels to Mt. Pleasant, Mich. tomorrow to open its season against Central Michigan. "One of the most difficult decisions I have to make is who to put in," Simpson said. "This is a great thing for a coach to have. We're probably as deep as any team."

THE DEPTH Simpson refers to are eight returning letter winners from last season's state championship squad--the first ever in BG gymnastics history. Returning are Linda Lehman, Lori Brady and Cheryl Vasil, who Simpson said are the three outstanding performers on his team. "They've been the mainstay of our team for the last three years," he said. "They are our veterans."

Lehman, a senior, has been named captain of the Falcon team. She holds the school record with a 9.15 score on the bars, while Vasil has claim to marks in three categories.

THE SENIOR from Canton owns records in the vault, balance beam and floor exercises. This year's letter winner has recorded an 8.90 score in the floor category.
Reflections of Forward Falcons

Walk on, walk on, with hope in your heart...
So, what happened in the lives of these forward Falcons after they left the hallowed halls of BGSU? Not surprisingly, they reported an amazing array of activities and accomplishments. Many of them were married or partnered and had children. Some had grandchildren. These women were very proud of their offspring, many of whom are very active and accomplished in sports. Quite a few respondents reported that their families engage in sports together.

Numerous forward Falcons had continued their education, earning master’s and doctoral degrees and were teachers or had retired from teaching. They taught at all levels—elementary, middle, secondary, university—and represented an amazing array of content areas: health, physical education, special education, anatomy, physiology, math, dance, reading, English, technology, cheerleading, biology, and chemistry. Several taught students with special needs. A large number of them coached interscholastic sports such as basketball, gymnastics, volleyball, track, tennis, softball, field hockey, and cross country, with some of them coaching both the girls and the boys teams.

Other forward Falcons had careers as principals, sports officials, members of sport governing bodies, mentors, physician’s assistant in sports medicine, USPTA tennis professional, university administrators, professors, physical therapist, business owners (golf school, swimming club, computer software), employees of large corporations, newspaper reporter, public relations specialist, high school/college athletics directors, banker, athletic trainer, intervention specialist, communication and leadership coach, high school counselor, media specialist, librarian, market researcher, offensive coordinator for women’s football team, newspaper copy manager, YW/YMCA Physical Director, education aide, aerospace physiologist in US Air Force, PGA/LPGA professionals, wellness director, job trainer/supervisor, Episcopal priest, geriatrics, flight attendant, citywide HPE supervisor, sports writer, and tutoring.

Among other respondents were a juvenile corrections officer, a choreographer, several Executive Directors of non-profit organizations (e.g., Special Olympics), a stockbroker, a bookstore manager, a jewelry designer, sales representatives, CEO of a capital
management firm, academic authors, researchers, a special events/convention planner, a city recreation supervisor, a dietician, a laboratory technician, an inventor, a research and development scientist, medical laboratory managers, and a sport historian.

Other activities in which they were engaged included teaching music and hand bells to church youth, giving piano lessons, managing private sports programs, volunteering, organizing synchronized swim shows, working on drug prevention or school safety programs, managing volunteer organizations, addressing poverty issues, teaching senior exercise classes, working in information technology, and writing grant proposals.

Many women reported that they were still active in sports such as golf, swimming, tennis, softball, rollerblading, hiking, back packing, biking, skiing (water, snow, cross country), walking, gardening, traveling, working out, canoeing, jogging, volleyball, mountain climbing, horseback riding, bike touring, and scuba diving. Some continued to participate in organized competitions such as USVBA volleyball, USTA tournaments, swimming races, road races, Senior Olympic softball, track and cross country, Senior Games, Babe Zaharias-American Cancer Society Golf tournament, state/regional/national golf tournaments, triathlons, marathons, masters swimming, and ultra running. Other pastimes in which they engaged included gardening, walking, writing, yoga, music, fiber arts, painting, watching sports on TV, leading Bible study classes, writing plays, and attending sporting events. With such an active group, we were not surprised to learn that, in some instances, physical activity had taken its toll. A few respondents reported knee surgeries, joint replacements, wrist reconstructions, arthritis, and other long-term injuries.

We hope that you enjoyed the reflections of the forward Falcon athletes as much as we did! It was so gratifying to learn how much they remembered about their experiences and how meaningful those experiences had been to them. It was equally thrilling to know how successful they have been and how much they have contributed to society. We sincerely thank them for sharing their lives with us.

But this is only half the story. We also heard from the coaches...
LIFE BEFORE BGSU

As would be expected, the coaches’ pre-BGSU experiences in organized sport varied widely. Their experiences also tended to vary by gender and age group, with men and younger women having had the most extensive opportunities to participate in sport. The sports in which the coaches had participated either as athletes or as coaches included football, swimming and diving, track, tennis, soccer, wrestling, baseball, volleyball, field hockey, basketball, fencing, badminton, softball, golf, gymnastics, and tennis. Reflective of the physical education professional preparation emphasis on officiating, several of the women had been officials in sports such as lacrosse, basketball, field hockey, softball, and volleyball.

Experiences as athletes in secondary and college sport ranged from no organized sport whatsoever to low-key sporting experiences to well-developed intramural programs to highly competitive leagues and conferences. A few of the women had played in city recreation programs and industrial leagues. One female coach had been an Olympic gymnast and had participated in the Pan American Games, a U.S. State Department Goodwill Tour to Russia (gold medal), and the U.S. World Games. Another had been selected for the Chinese national women’s basketball team that represented China in international basketball tournaments either at home in Taiwan or overseas.

Some of the respondents had had no coaching experience before coming to BGSU. On the other hand, many had been teachers and coaches in high schools and colleges. Some had coached as graduate assistants at BGSU, while others had been teachers and assistant or full-time coaches at other universities. Some of the men had been involved with sport in the military, with one having coached a WAC volleyball team and another serving as a coach and an athletic director at a university.
Life at BGSU

During the years covered by this book, most BGSU coaches were also faculty members. These combined assignments were manageable because there were fewer competitions per season and only 2-3 practices per week. Due to the limited schedules, many students participated in multiple sports, and some faculty coached more than one sport. Typically, the coaches worked alone. Occasionally, a graduate assistant would serve as the assistant coach or manager. Initially, coaches received no reassigned time in their teaching loads for coaching. Eventually they received 2-3 contact hours per week.

Athletic contests were intended to promote sportsmanship, and coaches stressed the development of social skills. In keeping with that philosophy, home teams served punch or pop and cookies to the home and visiting teams after the games. Bowling Green coaches were expected to dress in dresses or skirts and heels in order to maintain a feminine image. The few spectators who attended women’s contests were usually family members and friends. There were no bands or cheerleaders.

Some pre-AIAW coaches expressed dismay that women had not been allowed to compete as strenuously as they would have liked. Divided-court basketball and short swimming races were examples of limitations placed on these athletes. Other regrets included no scholarships, no conference competition, no varsity letters or jackets, and no recruiting. Some coaches, though, were glad that they had not been required to deal with athletic grants and recruiting or with the scrutiny and criticism of spectators and fans.

According to the coaches, the AIAW brought many changes in BGSU women’s athletics. The appearance of athletic grants-in-aid meant that recruitment was necessary and that, once again, the athletes began to receive varsity letters as well as letter jackets. The rules of some games evolved to become more reflective of the skills and abilities of female athletes. Budgets increased, which resulted in team uniforms and more reasonable travel expenses. By the time the women’s program joined the NCAA, even more changes had occurred. There were more grants-in-aid, extended seasons, and increased support for women’s teams. Unfortunately, these gains were accompanied by the elimination of some junior varsities and fewer opportunities for women to try out for teams.

I would tell my athletes how proud I am of them for being an athlete and playing willingly and wholeheartedly under the conditions they did without any complaint.

Nora Liu, basketball
Our coaches reported that during the 1960s and 1970s, competition for positions on the athletic teams was intense. Coaches held open try-outs, and numerous students would show up. For example, it was not unusual for 150 women to come to the North Gym to audition for the 24 slots that were available on the A and B basketball teams. Other teams experienced similar levels of interest, and hundreds of women had opportunities to compete for BGSU.

Some reflections were constant across all the time frames that these coaches represented. Bowling Green’s women’s teams were highly skilled and highly competitive. The coaches were proud of their athletes. Many of them mentioned having won state, MAC, and other championships as well as having coached athletes who had been selected as All-Americans. Several coaches mentioned that they still keep in touch with their athletes and that they have wonderful memories and a great sense of satisfaction regarding their years in coaching.

**WHAT COACHING MEANT TO THEM**

The coaches were pleased that their time in intercollegiate athletics had allowed them to develop long lasting relationships with athletes, other coaches, managers, and supporters. They discussed the joy of coaching the athletes. They mentioned the long hours involved but indicated that it was worth the time to watch the women grow and develop through the sport experience. Coaching also allowed them to travel to other colleges and universities and to involve themselves in leadership positions with the professional associations that administered women’s intercollegiate athletics. Many coaches mentioned that they had learned as much from their athletes as their athletes had learned from them about dedication, hard work, passion for the sport, and setting and reaching goals.
WHO AFFECTED THEM?
Most of the coaches praised their athletes for having had the greatest effect on them. They described their athletes as being dedicated, cooperative, mentally and physically tough, team-oriented, and competitive. They expressed appreciation for what the athletes had taught them about teamwork, perseverance, and love of the game. The coaches were very proud of the accomplishments of their players, both while at BGSU and in their lives after graduating. A few coaches mentioned other coaches and faculty who had supported their coaching and their teams.

Two professors, Iris Andrews and Amy Torgerson, were very influential in the development of my teaching and coaching skills. I am also grateful for exposure to all the staff at BGSU. My years as an undergraduate, graduate assistant, and my coaching assignments prepared me well for my 25 years of teaching and living life. My father, Ray Whittaker, who was dean of students at BGSU at that time, also played a major role in my development because of his ability to deal with difficult situations and stay true to his values. I realized the impact of his strengths on my life during those years as well as throughout my adult life.

Dona Rae Whittaker Vogel, swimming
Betty Maycock Coaches

University Gymnastics Team

Creating the biggest impact on me has to be my teams. As you move on to the next level in your sport, your challenges, their hopes, you learn about people’s lives, their challenges, their dreams. It is energizing and inspiring to work with athletes willing to dedicate many hours to perfect their skills and move on to the next level in their sport and in their lives. Thank you for all you have taught me.

Betty Jean Maycock Roys Harrington

Transformation of my life. Thank you for all you have taught me.
We had a wonderful faculty and support staff, and throughout my professional career they became constants in my life. To my athletes, I would thank them for selecting BGSU for their education. Thank you for being a part of a pioneering time in women's athletics. Thank you for helping BG be successful in athletics and for supporting me and my coaching styles.

Sue Hager, basketball, softball

My athletes had the greatest effect on me. They were dedicated, cooperative, and supportive of my desire for all of us to be good representatives of BGSU. I would say, thank you. It was a pleasure to know you, travel with you, and be on the same teams with you.

Dolores Black, softball, golf

Falcon linkster Cindy Bye, recorded a hole-in-one on the eighth hole in last weekend's first annual Ohio State Invitational at Columbus. She became only the second Bowling Green golfer in four years to make a hole-in-one. The last woman linkster to achieve this feat was Carolyn Trenear in 1972.

The Falcon women, coached by Dolores Black, placed sixth in the 14-team field with a 752 score. Mount Holyoke took top in the 36-hole tourney with 690 total. Kentucky took second. Other schools in the tourney were: Kentucky, Alabama, Penn State, Wayne State, Michigan State, Central Michigan, Cincinnati, Wittenberg.

Low scorer for the tourney was Marie Gates of Mount Holyoke with 194 total.
The student athlete swimmers had the greatest impact on me, and how being on a team kept students in school. The team became a family. I love you all. You are my fondest memories.

Jean B. Campbell, swimming, synchronized swimming

The philosophy of professionalism among the entire Women's Physical Education faculty reinforced my educational foundation. I hope the athletes I worked with have fond memories of our time together. I hope that they have developed skills and values which have served them well throughout their lives.

Patricia Peterson, basketball, field hockey, softball, volleyball
When I was coaching tennis, the women of the Ohio College Association/Women's Physical Education Section had a very strong effect on me, particularly the other coaches. I was scared to death of some of them because they were very strong women who insisted on excellence. I learned to pay close attention to detail when I was scheduling competitions and organizing tournaments.

Janet Parks, tennis, golf

Sink named

Sid Sink, a nine-time All-American while running track and cross country for Bowling Green in the early 1970s, has been named assistant men's track coach at Bowling Green.

Sink will remain the head coach of women's cross country at BG, a position he has held for the last two years.

The opening for an assistant track coach occurred when Mel Brodt left BG's head position.

In his career at BG, Sink finished 12th, 11th and eighth in the NCAA Cross Country Championship, winning All-America honors three times. As a two-miler and steeplechase runner, he won All-America honors in track six times and twice won the steeplechase in the NCAA Championship. In 1971 he set an American record of 9:25.4 in the steeplechase that lasted for several years.

For the last seven years, Sink has taught special education at Emmwood Junior High School in Cuyahoga Falls. He also taught eight grade track and junior high track.

The person that had the greatest effect on me as a person and as a coach was my collegiate coach—Mel Brodt. He not only made me into the student-athlete that I was but also formed my coaching technique and how I dealt with the student-athletes. He continued to be my mentor when I was coaching. He was a wonderful person and a truly outstanding coach.

Sid Sink, cross country
The students impacted me the most. It was a challenging time and experience for them to compete at a higher level. It would be interesting to talk with them to find out what they learned from their experiences as a student-athlete and if the experiences helped them develop into successful professionals.

Sally Hattig, golf, softball

Purdue tourney next for women golfers

By Sue Caser
Sports Writer

For the fourth straight week, the women golfers take to the high road as they prepare for their next two-weekend tournament. The scoring of the first year golf season is difficult to compare to the scoring of the second year. The first year scores were higher, and the second year scores were lower. The consistency of the golfers is what is important. The golfers must maintain their consistency throughout the tournament to have a chance of winning.

Invitational at West Lafayette, Ind.

Among the competitors will be Michigan State University (MSU) and Indiana University. In its three previous matches, MSU has finished behind Indiana. Those two teams will be going this weekend, and their team totals will be based on their best scores for six holes.

Six Falcon women will be competing this weekend, and their team totals will be based on their best scores for six holes.

Field hockey squad wins

By Bob Hensley
Assistant Sports Editor

To the average sports fan the term “reversal” applies only to wrestling. But BGN’s women’s field hockey coach Sue Gibron found the word very fitting in her team’s 1-0 season opening victory over Wooster Saturday.

“This game was as close as you could get,” said an elated Gibron. “Last year they (Wooster) beat us 1-0, and I’m glad we had a reversal this time.

“We were able to concentrate, penetrate and shoot on offense. We took the 13 shots on goal and I’m pleased with that. That’s what I’m looking for.”

The most important, and lone successful, shot came with eight minutes remaining in the game. Right winger Tammi Smith converted on an assist from right inside Hope Chmit to provide the Falcons their margin of victory.

“I thought we should win and we did the girls—they played to win,” Gibron said. “We’re more aggressive than we were last year, and some of the aggressiveness came through today, so we were able to score.”

THE FALCON’S aggressiveness showed in the final shots on goal tally where they took 13 shots to Wooster’s nine. BGN’s leader in Philippine Whistleburn had three saves, and Wooster’s Cindy Barr had five.

“This was an important game and will set the tone for the season,” Gibron noted. “It was a team effort, and it showed.

“Wooster is usually a good and well-coached team,” praised Gibron. “They took hard shots and our corner strategy worked well.”

The Falcons are back in action today as they play host to Kent State and Toledo at 3:30. Action will take place at the activity field adjacent to the football stadium.
My athletes had the greatest effect on me. There were very few scholarships, and most of those were split up to help more students. Yet, there was incredible dedication by the athletes to train and compete. Travel was hard—in vans—with four people to a room. Expenses for meals were always low, yet teams were close and had fun. Thanks for the great memories—a lot of smiles! Your dedication and hard work made it all worthwhile. Also, we were pretty good, even by today's standards when you consider the conditions we had at the time.

Pat Brett, field hockey, track and field
There were many athletes—Cheryl Vasil, Karen Kemper, Linda Lehman, Kim Glandorf, and many others. Probably the individual who did the most for the BGSU gymnastics program was Hall of Fame member Julie Bender Cleary. A transfer from Louisville, she had to sit out a year due to extensive corrective surgery on her back. No other school would give her the ok medically to compete except BGSU. I knew she would bring national level ability and inspiration to our program and athletes. She proved she had the ability and desire by winning the MAC All-around Championship each of her two years with us. She helped us win the MAC and take a big step up in level of performance.

Charles Simpson, gymnastics

The student athletes with their varied personalities and attitudes had the greatest effect on me. My relationship with them gave me much satisfaction. I would say to them: "Have total commitment to doing your best. A winner is a person who does this no matter what place you take in competition. Work hard, every practice is an opportunity to improve performance in competition. Self discipline is important. In life do what you know is right. Be true to yourself. Support your teammates. Give 100% at all times. When the going gets tough, winners never give in. Smile and have fun!"

Tom Stubbs, swimming

Swimmers seek eighth straight state crown

by Joe Mancz
BGN, NOV. 21 1980

An eighth consecutive state championship and a first Mid-American Conference championship top the list of priorities for Bowling Green's women's swimming team as it prepares to compete in the Miami Invitational this weekend in Oxford. The Falcons will be looking to turn things around against Miami, who finished one spot ahead of BG two weeks ago in the BG Relays at Cooper Pool. "No early season meets are super best times in the 1,000 and 1,500 freestyle" Terri Alexander, who had best times in all three butterfly events; Nancy Hawks, owner of the lowest times in the 50 and 100 backstroke; and Ann McGuire, who posted the best times in the 50 and 100 breaststroke. Stubbs said the Falcons will look to Beijerian and other upperclassmen for leadership.

"YOU HAVE to look to your upperclassmen for leadership," Stubbs said. "Unfortunately, they all get to be senior sooner or later, but I guess that's the whole point of being here." Stubbs said freshman Donna Hadjiioannou "is doing pretty well" and that "two or three other freshmen seem to be coming along pretty well.

The Falcons also return their top divers in Lisa Fry and Mary Jane Harrison, but freshman diver Nancy Duroch is challenging them. "The diving looks good. It should be strong," Stubbs said. "Right now, the freshman diver that has looked best is Nancy Duroch. At this point she has done very well."

BG will be competing in the first Mid-American Conference championship meet for women this season and Stubbs is not too pleased that the meet demands on how far we come in different
My players had the greatest effect on me. I learned what toughness is from my women’s golf team. Mentally and physically, the players were among the toughest people I have known. I want to thank them for this lesson. It has gotten me through some difficult times in my life. I would like to thank them for giving me a perspective that has more depth than I could possibly have known if I hadn’t met the extraordinary cross-section of personalities and talent levels of these athletes. I cared deeply for all my players and I would hope they truly understand that. They were a very special part of my life.

A. J. Bonar, golf
Memories, memories

Many coaches recalled a particular game or season that was memorable. They also commented about the joy of watching players improve, either individually or as a team. Several reminisced about enjoying the travel to and competition with other schools, despite the lack of funds.

Olympic Performer
Gymnastics Adviser
BGN, APRIL 21 1967

By DOREEN VIGNOVICH
Staff Writer

Women's gymnastics, one of the oldest sports with a greater popularity in Europe, is like "skating without skates," according to Mrs. Betty Roys, graduate assistant in physical education.

Some people may think it takes only a tremendous amount of strength to do a forward flip or hand stand but good coordination, agility and poise also are needed.

"Gymnastics is one of the more feminine sports because it stresses precision and gracefulness. Any display of strength by a woman in competition would be deducted from her score," Mrs. Roys said.

Mrs. Roys, who was graduated from Kent State University, has a good deal of experience in competition. In 1959 she was on the Pan American gymnastics team. She also represented the U.S. in the Olympics.

In 1962 she went to Russia on a teaching tour. Now at Bowling Green, working with the Women's Gymnastics Club Advisory Board, she is keeping the spirit of competitive gymnastics alive.

The club is two years old and meets every Tuesday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the Physical Education Building. There are no tryouts, Mrs. Roys said.

The club's goals are to improve existing skills, to gain new skills and to have fun.

Two competitions were on the agenda: four events - balance beam, vault, floor exercise, and a good background score. Mrs. Roys aimed to enter a national record for the club.

Women cagers eye state crown
BGN, FEB. 27 1975

By Lauri Leach
Staff Writer

Bowling Green's women cagers begin their battle for the state crown in a game with Kent State at 4:30 p.m. today at Ohio Northern University in Ada.

The Falcons are seeded third in the state tournament. First and second seedings went to Ohio State and Ashland College, respectively. BG defeated OSU in earlier season action, but lost to Ashland.

"I'm not unhappy with our third place seeding, even though we beat OSU," said BG mentor Sue Hager. "I think that if the kids begin to play basketball instead of throwing the ball away as they have in the past, we have a good chance of winning in the finals."

PLAYING in BG's bracket will be Ashland, Wittenberg, Ohio University, Mount St. Joseph's, University of Akron, Findlay, Kent, Defiance, Central State, Miami, and Toledo. Amen.

Hager predicted yesterday that OSU will play Dayton and BG will play Ashland in semi-finals tomorrow night.

"Our low point was losing to Ashland, but I think we can give them a good game now," she said. "We're ready to play the game, and I don't think Ashland's press will bother us this time."

Hager said that Kent does not have the dominant skills the "Ashland's..." she said..."
I enjoyed traveling and meeting other coaches and forming friendships with them. I remember sitting on a hill at a tournament in Kentucky, with eagles flying overhead and watching future professional golfers compete as university students (Beth Daniel, Nancy Lopez, Jill Wilhelm, etc).

Dolores Black, softball, golf

I was coaching our volleyball team (1973) in the state tournament quarterfinals. We had been awarded a match point on a spike which an opponent hit out of bounds. We thought that we had won the match. During that time in the game of volleyball, as a matter of sportsmanship, players were encouraged to make honors calls on violations.

On that match point one of our very honest players told the official she had touched the ball as it went out of bounds. This gave the opponents the ball and they ended up beating us. We all had mixed feelings regarding our player’s actions but respected her honesty. Her honors call was an example of the value placed on fair play. The honors call was eliminated from the game the following year.

Patricia Peterson, basketball, field hockey, softball, volleyball

Women golfers win OAISW tourney

By Lauri Leach
Staff Writer

Coach Dolores Black’s team golfers reigned supreme in the Ohio Intercollegiate Association’s Women's Golf Tournament on the newly renovated golf course last week.

Bowling Green scored a 395 to win the Ohio crown. Kent State dethroned Ohio State, who came in second with a 399. Therunner-up was the University of Cincinnati, with a 400.

Terry Mayes from UK was the championship medalist, scoring a 152. Bowling Green topped both the first flight and the second flight. First flight medalist was Karen Parshall with a 167, while Carol Sommerville scored a 181 to become 2nd flight medalist. Coach Black praised her golfers.

“The girls just did a tremendous job. It was good to see Ohio State and it was good to see Michigan. I said...”
I entered my free style relay as a medley relay and vice versa the first time we used a computer to fill out entries. The athletes told me not to worry; they would swim and win, and they did!

Jean Campbell, swimming, synchronized swimming

**Undefeated women netters host weekend triangular**

We beat Ohio State in a dual tennis match at Ohio State. It was spectacular!

In 1971, the lines on the 12 courts behind the Ice Arena needed to be re-painted before the State Tennis Tournament. The athletic department didn’t have the money to do it, so a bunch of players and friends and I got together to do it ourselves. I still remember that it takes 1,000 feet of masking tape to tape off the lines on a single tennis court! Fortunately, President Moore saw us painting the lines on one court, and he figured out a way that athletics could line the rest of the courts for us!

Janet Parks, tennis, golf
I was coaching my first intercollegiate field hockey match about three days after falling in a hole on the field and rupturing a muscle in my right calf. I was on crutches for my first match. There I was hobbling along the sidelines on crutches, with a huge corsage on my jacket and a funny hat.

Sue Gavron, field hockey

When the faculty members from the Department of Physical Education for Women came to Anderson Arena and cheered for our team.

Nora Liu, basketball
In Field Hockey, we tied Ohio State in 1978, 0-0, at the state tournament after we had lost to them 5-0 earlier that fall. In Track and Field, we won the first MAC championship in 1981. It was close to the very end, and there were many incredible performances.

Pat Brett, field hockey, track and field

Playing with enthusiasm and intensity and commitment. When the game was over, that was it...the players had enjoyed the moment and moved on.

Mickey Cochrane, lacrosse
Gymnasts, women swimmers win winter sports state titles

by Rob Boukissen, staff reporter

The most dramatic moment to occur in our program and to me was the winning of the state meet (comparable to the MAC championship) and being the first team ever to beat our rival, Kent State.

Charles Simpson, gymnastics

The gymnastics' team had its best season ever as coach Charles Simpson's crew finished with a 16-2 record and its first state title. State titles are beginning to become old news for another BG women's sports team.

THE FALCONS' women's swimming team captured their sixth straight state title and compiled a brilliant 9-1 record in the regular season. Elizabeth "Parkie" Thompson, the way for the Falcons.

The men's swimming team was not quite as successful as their female colleagues, but they did finish on the winning side of the ledger with a 6-5 mark.

Other winter sports activities included men's wrestling as four-year starter Jay Liles, a second-place finisher in the Mid-American Conference (MAC) tournament, led the way for the Falcons to a 7-6 record.

My first women's cross country team had only 6 runners. For the first meet I had to convince 2 volleyball players to run for us so that we would have a complete team. We became so close and we all enjoyed that season so much. Two years later, we had 35 runners on the team and became the best team in the MAC for the first 4 years that the MAC held women's cross country championships.

Sid Sink, cross country

Chances of an unprecedented third straight Mid-American Conference championship looked pretty slim for Bowling Green's women's cross country team, last Saturday. That was, until the final scores were tallied.

When Ohio University and Western Michigan placed three runners each in the top ten to BG's two, there were a lot of fingers crossed on the Falcons' side. However, the prayers were answered to the tune of a one point victory over OU, 51-52. WMU was right behind, totaling 56.

In fact, Western had the best top three finishers of any team with runners in the second, third and sixth place. But team depth cost them the victory as the Broncos' next runner did not cross until the 19th spot.

"I was very concerned," Sink said. "It (the finish) was deceiving. It kind of looked like OU won because Eastern (Michigan) had two runners up there. Both teams wear green and I just figured OU won.

"It was a tough race; it went out see MAC CHAMPS page 11"
The women’s team won the Wolverine Invitational at the University of Michigan, beating the reigning Big Ten Champion, Michigan State.

A. J. Bonar, golf

The women’s team winning the first ever MAC Swimming and Diving Championship in 1981. This was my last year of coaching.

Tom Stubbs, swimming

BG women use depth to cop first MAC swimming title

BGN, MARCH 5 1981
by Joe Martino

It just wasn’t supposed to be that easy.

Bowling Green’s women’s golf team had never beaten Michigan State in the history of its program.

Head Coach A.J. Bonar said before the season that beating the Spartans would be one of the biggest goals for the Falcons this fall.

Last weekend, the Falcons not only beat the Lady Spartans, but three other teams to capture first place at the Lady Wolverine Invitational in Michigan City (561), distort—

The women’s team won the Wolverine Invitational at the University of Michigan, beating the reigning Big Ten Champion, Michigan State.

A. J. Bonar, golf

by Tom Hisot

sports reporter

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BG women use depth to cop first MAC swimming title
**INTENDED AND UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF TITLE IX**

All of the coaches noted that Title IX had resulted in expanded opportunities for women in education and in sports. It started to level the playing field between women and men athletes, although most commented that equity has not yet been achieved. Views on the unintended consequences of Title IX included women’s sports being blamed for the elimination of some men’s sports, women coaches and administrators being replaced by men, and women’s sports adopting the male model of collegiate athletics.

The opportunities young women have in today’s athletics are awesome, even with the tremendous pressure placed upon them. Not long ago, I stood on the basketball court at Michigan State University and looked up into the tremendously large arena after visiting the new athletic locker rooms and hoped that the athletes (men and women) appreciate the opportunities they now have.
Coaches are paid, and the ones doing coaches are qualified and want to coach. More recognition for girls' women's sports, yet emphasis on intramurals has declined, so less skilled cannot compete.

Ina Temple, swimming and diving, basketball, volleyball.

Doors of opportunity opened and that had far reaching impact for many women. The total equation needs to always keep that fact in mind.

Betty Jean Newcomb, Gymnastics.

Decay of opportunities opened and they had for many women.
It has obviously helped the women with a large influx of monies for scholarships, equipment, and quality coaching. Without Title IX I doubt that it would be where it is now. The opportunities are there for any female athlete that wants to continue competing in college to do so. The unintended consequence is that some universities have chosen to drop men's programs to save money.

Sid Sink, cross country

Federal Title IX legislation spawns women's MAC

by Christopher Shank

The idea of a Mid-American Conference for women was in the discussion stage for several years, at least once each year for the last six years," she said.

Huston said the reason for the delay in adopting the MAC was the numerous problems involved with competing under both the rules of the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the Mid-American Intercollegiate Conference. "The mid-American conference is a university, and the MAC, which operates under Do regulators, is a National Collegiate Athletic Association for men," Huston said.

"The difference in the two conferences is that the MAC has more money than the Mid-American Conference, and that the MAC has a larger number of schools," Huston said.

"We are obviously better now compared to what we were before Title IX," Huston said.

"I think the MAC will be a better product because of the quality of the women's sports," Huston said.

"The MAC is a better product because the women's sports are more visible now," Huston said.

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"The MAC is a better product because the women's sports are more visible now," Huston said.
Reflections of Forward Falcons

Title IX has resulted in opportunities for women to participate, receive scholarships, and attain skill levels not formerly acceptable in society. With the growth of television exposure, it has brought women's sports to the forefront. It also allowed greater sport participation in Olympic events. I really thought it would bring reality to men's sports because of the financial obligations to all college athletics. Although it certainly is a positive law, it does have some downfalls. We have seen some sports leave our venues because of expenses. The women's programs have developed some of the pitfalls that have plagued men's athletics for many years. As women's basketball became a lucrative coaching venue, men got into the coaching ranks. Fortunately more young women are getting into coaching because we have graduated many women from strong programs, and they want to experience with their teams the experiences they had with their college coaches.

Sue Hager, basketball, softball

Some swimmers did not seem to have as much love for the sport when they were on scholarship. Also, they have more money spent on swimsuits and warm-ups, towels, and shoes than necessary.

Jean Campbell, swimming, synchronized swimming
Title IX changed everything. It has provided well deserved opportunities for women in sport as well as an increase in the skill level of athletes and the advancement of the game. It has also increased the expectations of coaches and athletes. Due to recruitment, program administration, practice and game schedules, coaching has become a full time job.

Patricia Peterson, basketball, field hockey, softball, volleyball
Title IX was great for women's sports in that it gave them an opportunity to showcase their talents, get an excellent education, and experience being part of a team. The downside was the elimination of the men's track program at BGSU (one of the nation's finest programs).

L. David Williams, track, cross country

An intended consequence of Title IX is that it opened up the doors of education to women. In sport, it has given highly-skilled women well deserved opportunities to compete at the highest level. It has brought them athletic grants-in-aid and access to more intense training and advanced skill development. These advances have come at a cost. We lost the women's educational model of sport, where the well-being of the individual student-athlete was at the center of the experience. We lost anonymity which sounds odd, but it was wonderful! When I was coaching, no one cared whether we won or lost, so the coaches were free from the pressures that can come from the media and spectators.

We also lost some of the strong intramural programs that used to exist in high schools. The gyms and fields are now the sole territory of varsity athletes, and the average students don't get to play intramurals until they go to college. Before Title IX, over 90% of the coaches and administrators of women's athletics were women. Most of the coaches and administrators are now men. I think that's a loss.

Janet Parks, tennis, golf
Title IX was slow to take full effect for women’s sports, but it did start giving national organization to more women’s sports. Some of the unintended consequences were the elimination of field hockey and other smaller sports and the splitting off of larger and smaller schools.

Sue Gavron, field hockey

Recruiting: Maligned but mandatory

By Kevin Colley

Recruiting.

The word conjures up many images in connection with intercollegiate sports, most of them negative. At least one of the major changes wrought by the new National College Athletic Association (NCAA) standards for recruiting violations.

It is a bittersweet necessity to college athletes, however especially to build a winning or at least a decent athletic program.

To ignore recruiting would be a disaster for college coaches, but to violate established guidelines and rules when recruiting a prospect can be equally devastating.

Take Oklahoma’s football program for instance. The Sooners, a perennial Big Eight Conference power, suffered through three years of probation for violations of NCAA recruiting rules.

“Many people think that recruiting applies only to the major sports.”

While in probation, the school was banned from appearing in nationally televised games, lost its right to make postseason bowl-game appearances and suffered heavily through publicity generated by its violations.

High school athletes steered clear of the school, and the Sooners at Oklahoma faced almost insurmountable tasks when trying to recruit potential athletes.

Even the Ohio State University football program is not without questionable conduct. The Buckeyes are currently being scrutinized by NCAA investigators.

When time right, however, recruiting is an invaluable asset to college athletic programs, not only in the major athlete has the ability and the potential to play for us; we also have a knack for recruiting and marketing ourselves and the program.

The key is getting an athlete to decide on a school and commit to the program.

The “agents” refer to someone known as National Letter of Intent. The letter, similar to a contract, affirms the athlete’s choice to attend a certain school.

When a prospect signs, recruiting is stopped by all other schools that participate in the letter program (approximately two-thirds of the major colleges). This keeps high-pressure recruiters from making endless offers and drawing the prospect away from his chosen school.

The letter is also binding to the athlete. When he signs, the athlete reneges the right to attend any other college on an athletic financial aid program or participate for any other school for two years.

The exception to this rule is if the athlete decides to attend a junior college at which time, the letter is dissolved.

The contact between a coach and a recruit also plays a large role in the choice of a particular school.

“Title IX meant that to a brand new assistant professor with a doctoral degree in 1976, the only jobs available all had a coaching component. If you had coaching experience and were a female then you were in high demand at the collegiate level. Another unintended factor of Title IX was the role that recruiting required in terms of adding to the time and paperwork of coaching. Also occurring was the onslaught of ‘agents’ for prospective players who called to see how much money we were giving in the form of scholarships. This was bothersome to me as I thought they should be asking about the academic rigor of their major first. Now, of course, prospective players and their parents are an integral part of the very sophisticated, heavily regulated recruiting process.”

Sue Gavron, field hockey

Title IX was slow to take full effect for women’s sports, but it did start giving national organization to more women’s sports. Some of the unintended consequences were the elimination of field hockey and other smaller sports and the splitting off of larger and smaller schools.

Pat Brett, field hockey, track and field

In the past, Bowling Green recruited the entire country, but now we’ve narrowed our efforts to the Ohio, Michigan, Illinois and Indiana areas,” he explained. “In this area, we have contacts with coaches, the press and a private scouting service for the Midwest.”

The nature of the individual is the first thing looked for in a Falcon basketball prospect, Parker said, to determine if the individual will fit into the BG program.

“Primarily, we want to know that an athlete we recruit is a good person. Then we try and determine if he can fit into and blend with our style of play and adapt himself to our game.”

These assessments have to be made early and in a relatively short period of time. An athlete is allowed only one exposure paid at 1:1/2 hour visit to a school, although he can visit the school on his own as many times as he desires.

Coaches are allowed to visit a recruit three times. This is another example of the NCAA’s desire to avoid the high-pressure recruiting style that were present in the collegiate sports world for 35 years.

Recruits are also limited under NCAA rules and may only visit six campuses for recruiting purposes.

Parker said the toughest aspect of basketball recruiting is not attracting the athlete, as in football, but in telling some of them, “I don’t just don’t have the caliber of talent that we’re looking for.”

“It takes to tell a kid that we’re not able to use him, 30% to 50% to true. But it hurts to do that.”

Local Falcon basketball contacts come mainly from the northeastern Ohio area, especially Toledo, but Parker said the Cleveland area is also a primary recruiting consideration.

“We don’t have a lot of players from Cleveland, but we still have a lot of contacts in and around that area.”
I believe the philosophy of women's sport, particularly at the college level, is different after Title IX. Prior to Title IX, the majority of women athletes at BGSU were physical education majors. By participating in one or more individual and/or team sports, the students gained a tremendous amount of knowledge and skill. As a result, these athletes were much better prepared for their future teaching and coaching careers in the area of physical education and related fields. The faculty members might coach one or multiple sports. It was just part of their teaching load. There were no big checks waiting for them at the end of the year. Although they were paid for their work, the women's programs were not as well-supported as the men's.

Nora Liu, basketball
It changed the nature of the athlete. Scholarships changed the nature of the athletes and their attitudes toward the program. Those without scholarships disliked those that had scholarships, and those that had them disliked those that had more. The pressure to win was now more important to the administration and was transferred to the program and coaches and to the athlete. It became more of a job than a passion. It did enable BGSU to keep the gymnastics program alive.

Charles Simpson, gymnastics coach

Title IX was needed when instituted. It has increased opportunities and support for women's athletics in high schools and colleges. I question the way it has been implemented. There was no provision by the government to provide financial assistance for the added costs involved. The unfortunate result has caused many athletic departments to reduce the number of men's sports. In talking to my former women team members, they are concerned about this.

Tom Stubbs, swimming coach
As a student-athlete, opportunities in sports for women were lacking. As a graduate assistant and diving coach for both the women's and men's teams, I began to witness a transformation with regards to opportunities. Unfortunately at that point in time, the equal and/or like opportunities for women only surfaced in the form of team recognition, but never really addressed the three prongs of Title IX or its eleven components. From 1994-1999, I had the distinct pleasure of serving as the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics at Bowling Green. During my tenure I engaged in a number of administrative battles to elevate women's programs to the level of their counterparts. Against strong opposition, I added women's soccer while opposing the dropping of men's programs. Not an enthusiastically supported decision by many on and off campus; however, it was a decision that assisted the university at that point in time in meeting its Title IX obligations while moving towards a more equitable balance of sports programs.

Ron Zwierlein, swimming and diving
I hope that current coaches and administrators continue to keep the history of BGSU women's sports alive by maintaining good communication and involvement with former athletes and coaches.

Dolores Black, softball, golf

I feel honored to have been a part of the outstanding intercollegiate athletic program at Bowling Green. The quality of our faculty/coaches and our students/athletes was second to none. In those pre-Title IX years we laid the strong foundation for what was to come. I am proud to be a part of that history.

Patricia Peterson, basketball, field hockey, softball, volleyball

Several coaches had additional reflections to share. They included comments on the quality of the women's physical education program, the importance of keeping women's history alive, the effects of Title IX, the emphasis on academic achievements, and President Hollis Moore's critical role in the progress of BGSU women's sports.
My involvement in coaching was right at the cusp of change and the height of Title IX. I wasn’t an early pioneer like Sue Hager or Janet Parks or Ina Temple. But I tell you in 1976, Title IX was the reason why I got this job here and of course something about having had extensive field hockey experience as a player and a coach. Learning how to navigate the mazes of rules and regulations for recruiting and scholarships was something else. But you know what—did we do it and today the system is highly polished and prospective student-athletes and their parents are given direction and guidance throughout the entire process. I guess one has to walk through the forest and set a trail for others to follow and make it better.

Sue Garron, field hockey

I believe that there is too much pressure being put upon the athletes and coaches after Title IX. I also believe that an athlete’s first and foremost goal is being a student at BGSU. To acquire a successful higher education degree is the future for everyone.

Nora Liu, basketball

It’s time to re-examine Title IX

In the world of college and high school sports, Title IX offers a point of controversy. Though it has been applied to promote gender equality in athletics, some argue that it is in fact hurting men while it benefits women.

According to Title IX text, which can be found on the Department of Justice website: “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” Though it was originally used to cover any education-related activity, it has become known for its application in sports.

But in 1995, the former Fower of Education, Health & Human Services, announced with a thematic text in which regards sex as a protected class. He also said that there were compliance sites.

He also said that there were compliance sites.

On September 2000, James Madison, the former Fower of Education, Health & Human Services, announced it was cutting 12 programs to bring the university into compliance with Title IX. Of the 12, seven were women’s programs.

This leaves James Madison with six men’s teams and a whopping 12 women’s teams. Clearly, there’s something wrong about men having so few university teams, especially those who play in sports which aren’t considered to be major sports like football.

When the New York Times covered James Madison’s decision, they found there was disagreement from both genders. “Title IX was created in 1972 to prevent sex discrimination, and it was needed,” said Jennifer Champion, a senior on the women’s cross-country team. “But look what’s happening now. We made the bus from Pennsylvania for four hours, 14 guys and 16 girls crying together. I know that’s supposed to be Title IX’s purpose.”

Not even in Bowling Green are we exempt from this controversy. In 2000, the University, citing reasons such as inadequate funding for women’s sports and Title IX compliance, cut men’s swimming, tennis and track programs from University athletics.

The women’s swimming, tennis and track programs all survived the cuts and continue to this day, while no new male sports have been added to fill the sport lost in 2000. While having seven men’s teams compared to 10 women’s teams isn’t as bad as it once was, it’s still a problem. The removal of women’s sports, I feel, is not as startling as it should be.

One such example happened at Western Kentucky University, which earlier this year had to cut 17 men’s teams and 22 athletic scholarships.

If we were to talk to the athletes out of the equation at the University, and the massive number of scholarships it involves, would we see a similar mood? I’d bet that a similar situation would be in place here.

There are also instances where equality in athletics is harder to get on people teams. This controversy tends to show up the high school level in the sport of field hockey, a sport traditionally dominated by female athletes.

Several cases in recent years have men’s teams either not entering or having to take a back seat to their girls’ teams. In those cases, the boys have either been barred from trying out or have been the center of fun that boys will continue the sport. Funny, I don’t remember similar complaints when women try out for or play football, hockey or wrestling teams.

Double standards, anyone?

One such case happened at Middles High School in Fort Middles, Md. There, in 2000, two brothers played on the school’s field hockey team.

The brothers against the boys playing was so strong from other coaches that The Capital in Annapolis, Md. reported that a female athletic director said he would forbear his school’s game against Middles rather than put his girls on the field with the boys.

Another coach interviewed by The Capital said that she was “highly opposed to making same girl sit down as these boys can play... I’m afraid of the long-range future of the sport. Boys are allowed to play. They could spread the country and state and end up landing on the soil where we are required to have as many boys on a team, having a girl sit out.”

However, as The Capital noted, no women athletes were left off the team so the brothers could play. While there might be concerns over safety due to the fact that they are being represented make up more like it. Male athletes must have the right to try out for such teams, too. All too often separate women’s teams.

The other way around? Doesn’t work, according to them. But I remember what Title IX itself says you cannot discriminate based on sex, though that message seems to have been distorted by some. In the end, a change is needed to make sure that male athletes do not end up getting the short end of the deal.

Perhaps similar to Title IX, but that promotes more equality in athletics, can be drawn up so that this controversy can fade away and we can all just play on an equal field.

Spectrum in Bon Suhakia labradigger
Bowling Green is a wonderful institution with a lot of dedicated people working to support and grow the programs for women’s athletics.

Pat Brett, field hockey, track and field

Women set record

By Cheryl Glueck
Assistant Sports Editor

OXFORD, Ohio - Walking away with first place and setting a state record in the 400-yard relay at the Miami University Invitational made the trip worthwhile for Pat Brett, field hockey, track and field.

The quadruplets of Caroline, Lee, Lauren, and Adrienne Brett, field hockey, track and field.

Although the Falcons only took first places in the 15 events, their depth was a key to the seventh-place finish. Since the team has many women who can score, it was able to score more than once many times. Pat Brett, field hockey, track and field

Men get started

By Scott Slack
News Staff Reporter

Eighteen years ago a 15-year-old girl sat in front of the television set watching the Olympic games. From that point on she would follow a dream that would lead her to compete for the very games from which the dream was derived.

"I watched the Olympics on TV, and decided that's what I wanted to do," Nancy Shafer, an associate professor of statistics, said.

Shafer finished fourth in the Olympic trials, both in 1968 and 1972, and also traveled to Europe with the U.S. National team. Shafer, who grew up in Canton, didn’t exactly have the training facilities in her youth that most young athletes have today.

When she first began running there were no girls’ sports programs in the Canton high school system.

It has been a great life experience. Ups and downs, but no regrets.

Tom Stubbs, swimming
Many former gymnasts now coach or teach in the schools of Ohio and Indiana. The teams continually earned the scholastics award for the team with the highest GPA of the Athletics Department. They won one State Championship and three MAC Championships. They represented the University in the best tradition of the scholar athlete. I was and still am most proud of each and every athlete I had the opportunity to work with and teach.

Charles Simpson, gymnastics

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**Gymnasts earn MAC title, NCAA berth**

By Kermit Rowe, News staff reporter

Bowling Green's gymnastics team realized the potential of its season by edging out Eastern Michigan for the Mid-American Conference championship at the MAC championship meet in Anderson Arena last Saturday, according to BGSU coach Sid Sink.

The Falcons also received a berth in the first annual NCAA Northeast Regional Tournament along with five other teams, clearing the season that saw injuries force BG to settle for a 7-4 dual match record.

After falling behind the Harrows by one point in the first event, the Falcon gymnasts used a strong floor exercise to take a two-point lead into the third of four events.

BG then held onto a 106.4-103.4 Western Michigan lead in the two-point match held at top-seeded EMU (106.4). Western Michigan was a distant third (103.4).

EMU cut the Falcons' lead to 105 with one event remaining, thanks to a strong routine by Bosha.

The Falcons, led by Bosha, won the floor exercise. The floor performance, won by EMU, had only been two weeks earlier.

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**Women harriers pass big test**

By Ken Kopp, News staff reporter

While University students begin classes today, Bowling Green's women's cross country team took a big step Saturday and according to BG coach Sid Sink they passed "with flying colors."

Before the Falcons left for Lexington, Ky., and the Kentucky Invitational, Sink said that this, the first invitation all meet of the year, would be "a real eye-opener" for his inexperienced team.

However, before this season finished, Sink said, it could be the other midwest schools keeping an eye on BG.

The harriers turned in their second consecutive strong showing, earning fifth place in the 11-team field with 149 points.

**PURDUE,** capturing five places in the top ten, walked away with the championship totaling only 26 points.

"They're Purdues, could be in the top ten teams in the nation," Sink said. As far as team score, we did the best we could have possibly done at this time of year. We've only been practicing two weeks.

The Falcons found themselves on slightly different terrain than the University Golf Course, where home meets are run.

"It was a true cross country race," Sink said. "Nothing like running on fairways. It was on a horse steeply chas, thick grass and heavy. You need a lot of strength to run a course like that."

When you run a heavy course, being in shape is more important than when you run on a fast course."

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DESPITE their lack of practice time, the runners lived up to the task, Senior Becky Dedon took 12th place in the 5,000-meter run with a time of 19:44.

Freshmen Stephanie Eaton and Kathy Kacor followed closely behind, 22nd and 23rd in the race, with marks of 20:35 and 20:42, respectively.

"Becky (Dedon) ran super," Sink said. She's a strong runner. That's one of the reasons why.

Dedon said that she likes running this type of course because it concentrate more.

"It's a real cross country course," Dedon said, "It psyched me in these type of conditions. I feel like I can improve a lot after a couple more weeks of driving and I'll be up there should be."

THE ROUGH course did not discourage Kacor, who is trying to come back after a lower leg injury.

Kacor said he will still be aways she's back one hundred percent.

"I usually run all summer," Kacor said, "I didn't run a step this year, giving me problems. It's been kind of a lot."

The Boilermakers' Alumni pace the meet with a finish ahead of team Bussa and her mark of 18:32.

I feel that the large majority of female collegiate athletes are truly student athletes. Most are outstanding students at BGU. Sid Sink, cross country

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In the infancy of women’s athletics, we taught, trained and prepared our officials. They were much better than they are today. Now, in my opinion, many of the current officials are in it for the money and not the betterment of the game. We still need to get better marketing and promotions for all our women’s athletic teams.

Sue Hager, basketball, softball

I believe that former President of BGSU, Dr. Hollis Moore, had “Forward Falcons” in mind when he created the unique position of Associate AD for non-revenue sports. Not only was it the first full-time position for women’s sports but a first for a woman to be appointed (full-time) in charge of 23 men’s and women’s sport teams at an NCAA Division 1 University. He was able to make this great transition predicated on the strong foundation that individuals such as Sue Hager and Dorothy Luedtke and others had established. I was indeed fortunate to have been appointed to this position. It allowed me to work with highly talented coaches and student-athletes. It also afforded me the opportunity to contribute at the state, regional and national level. These experiences will forever be with me. (September, 2009)

Carole Huston, Associate AD, 1976-1987
LIFE AFTER COACHING

After leaving their intercollegiate coaching days in the past, our former coaches stayed busy with a vast array of activities. Some of them continued on the faculty at BGSU, doing the requisite teaching, scholarship, and service. Others took positions as administrators in universities or with professional groups. A few chose the private sector, where they taught and/or coached sports such as swimming, golf, and synchronized swimming; directed theatre productions; earned advanced degrees; entered the medical field; or produced instructional materials related to sport. Several of our former coaches are keeping the history of BGSU women’s sport alive through activities such as managing the Athletic Archives and Museum, producing a DVD on the history of the women’s basketball team, and compiling a history of BGSU women’s sports. Two were selected to serve on a committee to plan the 100th anniversary of the University.

The coaches who have retired are generously sharing their time and expertise as volunteers in their communities. The organizations with which they have volunteered include churches, a fire department, a domestic violence shelter, the BGSU Libraries, the Northwest Ohio Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Wood County Emergency Management Agency, the BG Parks and Recreation Foundation, Special Olympics, the Red Cross, the Medical Reserve Corps, the Community Emergency Response Team, Wood County Hospital, Habitat for Humanity, and the BGSU Retirees Association.

Most former coaches still live in Bowling Green or in nearby communities. Others have moved to Florida, California, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Texas, or Virginia. Their responses gave the distinct impression that all of them are leading happy productive lives. Activities they specifically mentioned included enjoying children and grandchildren, traveling, fishing, relaxing, volunteering, leading active social lives, staying physically active, and attending BGSU athletic events. We are sincerely grateful to the coaches who sent us their reflections. Their memories and accomplishments are inspirational, and we are privileged to include them in this book.
A Final Reflection

The women who had classes, offices, and team practices in the Women’s Building back in the day have fond memories of Margaret Pratt Reynolds, our exceptionally conscientious matron. In every sense of the word, Margaret was a classic. The WB was spotless—the cleanest building on campus. Margaret made sure that all of us, faculty as well as students, kept it that way! We will always remember our Margaret!
In 2005, a group of former coaches identified more than 800 female athletes who had competed for BGSU prior to 1978, which was the first year since the late 1940s that women received BGSU varsity letters. The Athletics Department invited these women and their coaches to campus to be recognized and thanked for their leadership.
Epilogue

On the evening of Friday, February 4, 2005, more than 200 athletes who had competed for BGSU in the 1940s, 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s attended The Leadership Years celebration held in their honor. The smiles of Cindy Williman Spiers, Karla Ewald, Linda Hardy, and Barb Britton reflected the excitement of the evening.
Left
Just prior to the banquet, Sue Hager, Chair of the Planning Committee, discussed last-second preparations with committee members Janet Parks (left) and Pat Peterson (right). Other committee members were Dolores Black, Carol Durentini, Jan Sawdy Gamble, Dorothy Luedtke, Lindy Bastel Powers, and Associate Athletics Director Scott Seeliger.

Below
Guests visited an extensive display of memorabilia provided by Ann Bowers of the BGSU Center for Archival Collections and Mickey Cochrane of the HPER/ Athletics Archives.
Alumnae thoroughly enjoyed their trips down memory lane.
More than 300 family members, friends, and guests joined the honorees in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. A special treat was the historical slide show created by Tony Howard of WBGU-PBS.

Alumnae were happy to help athletics department secretary Linda Canterbury (far left) at the registration table! Volunteers staffing the table were (right to left) Jenn Gorecki, Jane Allison, Betsy Kenniston, and Susan Macias.

The archives show was a huge success.
Above
Shown here with Diane Copperfield, Frieda and Freddie Falcon were available for numerous photo ops throughout the evening.

Left
Executive vice president Linda Dobb enthusiastically expressed appreciation to the honorees and coaches for their many years of visionary leadership.
Suddenly, to the surprise and delight of the crowd, the BGSU pep band and cheerleaders burst into the ballroom to the strains of Forward Falcons, giving the honored athletes and coaches the cheers and musical accompaniment that they had never received.
Above
Mariah Burton Nelson, a former intercollegiate athlete and author of several books about women and sport, delivered the keynote address, during which she recited Tomboys Were Right, a poem she had written specifically for the occasion. Reprinted with permission. http://www.mariahburtonnelson.com/Poems/TomboysWereRight.html

Tomboys Were Right © 2005
by Mariah Burton Nelson, Executive Director
American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation

If you were a tomboy, you knew long ago
What experts now preach all the time:
Exercise heals you. It strengthens your heart.
It also feels simply sublime.

If you were a tomboy, you rode fast and far
On your bicycle, named like a horse
You competed in neighborhood races with friends
Winning – and losing, of course.

You knew that your body was yours to enjoy.
You swam in the sea like a fish.
Disciplined, you would shoot baskets all day
‘Til finally hearing that “swish.”

If you were a tomboy you liked to climb trees.
Reaching for each branch above
The bark felt so rough and so right that it
Helped you discover what you were made of.

If you were a tomboy, then you’re still an athlete
You’ve been walking with pride all along.
Or have you forgotten? Then let me remind you:
You’ve always been brave, free, and strong.

Invited or not, you showed up for Little League.
You cried out: “This gym is too small!”
You spoke up for fairness. You protested pinnies.
You kept your eye on the ball.

By refusing to stay on the sidelines
By saying, “I won’t simply cheer,”
You redefined “woman” and “athlete.”
You served as a sport pioneer.

Pioneers don’t earn much money.
Pioneers don’t get much fame.
But they dare to go first. That changes
Everything, transforming the entire game.

Nowadays we are all athletes.
Even old women can sail
Nowadays we would just laugh if they told us
It’s more ladylike to be frail.

Your daughter: She won’t be a tomboy.
They no longer call girls that name.
If she’s adventurous, agile and quick
They’ll more likely say, “She’s got game.”

But you were a tomboy: You learned how to lead
And you led like a true, brilliant star.
Going first matters. So please let me
THANK YOU for daring to be who you are.
The high point of the evening occurred when the athletes, such as Linda DePalma Zanni, heard their names and sports announced, walked across the dais one at a time, and received a framed varsity BG letter. At the close of the ceremony, the athletes were formally inducted into the Varsity BG Club.

Fifteen coaches shared the excitement with their athletes. Seated left to right: Carol Durentini, Jean Campbell, Dorothy Luedtke, Sue Hager, Janet Parks; Standing left to right: Coni Hartley Martin Stanley, Sue Gavron, Joy Sidwell, Dona Rae Whittaker Vogel, Patricia Peterson, Nora Liu, Mickey Cochrane, Charles Simpson, David Williams, Dolores Black.
Linda Carpenter and Vivian Acosta, nationally respected researchers, attended the banquet and later sent a letter that captured the essence of the experience.

What a marvelous gift your love and labor wrought for the early women athletes of Bowling Green! In many ways you changed lives this week. The letter recipients will carry the warmth of Friday evening in their hearts for the rest of their lives. The families in attendance will also understand their strengths and character more clearly. We are blessed to have witnessed such an effective and wonderful event. Thank you.
Softball

Swimming & Diving
Track & Field

Volleyball
On Saturday morning, the athletes, coaches, and guests gathered at the Falcon Plaza to continue the celebration and to reminisce about their days at BGSU.

Sue Gavron, Sue Hager, Janet Parks, Dolores Black, and Patricia Peterson were up early to continue the previous evening’s festivities.
Right
Cathy Copeland Mock and James Mock had a front row seat.

Below
In the afternoon, the group attended the women’s basketball game against Ohio University, where they sat in a reserved section of Anderson Arena. At halftime, they were publicly acknowledged and applauded for their leadership.

Right
Following the game, the current Falcons made a very touching gesture by distributing an autographed certificate to each of the former athletes.
Taking advantage of a unique opportunity to combine an event focused on athletics with one focused on academics, an interdisciplinary symposium was held on campus in conjunction with *The Leadership Years* celebration.

*LEFT*

Vikki Krane (center), Director of the BGSU Women’s Studies Program, chaired the organizing committee for a conference titled, *Women and Sport: Before, During, and After Title IX*. The conference attracted numerous interesting presenters such as BGSU graduates Shannon Baird (left) and Kerry Kauer (right).

*BELOW*

Krane and USA Today columnist and television sports commentator Christine Brennan showed off the souvenir t-shirt created especially for the conference.
Sharon Shields (Vanderbilt University) and Doris Corbett (Howard University) were among the attendees who had come from colleges and universities in the United States, Canada, Ireland, and Sweden.

Former athletes Dorothy Luedtke (1947; 1950), Lynne Fauley Emery (1956), Marcia Conrad Saneholtz (1964), Noel Jablonski (1972), Mary Jo Beers-Takash (1975), and Cathy Copeland Mock (1976) shared numerous memories and observations that were of great interest to the conference attendees.
JANET B. PARKS, ADELIA HOSTETLER MUTI, JENNIFER JOSEPH, ANN BOWERS
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