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 basket ball 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 1895, Clara Gregory Baer introduced basket ball 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 basket ball, 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 basket ball 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 basket ball craze swept the country, girls and women in high schools and colleges across the U.S. formed varsity basket ball 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 basket ball’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. Basket ball 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 (b) Blecking ................................... College Girls
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
Jensen

Bechtel
Craine
Spicer
Lattin
Miller

Bimer
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 Embrons and Wilsonians, competed with the results being published in the student newspaper, the *Bee Gee News*.
Wilsonian Basketball Team

Canright
Good
N. Housholder

Tucker
Leatherman

Foltz
H. 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—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

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).

Above
The Women’s Athletic Association (WAA) was formed in May, 1926 under the auspices of the Women’s Physical Education Department. The purpose of the WAA was to “promote interest in all sports and physical activity for all women of the college as a means of promoting efficiency and developing a high degree of sportsmanship and school and class spirit” (Bee Gee News, October, 1926, p. 9).

Left
In 1924-25, the Ohio College Association-Women’s Physical Education Section was organized “to promote cooperation among departments of physical education in colleges and universities in the state of Ohio and to study common problems.” OCA-WPES held annual conferences and throughout its 64-year history was vitally involved with public school and college sports programs in the state. Significant steps in its history include establishing the Invitational College Tennis Organization in 1937, advising the Athletic Federation of Ohio College Women (AFOCW) Sports Section, and creating the Ohio Association of Intercollegiate Sports for Women (OAISW) in 1972.
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

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**W. A. A. CONFERENCE**

Virginia Smith and Grace Hirt represented the W. A. A. at the Athletic Conference of American College Women at Columbus. They were accompanied by Jessie Lilligotch, Helen Strakweather and Mary Miller. The conference discussions and papers led to the development of the topic: “Play for Play’s Sake”. Our feature of the week’s program was a water pageant, “Frog’s Victory.” Saturday, the last day of the conference was Play Day. All the delegates took part in the baseball, hurdles, jumping, tennis, horseback or golf. Saturday night the banquet climaxed the activities of the conference. The girls had a wonderful, as well as instructive week end, and are prepared to make the W. A. A. bigger and better than ever before.

*Opposite page*

There were no varsity teams for women, and the emphasis was on intramural competition and class teams. Most often, ladder or round robin tournaments were utilized to identify the campus champions in the sports of baseball, volleyball, dodgeball, newcomb, soccer, track, field hockey, basketball, and hiking.

**Below**

An added advantage of forming the WAA was that delegates from Bowling Green could attend meetings such as the Athletic Conference of American College Women (ACACW) as official representatives of the school. In 1928 a delegation from Bowling Green attended such a meeting with the topic “play for play’s sake.” On the last day of the conference, all the delegates took part in a play day that featured competition in basketball, golf, hurdles, and tennis (Bee Gee News, May, 1928, p. 5).
1925 KEY

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 Innings—Virginia Smith.
Batter Up—Eva Beiswenger.
Tagging All the Bases—Esther Ros.
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
Verina McKee 300
Chevron—600 points
Anna Steifert 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

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**Above**

In the 1948-1949 academic year, a rating board was established at BGSU. The board operated under the auspices of the Women’s National Officials Rating Committee (WNORC), which had been in existence since 1928.

**Opposite page**

Letters and honors given by the WAA were “not for winning but for taking part, being skillful, showing loyalty to the team, being sportsmanlike and enjoying the game” (Key, 1950, p. 188). Emblems were awarded based on a point system. The first double chevron was awarded in 1928 to Virginia Smith (Bee Gee News, June, 1928 p. 21).

The class teams often engaged in up to ten weeks of drills, coaching, and practice games before meeting in interclass play. As stated in the 1927 Key, the first intraschool soccer tournament was played with well-coached teams.
Official Basketball Guide for Women

CONTAINING THE REVISED OFFICIAL RULES FOR 1926-27

AS ADOPTED BY THE American Physical Education Association

AMERICAN SPORTS PUBLISHING COMPANY
45 ROSE STREET, NEW YORK
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.
24 | 1929-1958: THE GOLDEN ERA OF WOMEN’S SPORTS

The spirit of women’s athletics in our college is expressed by the slogans: ‘Play for play’s sake’ and ‘A team for every girl and every girl on a team.’ We believe that competition is the ‘soul’ of athletics but do not endorse the highly specialized competition where winning is the paramount issue. The Field Day of 1929 was more of a Play Day than the old type of track and field competition, and was the climax of a play program that had been carried on all spring. North, South, Williams, and Shatzel had decided upon its best players for the events of Field Day and sixty girls took part in the games, which consisted of Tennis, Archery, Baseball, 50-yard dash, 65-yard low hurdles, base running, Relay, Throw and Catch Relay and the Trip Relay.

The events were not all given equal points in the scoring system but were scaled according to their importance and time spent in preparation.

Baseball ranked highest with 15 points for first place; tennis, archery, dash and hurdles ranked second with 10 points. And the three relays, whose players had spent no time in preparation, ranked third with 5 points for winning. Every team won some events but Williams scored the highest number of points and won the day.

Results: Tennis won by Gertrude Fries, South; archery won by Charlotte Wolcott, Shatzel; 50-yard dash won by Mae Norris, South; 65-yard hurdles won by Virginia Smith, North. In 10 3/5 seconds breaking her old record of 11 seconds; baseball, two games were played, first place won by Williams. Dorothy Decker, captain; second place, North, Nellie Burditt, captain; third, Shatzel, Isabel Wagner, captain; fourth, South, Corinne Burkett, captain. Ten trips, throw and catch, and base running relays were all won by Williams.

Competitions in running, high jump, discus, and javelin throwing were held prior to Field Day and two new records were set.

Javelin, old record 63’ 11”, broken by Bernadine Beins at 76’ 2”.
Discus, old record 68’ 11”, broken by Coila Flora at 76’ 11”.

A point system has been worked out, so that every girl has a chance to make points toward that coveted prize—the B, G, letter. In this system any number of points from 5 to 50 may be won in each event. The total number awarded any girl in track is 100 points.

Our motto for this year is ‘Better and Greater’ and with all the W. A. A. girls working we hope to set new records for our college and organization.

Annual Women’s Field Day

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.

Right

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 Ifirst 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.

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**The Women’s Athletic Association** is one of the most active organizations in our college.

W. A. A. slogans are: “Play for play’s sake” and “A team for every girl and every girl on a team.”

A competition is carried on in all sports throughout the year between teams from the North and South sides of town, with Court Street and Wallace Avenue the dividing lines. This makes a very interesting division. Every student who comes out for a sport is placed on a team representing her residence group. Teams then play off a series of games for the championship in that sport.

The purposes of the Women’s Athletic Association are to promote interest in all sports and physical activity for all women of the college as a means of promoting physical efficiency and developing a high degree of sportsmanship, school and class spirit.

There is a regular meeting of the association each month of the school year. At the meetings there is a business meeting and a social meeting.

Letters and honors are awarded not for winning but for taking part, being skillful, showing loyalty to the team, being sportsmanlike and enjoying the game. When the student has won 300 points she receives a W. A. A. letter, 600 points, a chevron, 900 a double chevron, 1200, the college letter, B. G. and 1800 a W. A. A. gold pin.

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**Above**
The first letters were awarded during 1929-1930. By the end of the decade, the point system had become very detailed and still promoted playing and participating in addition to winning. The WAA sponsored a wide variety of sports that included field hockey, soccer, basketball, indoor baseball, volleyball, track and field, tennis, hiking, table tennis, shuffleboard, bowling, horse shoes, bicycling, golf, riflery, speedball, and archery.
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 Hurlbut, 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.

BGN, MAY 15 1935

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 Gruber, entertainment; Ruth Andrews, hockey; Dorothy Zieg, soccer; Helen DeTray, volley ball; and Genevieve Swain, refreshments.

*BGN, NOV. 22 1953*
Above

“A team for every girl, and every girl on a team” is the slogan of the Women’s Athletic Association. A program of intramural activities is carried on throughout the year, by the executive board and active W.A.A. members, for all women in school. Everyone is eligible to play on a team, but awards are given only to members and are determined by a point system based on participation rather than skill. (KEY, 1958, p. 146)

W.A.A. Notice

Homecoming this week-end will involve a lot of activity in W. A. A. We are planning to entertain our alumni at a hockey and soccer game at 10 a. m. Saturday, after which we are serving coffee and doughnuts in the game room of the men’s gym. This will cost members about ten cents. Pauline Harrison will be in the well at 11 a. m. this Thursday to collect. Let’s all come out Saturday and give the alumni a big welcome—this homecoming game is usually the big event of the season—those alumni swing a wicked hockey stick!

We are selling candy, candied apples, hot dogs, and maybe coffee at the football game, so we will need lots of help to sell the things around in the stands. It’s an easy way to earn points.

Above

Starting in 1934, a regular Homecoming weekend activity was a hockey game between W.A.A members and returning alumnæ. 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.
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.

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.

Right
*A riding school, managed by Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Hedden and located on campus, was very popular during the 1940s. In 1943, 84 young women took riding for credit, and more came out just to ride the horses. The equestriennes competed with other schools and won three competitions against Ohio University. Mr. Hedden stated, “Riding is really the greatest known exercise, in that it develops every muscle. The next best is swimming, of course” (Bee Gee News, March 29, 1944, pp. 2, 4).*
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.
1944 KEY

CAC c. 1940
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.

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, Vive-President; and Mary Honor Crowley, Secretary-Treasurer.
Right

In 1943, 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 Intercollege giant 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>1321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiram 1st Team</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>1258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Wesleyan</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>1124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denison</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>1113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami University</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>1087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio State University</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>1019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling Green 2nd Team</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>1015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiram 2nd Team</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiram 3rd Team</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western College</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>831</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hits</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Hobensuck</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Bottrup</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornelia Lawler</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy Naunder</td>
<td>53</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 Forinia, chairmain 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)

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, Splashing Out, 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 has having sports managers on the represented in the organization of Women’s Recreational Association Board.

Special 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; Lynn Neff, recording secretary; Jack 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.

Field hockey continued to enjoy enormous popularity among BG women. In 1950, 15 Falcon players were selected to travel to Bloomfield Hills, MI to represent the university in the Great Lakes Field Hockey Tournament.

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 Displays Technique

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-

ALICE MARBLE, nationally-famous tennis star, gives instructions on “how to serve” to Jim Geiger, member of BGSU’s tennis team.

Miss Marble spoke here during her recent visit.

ALICE MARBLE Lectures Here

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).
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).

When we thanked Dorothy Fornia for her contributions to the BG women's sports program, she replied, "It was my pleasure" (March 7, 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.

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.
Our feeling was that you should have competition and enjoy it, but then there should be an opportunity for the players to mingle together and have a social time. Instead of all our kids clumping together, and the other schools too... sometimes you would go over and say, ‘Come on, break it up. Go on over and socialize.’” (Mary Watt, June 26, 1988)

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.

*Above*

The 1957 standards allowed for the coaching of teams and participation in tournaments, but they explicitly excluded long schedules and championships. They also prohibited admission charges, even though the earlier 1957 NSWA standards had allowed gate receipts as long as they were “a means of promotion and not an end in themselves” (p. 54). The 1957 standards also precluded women from participating on men’s teams, in touch football, or in unsuitable co-educational activities, such as basketball and hockey. As had been the viewpoint of previous committees, the 1957 DGWS standards continued to assert that competitive experiences could meet desirable educational and recreational objectives if they were conducted appropriately and, preferably, under the leadership of competent female physical educators.

Another important development in 1957 was the establishment of a committee composed of representatives from the Athletic and Recreation
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.
Concern over the Soviet Union and Eastern bloc 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).

Below & Opposite
The Splashers were increasing their winning percentage against universities such as Michigan State, Ohio University, Ohio State, Miami, Ohio Wesleyan, Denison, and Western Ontario. Each season was very successful with no more than one loss shadowing the team’s record (Key, 1955). They also could boast of having a record setting swimmer on their roster. Patricia Dow held the intercollegiate record in the 50-yard backstroke with a time of 35.1 seconds against Kent State in the 1962 season (Key, 1962, p. 198).
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 imagine 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 Luettke, 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:

> 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.

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Above

BGSU became an associate member of the AIAW in 1971 and a full member in 1973.

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**THE BG NEWS**

Nov. 30, 1972, p.1

**Sex discrimination charge filed against University**

By Lenann McGookey

A formal charge of sex discrimination in hiring and employment practices at the University has been filed with the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW). The charge was submitted to HEW Secretary Elliot Richardson on Nov. 2 by the Women's Equity Action League (WEAL), a Washington-based national organization of women.

The charge also urges a federal investigation of admissions policies and financial aid to women students, areas which are now covered by the Education Amendment Act of 1972. The formal charge is based on the following data:

- Women comprise less than one-fifth of the total full-time faculty of the University.
- Women are a minority in all four college faculties: Arts and Sciences, business administration, education, and fine arts.
- Women are one in eight in the 27 departments. Twenty have fewer than two women on the faculty, and half of these have no women at all.

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Sue Hager is named acting associate athletic director

Sue Hager, coordinator of women’s sports and director of women’s intramurals in the physical education 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 1966 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.

The increasing emphasis on women’s sports and Title IX specifications influenced the reorganization, Moore said.

“I don’t know what this means, but I do know that this committee is being adequately attentive to women’s sports,” he said. “For example, our athletic department tends to be the slowest in making significant changes, but this is a step in the right direction.”

“The HttpResponse to our proposal to add two more sports was overwhelming and the budget was increased,” Young explained.

Hager will coordinate the 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.

Hager has been the coordinator of women’s sports and director of women’s intramurals in the physical education and recreation department since 1968.

“I am sure that Sue’s basketball career since 1966 has paid off in increased interest in women’s athletics,” Young said.

The BG NEWS

Volume 20, Number 17

Bowling Green, Ohio

Thursday, April 14, 1976

84 | 1967-1979: THE MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH OF WOMEN’S SPORTS
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).
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.
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.
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 athletics and the recent reorganization of the Falcon athletic department.

Coaches resign or are fired. Fans pack the arena to boo the home team. Schools are severely penalized for recruiting violations.

All are the facts of life in intercollegiate athletics. If you don’t believe me, just ask Pat Haley or Fred Taylor, the Falcon basketball squad or Michigan State University in that order.

And now the women are joining their male counterparts in this “sporting” rate-race, 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 Falcon athletic department, similar developments at other schools and with a helping hand 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 “one-umbrella” department setup, claims the women will just have to accept the inescapable.

“You’re something we’re going to have to accept. I just hope our coaches are strong enough to maintain their integrity.”

“When ever” spectators enter the arena there’s definitely going to be that pressure to produce.

“Our students and coaches have put on 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 refereeing 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 men’s and women’s non-revenue sports sharing funds strictly from the Advisory Committee on General Fee Allocations, it apparently is 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 headaches for Athletic Director Dick Young and others are obviously many—with grants for women and budgeting and top priority.

Home festival week

Today Baseball vs. Findlay (2), 3 p.m.
Thursday Women’s lacrosse vs. Ohio Wesleyan, 4:30 p.m.
Friday Baseball vs. Miami (2), 1 p.m.
Saturday 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), 3 p.m.
Track vs. Ohio University, 4 p.m.
Men’s tennis vs. Cincinnati, 3 p.m.
Men’s tennis vs. Ball State, 9 a.m. Monday Women’s lacrosse vs. Ohio Wesleyan


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, our 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 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’s in 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 monotony 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 that 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).
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!

**Above**
In the spring of 1982, the softball team was one of 16 teams to receive an NCAA regional tournament berth. Although they lost to Cal State-Fullerton, they posted a regular season record of 27-15-1.
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 200-250 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, according to Huston, said Huston.

“The fall of 1976 is 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 $50,000 in funds and aid to women athletes. In 1977 an extra $26,000 was added to that amount and distributed to women athletes, and in 1978 a total of $54,000 was awarded to women athletes.

“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 Lessig, 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 scholarship. They’ll play 29 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: playing 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 138 for men and 45 for women. Football awarded 75, ice hockey 20 and basketball 15. In 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), $105,000 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. Wherever 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 Lessig.

“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.”

Lessig 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,

{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. (Wayman, 1924, pp. 44, 48)
The 1981 tennis team sported a 9-3 dual meet record and placed 5th in the inaugural MAC tournament.

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 1981 cross country team won its second consecutive MAC title and the All-Ohio championship. The Falcons would go on to win the 1982 and 1983 MAC titles as well.
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.
Above
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.

Left
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 (APEC)</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 (NSGWS)</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>
</tr>
<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>Year</td>
<td>Women's Organization</td>
<td>Parent Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>------</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>AIAW</td>
<td>Independent national organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Final AIAW tournaments</td>
<td>Independent national organization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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.


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.


