Epilogue

On the evening of Friday, February 4, 2005, more than 200 athletes who had competed for BGSU in the 1940s, 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s attended The Leadership Years celebration held in their honor. The smiles of Cindy Williman Spiers, Karla Ewald, Linda Hardy, and Barb Britton reflected the excitement of the evening.
Epilogue

Left
Just prior to the banquet, Sue Hager, Chair of the Planning Committee, discussed last-second preparations with committee members Janet Parks (left) and Pat Peterson (right). Other committee members were Dolores Black, Carol Durentini, Jan Sawdy Gamble, Dorothy Luedtke, Lindy Bastel Powers, and Associate Athletics Director Scott Seeliger.

Below
Guests visited an extensive display of memorabilia provided by Ann Bowers of the BGSU Center for Archival Collections and Mickey Cochrane of the HPER/ Athletics Archives.
Alumnae thoroughly enjoyed their trips down memory lane.
More than 300 family members, friends, and guests joined the honorees in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. A special treat was the historical slide show created by Tony Howard of WBGU-PBS.

Alumnae were happy to help athletics department secretary Linda Canterbury (far left) at the registration table! Volunteers staffing the table were (right to left) Jenn Gorecki, Jane Allison, Betsy Kenniston, and Susan Macias.

The archives show was a huge success.
Above
Shown here with Diane Copperfield, Frieda and Freddie Falcon were available for numerous photo ops throughout the evening.

Left
Executive vice president Linda Dobb enthusiastically expressed appreciation to the honorees and coaches for their many years of visionary leadership.
Suddenly, to the surprise and delight of the crowd, the BGSU pep band and cheerleaders burst into the ballroom to the strains of "Forward Falcons," giving the honored athletes and coaches the cheers and musical accompaniment that they had never received.
Mariah Burton Nelson, a former intercollegiate athlete and author of several books about women and sport, delivered the keynote address, during which she recited *Tomboys Were Right*, a poem she had written specifically for the occasion. Reprinted with permission. http://www.mariahburtonnelson.com/Poems/TomboysWereRight.html

*Tomboys Were Right* © 2005 by Mariah Burton Nelson, Executive Director
American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation

If you were a tomboy, you knew long ago
What experts now preach all the time:
Exercise heals you. It strengthens your heart.
It also feels simply sublime.

If you were a tomboy, you rode fast and far
On your bicycle, named like a horse
You competed in neighborhood races with friends
Winning – and losing, of course.

You knew that your body was yours to enjoy.
You swam in the sea like a fish.
Disciplined, you would shoot baskets all day
‘Til finally hearing that “swish.”

If you were a tomboy you liked to climb trees.
Reaching for each branch above
The bark felt so rough and so right that it
Helped you discover what you were made of.

If you were a tomboy, then you’re still an athlete
You’ve been walking with pride all along.
Or have you forgotten? Then let me remind you:
You’ve always been brave, free, and strong.

Invited or not, you showed up for Little League.
You cried out: “This gym is too small!”
You spoke up for fairness. You protested pinnies.
You kept your eye on the ball.

By refusing to stay on the sidelines
By saying, “I won’t simply cheer,”
You redefined “woman” and “athlete.”
You served as a sport pioneer.

Pioneers don’t earn much money:
Pioneers don’t get much fame.
But they dare to go first. That changes
Everything, transforming the entire game.

Nowadays we are all athletes.
Even old women can sail
Nowadays we would just laugh if they told us
It’s more ladylike to be frail.

Your daughter: She won’t be a tomboy.
They no longer call girls that name.
If she’s adventurous, agile and quick
They’ll more likely say, “She’s got game.”

But you were a tomboy. You learned how to lead
And you led like a true, brilliant star.
Going first matters. So please let me
THANK YOU for daring to be who you are.
The high point of the evening occurred when the athletes, such as Linda DePalma Zanni, heard their names and sports announced, walked across the dais one at a time, and received a framed varsity BG letter. At the close of the ceremony, the athletes were formally inducted into the Varsity BG Club.

Fifteen coaches shared the excitement with their athletes. Seated left to right: Carol Durentini, Jean Campbell, Dorothy Luedtke, Sue Hager; Janet Parks; Standing left to right: Coni Hartley, Martin Stanley, Sue Gavron, Joy Sidwell, Dona Rae Whittaker Vogel, Patricia Peterson, Nora Liu, Mickey Cochrane, Charles Simpson, David Williams, Dolores Black.
Left
Linda Carpenter and Vivian Acosta, nationally respected researchers, attended the banquet and later sent a letter that captured the essence of the experience.

February 6, 2005

What a marvelous gift your love and labor wrought for the early women athletes of Bowling Green! In many ways you changed lives this week. The letter recipients will carry the warmth of Friday evening in their hearts for the rest of their lives. The families in attendance will also understand their strengths and character more clearly. We are blessed to have witnessed such an effective and wonderful event. Thank you.
Softball

Swimming & Diving
On Saturday morning, the athletes, coaches, and guests gathered at the Falcon Plaza to continue the celebration and to reminisce about their days at BGSU.

Sue Gavron, Sue Hager, Janet Parks, Dolores Black, and Patricia Peterson were up early to continue the previous evening’s festivities.
**Right**
*Cathy Copeland Mock and James Mock had a front row seat.*

**Below**
*In the afternoon, the group attended the women’s basketball game against Ohio University, where they sat in a reserved section of Anderson Arena. At halftime, they were publicly acknowledged and applauded for their leadership.*

**Right**
*Following the game, the current Falcons made a very touching gesture by distributing an autographed certificate to each of the former athletes.*
Taking advantage of a unique opportunity to combine an event focused on athletics with one focused on academics, an interdisciplinary symposium was held on campus in conjunction with *The Leadership Years* celebration.

**LEFT**

Vikki Krane (center), Director of the BGSU Women’s Studies Program, chaired the organizing committee for a conference titled, *Women and Sport: Before, During, and After Title IX*. The conference attracted numerous interesting presenters such as BGSU graduates Shannon Baird (left) and Kerry Kauer (right).

**BELOW**

Krane and USA Today columnist and television sports commentator Christine Brennan showed off the souvenir t-shirt created especially for the conference.
Sharon Shields (Vanderbilt University) and Doris Corbett (Howard University) were among the attendees who had come from colleges and universities in the United States, Canada, Ireland, and Sweden.

Former athletes Dorothy Luedtke (1947; 1950), Lynne Fauley Emery (1956), Marcia Conrad Saneholtz (1964), Noel Jablonski (1972), Mary Jo Beers-Takash (1975), and Cathy Copeland Mock (1976) shared numerous memories and observations that were of great interest to the conference attendees.
JANET B. PARKS, ADELIA HOSTETLER MUTI, JENNIFER JOSEPH, ANN BOWERS