

Schools strive to meet equality in athletics

By MARY GNIEWEK

(This is the first in a two-part series concerning benefits for male and female athletes. Part one focuses primarily on the proposed new regulations for colleges regarding equal treatment for male and female athletes. Part two will examine the progress of girls' athletes in the Farmington public school system.)

The Carter administration last week announced a series of proposals that will force schools to provide equal benefits for female athletes. Local schools say they are already moving in that direction.

Both secondary and university level athletic programs for women have expanded in recent years. In the high schools, the changes have come in compliance with state mandated requirements for equal opportunity in athletics and physical education through Title IX.

THE FARMINGTON SCHOOL district has been equalizing male and female sports offerings in junior and senior high schools for the past several years, according to athletic director Jack Cotton.

Title IX guarantees equal opportunity for women, not identical treatment. Thorough studies designed to accommodate the interest and abilities of both sexes were conducted. Sex dis-

crimination in the areas of equipment, supplies and facilities was prohibited.

"We've been in compliance with Title IX as a matter of ongoing procedure," Cotton said. "Colleges are a different ballgame. We are subsidized by the Board of Education.

"With Title IX, the girls athletics program was accelerated. For a time, there was a cultural lag. Male coaches felt threatened because things changed so fast.

"When it was first pushed, I thought it was threatening. But we used that (Title IX) to turn things around, to help us. Each year, girls' sports were added," Cotton said.

THE ATHLETIC program in Farmington costs \$250,000, which is just under one per cent of the total school budget of \$27 million, according to Cotton. To meet a \$25,000 cut in the current budget, eighth grade football and basketball were slashed this fall.

"Priorities, needs and alternatives are the criteria we base cuts in programs on," he said.

In a comprehensive study of costs for 1978, expenditures were based on size of teams, length of seasons, equipment costs and other non-sexual data.

"In general, girls don't participate in sports as much as boys. In the fall, many of them chose cheerleading, marching band or other activities over sports."

Ten sports each are offered to male

and female students. Cross country running is the only sport with coed teams.

NEW FEDERAL GUIDELINES would require colleges to spend equal amounts on male and female athletics in areas of scholarships, recruitment, equipment, publicity and road expenses. The regulations exempt major college football programs.

The University of Michigan's women's athletic director feels these guidelines will benefit the program for female athletes at that Big Ten conference school.

"I'd assume it's going to help us. The department is not where I want it to be. There's room for improvement," said Phyllis Ocker. "We've been making progress since 1973, I assume it will continue.

Four female varsity teams have been added in the last two years. There are now 10 varsity teams each for male and female athletes.

SIXTY-ONE WOMEN are attending the school this year on sports scholarships. Charles Harris, assistant director of men's athletics, says the maximum number of scholarships allowed for football alone is 35.

The total U-M sports budget is \$5 million, of which \$600,000 is spent on women's sports excluding salaries and operating costs.

"We don't feel second best or put down," Ocker said. "The other men's sports don't get the same attention as football, either. But football is an important source of revenue, it's essential to our program.

"Essentially, we want a well-balanced program of good caliber. I believe we're moving in that direction."

ONE WOMAN WHO does not believe that equal pay for athletes is a good idea is Rose Swidzinski, women's coordinator of sports and a softball and basketball coach at Oakland University.

"I don't believe in getting money just for the hell of it. Money should be dependent on needs," Swidzinski said. "Women's sports should strive for its own identity, not to be a duplicate of the men's program.

"If a team is highly competitive, the budget should be adjusted accordingly. The length of the season and the size of the team have to be taken into consideration."



Traveling by rail

The railroad may be almost extinct in the United States, but its tracks have left an indelible mark on our communities. If not carrying freight or passengers as they once did, they still have a few foot travelers like Matt Dahlin. Taking the back route home from school, Matt followed the rails like a tightrope walker teetering across the high wire. Maybe his thoughts were of the crowd waiting breathlessly for trip's end. (Staff photo by Dick Kelley)



Girls sports recently got a boost from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Farmington School district administrators say they already have made great strides in equalizing monies spent on male and female sports (Staff photo)

Brodhead seeks curb on sales of cyanide

Seventeenth District Congressman William Brodhead (D-Detroit) has asked the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to restrict the sale of potassium cyanide, the poison that killed more than 800 persons in the recent Guyana mass suicide.

Brodhead made his request in a letter to EPA administrator Douglas Costle after he learned a reporter for radio station WJRR made an over-the-counter purchase of 200 pounds of the toxic chemical from a local plating supply company. The reporter used an assumed name and no questions were asked.

Brodhead SAID the amount of the purchase was enough to kill the entire population of Detroit.

"There is an obvious potential threat to the life and health of millions of Americans," he wrote.

Asked why he signaled out the poison when other toxic chemicals are also available in over-the-counter sales, he responded:

"Cyanide is unique because of the recent publicity. People know that a small amount, about a quarter-pound, killed almost a thousand people. A potential exists for some unbalanced person to try the same sort of thing."

Brodhead has been a supporter of measures to control other toxic chemicals. He introduced one of the bills which resulted in the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976.

investigate the availability and use of toxic substances: how many, where, and the likelihood of harming people or the environment. After cataloging, the next step is to restrict the manufacture and sales.

"There are some problems," he continued. "The bill is considerably weaker than when it was first introduced. And Congress has not appropriated enough money to carry it out."

BRODHEAD ALSO introduced a bill to compensate the victims of toxic substance pollution.

"This is a new area people are just becoming aware of with issues like PCB in Michigan and the Love Canal in Buffalo. These cases have alerted people that more has to be done."

The Love Canal incident in New York brought to national attention this year a community affected by buried chemical waste. It was reported that residents of the subdivision located near a chemical waste landfill suffered a variety of illnesses transmitted through contaminated drinking water.

"Most people are surprised to learn that deadly poisons are so readily available. However, it is a mark of our failure to pass strong laws at the federal and state levels.

"We must continue to work for laws which will protect Americans from these substances. In the meantime, I hope the EPA will take emergency measures to control sales of cyanide."

Police arrest 71 in gambling raid

An early Saturday morning Christmas party at the Farmington Holiday Inn ended with 71 persons being arrested and charged with loitering in a gambling establishment.

The suspects were arraigned before 4th District Judge Margaret Schaefer that same morning. Bond was set at \$105 for each suspect pleading innocent. Those pleading guilty were fined \$105.

Farmington Hills police said 80 per cent of those arrested pleaded innocent. Farmington Hills police used 20 officers and detectives in the raid, which took place at 3:40 a.m. at the Inn, 38123 Ten Mile.

Police were tipped off about alleged gaming illegal at 11:30 p.m. Friday. Undercover officers were sent to the location to make a preliminary investigation.

Confiscated in the raid were various

gambling devices, including dice, dice tables, cards and a yet-to-be-determined amount of money, according to police officials.

Coordinating the raid was shift commander Lt. George Maier. Earlier in the evening, more than 200 persons were attending the party sponsored by a labor union. But at the time of the raid, only 71 persons remained.

"Apparently, a few decided to stay behind and try their luck," said Farmington Hills Police Sgt. Pete Lorian.

Hills police contacted the Oakland County Sheriff's Department before making the raid to borrow two buses, according to police. The buses were used to haul away the persons arrested.

Undercover officers at the scene "remained close to the money," according to police, to ensure its confiscation. Police reported that, at the

time of publication deadline, they were still counting, but figured they had confiscated several thousand dollars.

While the majority of persons were released after being arraigned, two

persons were being held pending issuance of other warrants for the operation of gambling devices. Operation of gambling devices is a high misdemeanor with a maximum two-year prison term if found guilty.

Council to interview manager applicants

The Farmington Hills City Council will interview two candidates applying for the city manager position at tonight's council session.

The meeting is slated to begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be at city hall, 31555 Eleven Mile, west of Orchard Lake Road.

Residents will have the opportunity to ask questions by submitting their queries on cards to Floyd Cairns, acting city manager.

The council, since Nov. 29, has been interviewing candidates in secret sessions. But since the field has been narrowed from four to two candidates, the council has determined to make the final interviews public.

Mayor Jan Dolan said she was advised by City Atty. Paul Bibeau that interviewing in secret was within the bounds of the 1976 Open Meetings Act as long as a quorum (majority) was lacking.

Reason given for interviewing the other candidates in secret was to protect them from losing their present jobs.

Because the names of candidates have remained confidential, it is unknown whether those being interviewed publicly tonight are already employed.

It also hasn't been determined whether the candidates being interviewed tonight were the ones interviewed secretly.

Hills posts agenda

FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL

7:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 11

31555 Eleven Mile

- Interviewing two candidates for city manager position.
- Consideration of awarding towing contract.
- Consideration of accepting 15 1/2 acres north of Thirteen Mile on Farmington Road as a gift.
- Final plat approval for Farmington Hills Hunt Club subdivision, south of Eleven Mile and east of Halsted.
- Final plat approval for Heritage Hills subdivision.
- Consideration of continuation of agreement with Mainstream Inc.
- Consideration of constructing a sidewalk on Thirteen Mile and Orchard Lake Road near Baptist Manor.
- Traffic control order for Ten Mile

between Grand River and Haggerty.

• Request to waive site plan design standards in reference to sprinkler systems being used as a substitute for hydrant requirements. Request made by G.S.E. Inc.

• Consideration of supplement approval to budget.

• Setting date for vacating the following alleys:

Behind Grand River homes subdivision between Tulane and Middlebelt.

Behind Glen Oaks from Firwood and Ravine.

• Appointments to boards and commissions.

• Consideration of awarding bids for Edgewood Sewer Improvement.

• Consideration of moving the Dec. 25 council meeting to Dec. 18.

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Hyprocisry revealed
 Farmington Editor Steve Barnaby has some thoughts on the recent interviewing techniques of the Farmington Hills City Council. To see what he has to say, turn to Page 8B.