# Former track star urges moving Moscow Olympics

By BARBARA UNDERWOOD
Former track stars Susie Qualls made
it to the Olympic trials in 1972 although she didn't qualify for the games.
But the Detroit Country Day School
teacher came close enough to know the
excitement of the competition, and she
describ men't best viden augus from all. sn't want that taken away from ath-

Mrs. Qualls was asked recently how she feels about a possible boycott of the Olympies. "I am an American first and an athlete second, but I would hate to miss the Olympies for whatever rea-son," she said. "They are the epitome of athletics. You can go no higher."



Country Day. Here she helps Dennis Archer (Staff photo by Stephen Cantrell)

#### Farmington actress in play

Barbara Bean, a Farmington resident, will be playing the mother in the Southfield Repertory Theatre production of "Rapursel and the Witch."
The production is scheduled or four performances 1 and 5 pm. Saturday and Sanday, Feb. 16:17.
Performances and 3 pm. Saturday and Sanday, Feb. 16:17.
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Performances with the same Recreation Center, 2000 Evergene Road, Admission will be special rates for groups and adults with the same statemen.
Ms. Bean has had extensive experience in acting, singing and dancing, A graduate of Wayne State University with a master's degree in interpretainer of the same statemen.
The Southfield Repertory Theatre is the with the prince will be played by Greg Zellen.
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"THAT WOULD solve the problem, but I would hate for America to deny me a chance to represent my country. I would want to go regardless. I would hate not to go. It is a one-shot deal." She believes if America dosent participate "It is not going to change

She believes if America doesn't par-ticipate "It is not going to change things that much."
"It's like committing suicide to pro-test something," she said. "In a few months, the incident is forgotten.

"The Russians are in Afghanistan trying to get control of the oil fields. The United States' not going to the Olympies is not going to stop that. That son the Company of t

MRS. QUALLS' Olympic aspirations began when she was a fifth grader in Redford Township and competed in a school track meet. The junior olympics in a summer recreation program fol-

lowed.
She went on to compete in Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) track meets, winning first and second place in the long jump and shot put events.

She continued to take first and sec-ond place honors, mostly in the long jump, in meets in other states.

The summer before she entered seventh grade, Mrs. Qualls was diagnosed as having scoliosis, a spinal curvature that often affects youngsters as they go through the rapid growth years. She wore a back brace for three years to correct the condition.

"It never stopped me," she said.
"The doctor said I could do everything,
so I did. It was a better thing to wear
than braces on my teeth."

IN 1972, when she was 17 years old, Mrs.Qualls qualified for the AAU girls' national competition with a 19-foot, four-inch long jump. She also took sec-

prevent a boycott, that would be "great," Mrs. Qualls said.

ond place in the long jump in competition for women athletes 18 and older. pics."

The top six winners in the girls' com-petition were invited to the U.S. Olym-pic trials. Mrs. Qualls placed fourth in the trials and did not qualify for the

Through the years that she was competing in AAU events, Mrs. Qualls became known as "the little girl from Michigan."

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She entered Eastern Michigan University in 1972 and continued to compete in AAU events.

IN BOTH 1973 and 1974 she placed second in the long jump in the AAU indoor nationals.

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"I was five feet three and had pials," she said. In 1972, because of her size, she realized she would "never be

"My senior year I began to evaluate what I wanted to do," she said. "I knew because of my height and strength that I had pretty much realized my capabilities. I decided it was time to put my efforts elsewhere than in competition."

Mrs. Qualls taught in Flushing, near Flint, before coming to Detroit Country

Now she is waiting anxiously for a decision on the 1980 Olympics.
"The Olympics are not like any other world, college or international competition," she said. "They are unique. Most athletes wait for years to do this."



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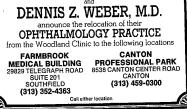
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