

Girls: ... Getting A Fair Share In Athletics?

By STEVE BARNABY

FARMINGTON
Do girls' sports take a back seat to men's athletic programs in Farmington School District?
Not according to Jack Cotton, Farmington athletic director. He believes that women are responsible for the low-key attitude toward women's athletics, but sees a change in the future.

AT PRESENT, Farmington School District officers six sports for high school girls: tennis, swimming, volleyball, gymnastics, track and field, and softball.

Men are also offered six -- football, basketball, swimming, track, baseball and gymnastics.
After a long tradition among women's athletic organizations of lobbying for non-competitive individualized sports endeavors, the wheel is turning in the other direction, Cotton says.

There are two school of thought among women coaches concerning the future of women's sports: competitive versus non-competitive.

A third factor on the women's sport scene is the recent injunction by Federal District Judge Damon Keith against the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), which says all sports must be open to both girls and boys.

The MHSAA, which is the regulatory agency of high school athletics in Michigan, is appealing the decision to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

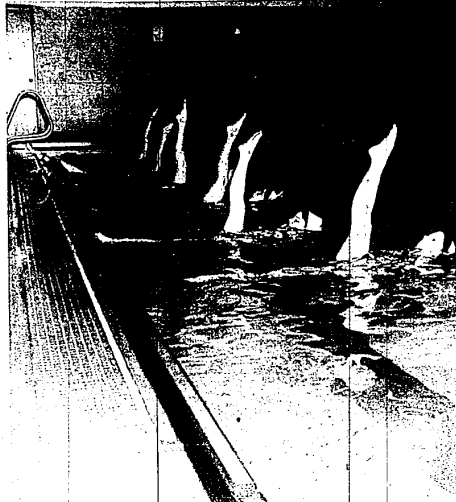
TRADITIONALLY, the Division for Girls and Women's Sports (DGWS), although not a regulatory agency, has shaped women's sports programs in the past. Their philosophy has been to avoid scholarship programs, recruitment, and inter-scholastic competition. In a recent statement the DGWS said:

"Recruitment practices and financial aid programs are often contrary to educational objectives. They impose undesirable pressures and are a means of athletic control by those who offer the greatest financial inducement."

With this philosophy, it has lobbied for sports such as



COMPETITION -- Joanne Hague and Lorriann McEachin take off in a competitive swimming event. (Evert photo)



RECREATION -- Water ballet is representative of the type of "recreational" sport formerly encouraged for girls. (Evert photo)

archery, fencing, golf and bowling -- all of which they feel emphasize individual endeavor.

NANCY REYNOLDS, a coach in Farmington High School, is an example of the DGWS philosophy.

She believes men's sports put too much emphasis on scholarships and recruitment, and thinks they could benefit by following the DGWS credo.

"Sports are not an end in themselves. It is a way to keep active and healthy all your life," she says.

She looks on athletics as a learning experience rather than a competitive sports situation.

OPPOSING this theory is Anne Marie Sophia, swimming coach at Harrison High School. It is her belief that competition is part of the learning process -- how to

react in a competitive situation.

She sees discrimination in the scheduling of girls sports which, in the past, have taken second place to men's use of the gymnasium.

"Because girls' sports take place during odd-ball times, crowds don't come to see the competition," she says. "Practice sessions seem to be a problem, with men coaches expecting use of gymnasiums when girls are supposed to be using them."

COTTON STRONGLY believes in the development of women's high school athletics and urges the cooperation of men coaches.

"I believe that the objectives and desirable outcomes of competitive programs for girls should be similar to boys, but should not emulate boys' programs." "The sympathetic athletic director ... should counsel the women coaches in developing

girls athletics as an educational tool, in establishing a philosophy toward winning and losing, and in determining what school policy will be developed relative to gate receipts."

CONCERNING gymnasium use, Cotton believes men and women coaches must give and take. "The gymnasium lights must burn from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. five days a week and probably Saturday ... The sacred cow of boy's basketball practice having prime time may have to be evaluated," said Cotton.

He sees a basic conflict between the DGWS and the MHSAA.

"A major problem the women must attack is communicating to their membership the understanding that they must conform to the rules and regulations of their state athletic association." He says that many women coaches are oblivious to the association rules, and many time the DGWS is in conflict with association rules.

NONE OF THE factions involved in Farmington school sports are in favor of the recent ruling by Judge Keith, feeling that if fully implemented it would eliminate girls' sports altogether.

Mrs. Sophia believes in separate but equal philosophy.

"I can't see them (boys and girls) ever competing. There would never be fair competition."

Miss Reynolds wants separate but different, with the maintenance of shorter seasons and a different emphasis on type of sport.

Both Mrs. Sophia and Miss

Reynolds would like to see the number of kinds of sports for girls expanded but believe from students.

many sports aren't available because of the lack of interest from students.

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Busing Meet Is Scheduled

FARMINGTON
Implications of recent court decisions on cross-district busing will be taken up by the Farmington - Clarenceville branch of the Metropolitan Coalition for Peaceful Integration at a Jan. 31 meeting.

The meeting will be at 8 p.m. at Mile Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile.

Speakers will be Rev. James McAnoy, director of the department of education for the Archdiocese of Detroit, and Richard P. Condit, Oakland County attorney.

They will discuss both educational and legal aspects of the Federal Appellate Court panel's ruling upholding Judge Roth's busing order, the same court's

decision to rehear the case with the full court in attendance, and the U.S. Supreme Court agreement to rule on the Richmond case.

The Coalition takes no position on cross-district busing. Members are concerned only with preparing themselves and others for an orderly transmission to desegregation, should it occur.

Problems Analyzed

Business marketing information from each of the U.S. Census regions has expanded the computerized Dun's Market Identifiers (DMI) system for businessmen seeking to reach undersold markets and analyze marketing problems. DMI was pioneered by Dun & Bradstreet's Marketing Services Division.

Israeli Pianist Plans Concert

DETROIT
Israeli-born pianist Joseph Kalichstein will be featured in the Detroit Institute of Arts concert series at 8:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 26. He will play dances by Schumann and Bartok and nocturnes by Chopin.

Tickets are available at the institute ticket office.

Noise Causes Deafness

Hearing losses resulting from exposure to excessive sound levels can be divided into two categories according to hearing experts. The first type is a temporary loss in which the victim eventually regains his hearing ability.

The second type -- a permanent loss -- leaves the victim with reduced hearing ability for the rest of his life.



LARRY OTTO, 33837 Glenview, took first place in the five-kilometer race for boys 14 to 16 years old in the first annual Twin Peaks, Cross-Country Ski-Touring race recently.

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