



Are We On The Right Track?

By BETTY MASSON

It's now official that girls must be allowed to play on boys' athletic teams in non-contact sports if they want to and can qualify.

This happened last week when the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that female pupils in Michigan may participate in non-contact interscholastic sports, such as tennis.

But is this the way to go?

MANY of the 10 panelists in a recent discussion of "Women in Sports-1973" held in the Clawson YWCA seemed to have their doubts.

"I don't like the idea of girls competing on boys' teams," said Fred Piepers, director of athletics for Royal Oak Schools, "because the girls won't make it until we get

Spotlight on Women

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things where the girls can compete equally. Also it could work two ways and the girls might get bumped from their own teams.

"The real problem is that we don't have enough offerings for the girls," he continued.

The reason is the lack of facilities, a country-wide problem, he said.

"My belief is that 50 per cent of the population is female. Therefore, unless of school facilities ought to be split 50-50, but this is not being done," he said.

"On the other hand, we don't want to cut back on the boys' activities."

THE APPEALS COURT ruling came as a result of a suit filed on behalf of two Ann Arbor girls who wanted to play tennis on the boys' team.

GIRLS' athletics have come a long way in schools and elsewhere in the last 10 years. There was general agreement on this point, but there were many questions about where to go from here.

- Should girls play men's sports with men's rules, modifications or something different?
- Is athletic competition bad for girls and women physiologically or psychologically?
- Are girls naturally less interested in sports and competition?
- Or haven't they had the opportunities?
- Should efforts be concentrated on broadening the scope of intramural activities for girls instead of stressing intervarsity competition?

Panelists confessed they didn't know the answers, but pointed to many unanswered questions in the realm of boys' sports too. Are football and competitive swimming bad for young muscles, for instance?

"Research in the area of sports and competition for women is just beginning," said Fran Jones, a swimming expert, and Jean Blievernicht, a physical education teacher.



HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS now have added hockey to the list of sports they enjoy competitively. These Livonians played last week in a game at the Devonaire Rink. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

Westland's Marie Neu Is State Junior Miss

A Westland teen who swims, sings and acts and "wanted to do something toward paying her college expenses" is Michigan's Junior Miss for 1973.

Marie Neu, 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norbert Neu of 23020 Sandra Drive, was crowned Saturday night in Pontiac Northern High School, scoring first among 23 finalists.

She won four scholarships totaling \$1,300 to be added to the 50 per cent tuition grant to Eastern Michigan University, awarded by the Westland Jaycees to the winner of the local junior miss pageant in October.

"Eastern Michigan is where she's planning to go at this moment," her proud father said. "She wants to major in drama and music."

FIRST, THOUGH, Miss Neu will compete for the national junior miss crown in Mobile, Ala., early in May. This time she'll be seen on national television.

Classmates from Rosary High School in Detroit, as well as friends from University of Detroit High School working with her in a production of "Guys and Dolls" and about 50 Westland Jaycees were on hand to see the state finals in Pontiac.



MICHIGAN JUNIOR MISS MARIE NEU, as photographed by the Westland Observer's Leonard Poger when she won the local contest in October.

"Maybe they knew something we didn't," Neu said.

The judging is based on poise, youth fitness, scholastic ability, creativity and performance, and interviews with the judges.

Miss Neu sang "Mira" from the musical "Carnival" for her performance.

SHE HAS participated for years in musical groups at Rosary and St. Bernardine of Siena school. She and her sister, Susan, have competed for several years in synchronized swimming with the Garden City Parks and Recreation team.

"The swimming competition has taken her to events in California, Texas, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Ohio and other states."

"The swimming was just great for the fitness part of the competition," Neu said, "and the traveling and meeting other people meant so much in giving her poise and confidence."

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Plans Go On Despite Tragedy

A lovely new Livonian -- recently arrived from Vietnam -- will have a traditional church wedding despite the tragedy that has befallen her new family.

Nguyen Thi Mong, or Chien, came here Dec. 28 with Sp



Brian Eschels, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gustav E. Eschels of 11869 Alois, Livonia.

They had met and married in Vietnam during Eschels' year-long tour there, but the young people and the family wanted a second ceremony. A wedding was planned in St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The date was indefinite -- sometime in February, between the time the soldier was to receive his expected Army discharge and the March expiration of Chien's temporary visa.

attack Jan. 21 ended his life.

The wedding will go on as planned, said his widow, Mrs. Patricia Eschels.

"It was their father's wish that the wedding plans continue," she added.

The date still hasn't been set, but Chien has a white gown to wear. Mr. and Mrs. David McCotter of Livonia are planning to take part in the ceremony, along with Brian's brother and sister, Bruce and Barbara Eschels, and step-brothers Greg and Ronald Chaudoin and Ron's wife, Stephanie.

Eschels said she fits beautifully into their home life.

"We're the only family she has now," she added. "And she's a wonderful daughter-in-law -- I couldn't have a nicer one."



AFTER the holidays, Eschels went to Fort Knox in Kentucky to complete his service tour and Chien stayed with the family to get better acquainted. It was then that Gustav Eschels suffered a heart attack.

He was doing well for a time, but a second massive

THE REV. Winfred Koelpin, who officiated for Gustav Eschels' funeral and comforted the family in his hour of grief, will be present again for the joyful occasion when the Christian marriage vows are spoken.

Chien still doesn't speak much English, but Mrs.

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