

Task force to study high school sports

Cathy Dritisas is on a task force which will help determine the future of interscholastic athletics in Michigan. The 36-member task force was formed by the State Board of Education.

"At issue," Dritisas said, "is who will regulate interscholastic athletics and how they shall be regulated."

Dritisas has been physical education teacher, athletic director and coach of three sports at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Bloomfield Hills for the past nine years.

She has been teaching and coaching for the past 15 years.

"I see some problems in high school athletics in terms of equal opportunity to participate," said Dritisas, of Birmingham. "I'm speaking for myself, not the task force."

THE PRESENT ruling body of interscholastics in Michigan is the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), an independent organization.

In an opinion issued last August, Michigan Attorney General Frank Kelley said the MHSAA may not regulate interscholastic athletics.

Interscholastic athletics, he said, are part of the governmental function of a school district.

He added that school districts may join an independent athletic association and voluntarily adopt the rules of the association. The enforcement of rules, however, is the responsibility of each district's board of education.

"I don't think the solution is scrapping the MHSAA," Dritisas said. "I do believe a restructuring of the MHSAA is needed. There is a need for more

female representation on its governing board. I don't know any magic solutions," she added. "Hopefully this committee represents 36 people who will intelligently study the problem. But I'm already shocked by the bias on the committee, both from feminists and from men who want to keep everything the way it is now."

"We have to reach some middle ground. We're not going to please everybody. We have to be pragmatic, fair, objective and honest in our concerns for the youngsters who participate and quality of play."

Dritisas is a familiar battleship of the MHSAA. Ever since Title IX forced public schools to add a girls' sports program equal to the boys' in 1972, she has tried to get women a voice in determining how girls' sports are developed.

She worked with a group of women coaches who tried to have their views heard when the girls' sports boom began.

She was one of a group of women who filed a law suit in attempt to stop the first state girls basketball tournament. The tournament was scheduled for late November. This meant that girls' basketball, a traditionally winter sport, would have to be played in the fall.

After the November girls' basketball tournament was established, the MHSAA declared that any girls' basketball teams which continued to play in the winter would not be eligible for the state tournament.

The Academy of the Sacred Heart has continued to offer basketball as a winter sport.

A small Class D school, Sacred Heart would operate half of its sports program in the fall if the basketball season was changed. The only other solution would be to drop one of the other two existing fall sports at Sacred Heart, tennis or field hockey.

"That 1973 LAW suit charged that moving basketball to the fall decreased sports opportunities for girls who previously played an outdoor sport and jeopardized the jobs of women coaches who had previously coached a fall sport and basketball."

The law suit was dismissed. Dritisas would still like to see basketball return to the winter. Kingswood School in Bloomfield Hills and Detroit Country Day School in Birmingham have continued to offer basketball in the winter.

"I'd like to see a varsity women's basketball game played before the varsity boys," Dritisas said. "I think it would make a more attractive ticket than a JV game."

Dritisas said assuring equal opportunity would be her personal goal on the task force.

"Equal opportunity isn't offering football for girls as well as for boys," Dritisas said. "Equal opportunity isn't spending the same amount of money on girls as is spent on boys. It means that you allocate the funds necessary for each sport."

Dritisas said she sees a danger in girls playing on boys teams.

"I can see a high school with limited funds saying that it will field one basketball team and any boy or girl may come out for the team," Dritisas said. "In that case, only the real extraordinary girl would make the team. It's

not the extraordinary girl we're talking about. We're talking about good, viable competition for women."

IN ESTABLISHING the task force, the State Board of Education listed eight concerns. Following is a list of those concerns:

- Review the effects of the Attorney General's opinion upon interscholastic athletics in the State of Michigan and determine if there is a need for legislation in regard to rule-making authority.

- Assess the present arrangement and condition of programs of interscholastic athletics in Michigan, with emphasis on financing, staffing and equality of opportunity.

- Review the rules and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association for their compliance with statutes relative to nondiscriminatory practices and for their impact upon the total high school youth population and teachers of physical education.

- Review the organizational structure of the Michigan High School Athletic Association.
- Review the comparative pay scales for coaches of men's and women's athletic programs.

- Prepare a general profile of complaints lodged against the Michigan High School Athletic Association as evidenced by grievances and litigation.

- Review and recommend an appropriate role or alternative roles complete with pros and cons for each, for the State Board of Education in interscholastic athletic activities in Michigan.

Bloomfield Hills swim team sets championship records

Guy Del Franco, representing the Bloomfield Hills Swim Club, set a new state record in the 13-14 year-old age bracket in the 110-yard backstroke with a time of 56.82 at the AAU Boys Swim Championships, March 17-19, at Kalamazoo.

The Bloomfield club also set another mark in the same age grouping for the 400-yard freestyle relay. Jeff Lundy, David Bowser, Scott Hammond and Del Franco recorded a time of 3:29.85.

Del Franco won the high-point trophy for the 13-14 year age group by taking three first places and scoring high in five other events. He was first in the 50 and 100-yard

freestyle events, second in the 200-yard individual medley, and third in the 100-yard butterfly and 200-yard backstroke. Del Franco gained a fourth and sixth place also.

The relay team of Del Franco, Jeff Lundy, Hammond and Bowser place second in the 400-yard medley relay (13-14).

Bowser, Hammond, D. Davis and Del Franco took sixth in the 800-yard freestyle relay.

The Bloomfield Hills Swim Club had four members, other than Del Franco, who placed in individual events. They were Hammond, Billy Bertorcin, Lundy and Bowser.

Umpires needed in Southfield

The Southfield Athletic Officials Association needs umpires to work games — little league through slo-pitch softball — this summer.

Men and women over 17 years of age are eligible to apply. Umpiring experience is helpful but not required. There is no residency requirement. An informational meeting for prospective umpires will be held on March 31 at 8 p.m. in the Parks and Recreation Building, 2600 Evergreen.

Additional information may be obtained by calling 559-4189 during the day, or 355-8008 after 6 p.m.

Recreation cage standings

Following are the final standings for the teams in the Southfield Parks and Recreation's Men's Basketball Leagues.

MEN'S LEAGUE
FINAL STANDINGS — Montgomery Ward—1st; Woodstock—2nd; Arrow Trophy—1st; Blackstone—3rd; New York Life—4th; Venus—5th; Honeywell—6th; McDonald's—7th; Sky High—8th; PLAYOFF GAMES — Championship Game, Los Generales 74, Venus 48; Arrow Trophy 64, Montgomery Ward 74, New York Life 49; Arrow Trophy 48, Blackstone 44.

MEN'S LEAGUE
FINAL STANDINGS — Mr. Ted's—1st; Woodstock—2nd; Los Generales—3rd; Official Sports—4th; Golden Bears—5th; Bill Elwood, Inc.—6th; Providence—7th; Midway—8th; Northwood—9th; Barrington—10th; Steak 'n Ale—11th; UAC—12th; The Six—13th; Ober—14th; Redwood—15th; Stanley Realty—16th. **PLAYOFF GAMES** — Championship Game, Los Generales 61, Mr. Ted's 79; Mr. Ted's 64, Golden Bears 44; Los Generales 74, Official Sports 72; Golden Bears 64, Bill Elwood, Inc. 44; Official Sports 44, Plasma 44; Mr. Ted's 81, Midway Market 22; Los Generales 41, Providence 32.

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