



# Fair Play

*Have women athletes received what Title IX promised?*



Intercollegiate athletics for women have come a long way since the 1916 basketball team. But is it far enough?

**K**athy Fernald remembers a time when the women's varsity basketball players bought their own tee-shirts at the SU bookstore and had numbers imprinted on them because they were too embarrassed to wear the ones the University provided. Fernald, who was the president of the student-run women's athletic program in 1971, was instrumental in the push to elevate women's sports from club to varsity status at Syracuse.

When the University began its intercollegiate athletic program for women in 1971, the five varsity teams—basketball, fencing, swimming and diving, tennis, and volleyball—shared one set of warm-ups. All coaching positions were part time; the operating budget for those teams com-

bined was \$7,500; and the *Daily Orange* refused to print both articles and scores of women's competitions.

Today, there are nine varsity women's sports at SU, which are part of the University athletic department. Each team has a full-time head coach and assistant, all necessary equipment, and funding for travel. Each team also has significantly increased scholarship money, although basketball is the only women's sport fully funded to limits set by the NCAA. (Only football and basketball are fully funded on the men's side.)

"We obviously have come a long way," says Doris Soladay, SU's associate director of athletics. "[But] we still have a long way to go to get to the point that I think all of us are going to be happy."

**N**o person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

With these words—Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972—the face of high school and college sports changed, opening a door of opportunity to female athletes.

"When we started in 1971, things were really slow for women across the country and here at Syracuse as well," says Soladay, who's been involved in women's athletics at SU since 1960. "We had come from the women's athletic program, which was student-run, and had just begun our intercollegiate program at the same time—about six months ahead of Title IX legislation."

The lot of women's sports has certainly improved since 1971. But is there equality among the sexes in college athletics?

Not by a long shot.

Nationally, the average ratio of men to women participating in intercollegiate athletics is approximately 70-30, according to the 1991 NCAA gender equity study. (Syracuse is on par, with a 70.6-29.4 ratio.) In other words, more than twice as many men participate in college athletics as women.

"Despite the fact that women are now playing intercollegiate sports, they are still receiving less than 33 percent of the athletic scholarship dollar, less than 24 percent of the operating dollar, and less than 18 percent of the money spent on recruiting," says Donna Lopiano, executive director of the Women's Sports Foundation. "[Women] aren't getting close to \$179 million a year in scholarship dollars because people are not adhering to Title IX."

But what exactly constitutes legal compliance with Title IX is a major issue itself.

Lopiano sees compliance as equal participation, period. To her, anything short of that is breaking the law.

"Title IX says you need to treat men and women according to their interests and abilities," she says. "If you have 50-50 participation in the general student body, then that's what you would expect in the athletic

cult to get an absolute interpretation of the law," but says that "probably no schools are in absolute compliance—or at least no schools with a football team."

Because college football teams are comprised of so many players—rosters can include 92 scholarship players—the idea of strict gender equity is often seen as unrealistic, and financially impractical.

"[Title IX opponents] would very much like football not to count," says Lopiano. "But Title IX is very clear that football is not excluded. . . . If women are not receiving equitable opportunities and you allow 150 members on the football team, then what you're saying is, that it's a right for men to participate at any level, and a privilege for women."

According to Michael Scott, a lobbyist and lawyer for the NCAA, the law allows institutions to explain why athletic participation does not equal overall enrollment. If those rates don't match, a college may show it has continually tried to increase opportunities for women, or prove that the "interests and

abilities" of its female student body have been satisfied.

Syracuse, for instance, hasn't received a request from a women's club team for varsity status since the men's and women's athletic departments merged in 1982. Women's track and field and cross country obtained varsity status the year before.

But several universities, including Texas and Colorado State, were being sued for sexual discrimination in intercollegiate athletics by women athletes at press time.

In response to the increased awareness of Title IX generated by such lawsuits, some athletic conferences are taking the matter of gender equality into their own hands.

Faculty representatives from the Big Ten universities have proposed conference members provide at least

## A CENTURY OF COMPETITION

**1875**—The SU Athletic Association was established, fielding men's teams in baseball, football, cricket, and croquet. There was a common treasury for all four teams.

**1905**—The Women's Athletic Association was founded by Katherine Sibley under the auspices of the department of physical education for women.

**1971**—An intercollegiate athletic program for women was established by Chancellor Melvin A. Eggers. Teams were fielded in basketball, volleyball, swimming and diving, tennis, and fencing. Syracuse University became a charter member of the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women.

**1972**—Because of changing interests, fencing was dropped from the intercollegiate program and field hockey was added. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 was signed by President Richard M. Nixon.

**1973**—The men's and women's physical education departments merged.

**1975**—The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women was established and the Women's Athletic Association was discontinued. The department then allocated its first tuition scholarships to six women athletes.

**1977**—Women's crew was added.

**1979**—Orange Plus, a fundraising and booster group for women's athletics, was established.

**1980**—By this year, 41 women athletes received scholarship aid, including 11 who received room and board as well as tuition.

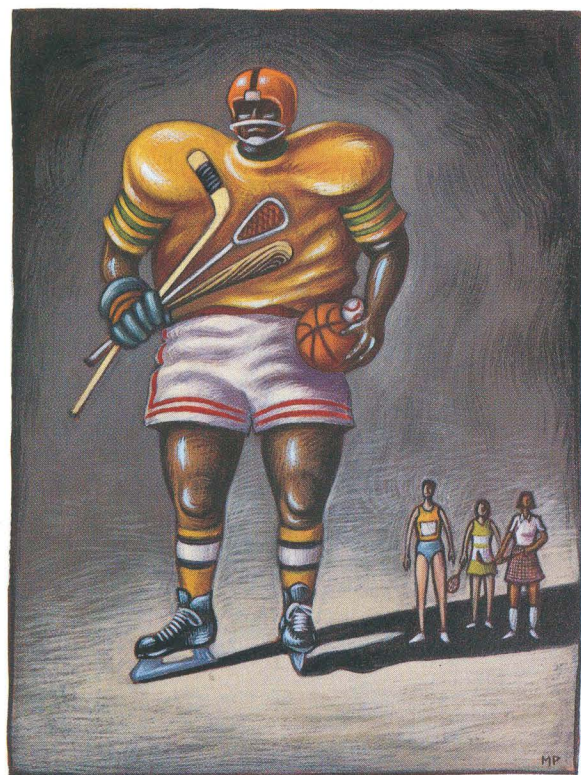
**1981**—Women's indoor and outdoor track and field and cross country became varsity sports. The Big East Conference began including women's sports in its program.

**1982**—The men's and women's athletic departments merged.

**1985**—Ten years after athletic scholarships were first offered to women, 60 female athletes received scholarship aid.

**1991**—One hundred five women athletes participating in nine sports received scholarship aid from Syracuse University. In 11 sports, 211 men athletes received scholarship aid from the University.

MICHAEL PRINZO



program."

Others disagree.

"When you talk about intercollegiate sports there are two notions," says Syracuse University athletic director Jake Crouthamel. "One is gender equity, the other is compliance with Title IX."

He says a school can be in compliance with Title IX and not in compliance with gender equity.

"With Title IX, if you are lacking in numbers of participation opportunities, you're supposed to go out and see locally, statewide, and regionally what the interest is in a particular sport—to see if it's feasible to attract enough qualified student athletes," Crouthamel says. "Gender equity would say: Start the sport, it doesn't matter. And that's not practical."

Soladay admits that "it has been diffi-

## SPORTS SHORTS

**Bode Joins Century Club.** Earlier in the season, senior Corinna Bode won her 100th career match at the Eastern Collegiate Tennis Tournament. Her win made her career record 100-85 including a 10-5 record in 1992. She and doubles partner sophomore Erica O'Neill lost in the final to Pennsylvania. O'Neill won the singles final. The team, later in the season, advanced for the first time to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Regional Team Championships.

**Young kicking into Record Books.**

Paul Young added two more goals to his record at the Shearson Soccer Classic, in Burlington, Vermont in early September, which SU won. At press time, Young led the team in scoring with five goals, bumping up his career total to 29. This total placed him fifth in the record books, tied with former Orangeman Ken Vieira. Young needs only eight more goals to climb to the fourth spot currently held by former Orangeman Greg Kolodziej.

**Field Hockey Team Nationally Ranked.**

At press time, the women's field hockey team (6-4) was tied for 15th place in the NCAA rankings. Junior Shelley Magee led the Orangewomen in scoring with three goals and six assists.

**Team Results:** At press time, the following varsity news was available. Sophomore Angie Casazza of the women's Volleyball team was ranked 18th nationally in blocks per game with a 1.7 average. The team's record was 3-11. • Men's Cross Country placed seventh and the women's team placed ninth in the Boston College Cross Country Invitational. Their records were 1-2 and 0-2 respectively. • For the latest SU sports news, call 1-900-860-1870. Cost is 99 cents per minute.

**Schedules Are Available.** Competition schedules for varsity teams are available by writing to the SU Sports Information Office, attn. Sue Cornelius, Manley Field House, Syracuse, New York 13244-5020.

40 percent of their athletic opportunities to women scholar-athletes by 1997. Though there has been some opposition to the proposal, the overriding sentiment is that 60-40 ratio can be accomplished without infringing on men's sports.

While Title IX activists feel this measure is a far cry from satisfactory, many people, such as Soladay, see the 60-40 goal as a step in the right direction.

The Big East Conference recently established a Committee on Equity to deal with the issues of both gender and minority equity. "The whole idea is to develop a conference philosophy," says Big East Conference Commissioner Mike Tranghese. "We want to give some guiding principles that all of our schools can look at and hopefully adhere to."

For many people, however, the inequities in college athletics lie not between the sexes but in the wallet. In discussions regarding the distribution of funds, the issue quickly turns from gender equity to revenue versus non-revenue sports. The fact is, most university athletic departments are supported by their men's football and basketball teams.

"If the lines were drawn simply on the basis of revenue and non-revenue, the term equality could probably be stood up to," says Tranghese of the schools under his charge.

"Gender equity advocates and Title IX advocates would say that revenue versus non-revenue sports is not a factor. People who deal with the reality of budgets would tell you that it is."

Skeptics say relatively few people really care about women's sports anyway. The teams don't generate money and few people are interested in watching the games.

Lopiano disagrees. She says that women's athletics can generate both interest and income when properly promoted.

"We know that [women's athletics] are a revenue-producing product because at more than 13 division 1-A institutions, women's programs are generating in excess of \$1.3 million a year," says Lopiano, adding that twice that many bring in more than \$400,000 a year in revenue.

Women's athletics at Syracuse University generate approximately \$26,000

each year—solely from its basketball program.

At Syracuse, non-revenue teams such as swimming, soccer, and gymnastics are more or less lumped together, regardless of the team's sexual makeup.

The men's and women's swimming and diving teams, for example, receive equal funding. "We have exactly the same scholarship money," says head coach Lou Walker, who has been involved in Syracuse swimming for more than 20 years. "We run a coed program, so our budget is the same." The teams also train and travel together.

Syracuse's non-revenue sports also compare favorably with other schools.

"I can't complain about our operating budget in any way, shape, or form," says Syracuse field hockey coach Kathleen Parker. "Our equipment budget is excellent. Our travel budget is excellent. We travel as well, if not better than most university field hockey teams I know."

Parker says the prevailing attitude towards women's athletics has greatly improved.

"Obviously, I'd like to see [the 70 to 30 ratio] changed," Parker says. "I understand that presents great difficulty—we must either reduce the number of males or increase the number of females. These economic times aren't conducive to the addition of sports and I'd hate to see men's programs suffer. I don't want to see men paying the price of losing programs just to try to make it equitable."

No one ever said life was always fair, and while that's certainly no excuse for existing inequalities, it's often the effort and intent behind actions that are most important.

"The only area that I think there would be a number of people who would feel there's a real inequity would be in financial aid," says Soladay. "Because in other kinds of supports we keep things on an even par." She cites academic support, travel expenditures, equipment, medical support, and sports information services as examples.

"We are very sensitive to Title IX," says Crouthamel. "We are sensitive to how all our athletes are treated—male and female. Not one to the exclusion of the other." —ANDREA C. MARSH