

# Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport

Tucker Center News

University of Minnesota

Fall 2000

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the new Millennium from all of us at the Tucker Center. As we begin the twenty-first century, we have a number of exciting projects and events to tell you about. One of our most successful events is the Borghild Strand Distinguished Lecture Series. Every spring we host the Edith Mueller Lecture as part of this series. Our next speaker is Shannon Miller, head coach of the Canadian women's ice hockey team that won the silver medal at the 1998 Winter Olympics.

Ms. Miller also coached Canada's national team which captured a fourth consecutive gold medal at the Women's World Ice Hockey Championships in 1997. She is the new head coach of the highly successful women's program at the University of Minnesota—Duluth. Her presentation takes place Tuesday, April 11, from 7:00-9:00pm in the Gateway Center on the East Bank, Minneapolis Campus. See the enclosed flyer for more details and come join us at this important event.

Another successful project—the video we produced with KARE 11 Television, “Throw Like a Girl: A Revolution in Women's Sports”—has just received a prestigious award from the National Association of Women in Radio and Television Broadcasting. Garnering a first place honor in the sports category, our video was judged to “display superior quality and effectively portray the changing roles and concerns of women.” The video, and a companion curriculum guide we developed through generous support from the Medtronic Foundation, the Janet B. Watson Fund, and the Minnesota Lynx, will be distributed this summer to every high school and middle school throughout the state. We will also make the materials available to other groups and organizations such as the YWCA, the Girl Scouts, and Boys and Girls Clubs. If you are interested in obtaining the video and curriculum, please see page under Community Outreach Update.



Doug Hartmann

Thanks to funding from the Otto Bremer Foundation, the Minnesota Women's Foundation and NIKE, our “Image Is Everything” workshop for high-school girls has been expanded to rural Minnesota as well as the broader Twin Cities area. This project empowers adolescent females by giving them skills to counteract stereotypic images of sportswomen often found in mainstream media. High schools that have participated in the workshop this year include Hutchinson, De La Salle, Watertown-Mayer, and Apollo (St. Cloud). See the Community Outreach Update section for a more detailed description of what goes on in this popular workshop.

February is Black History Month. To share in this historic event we have profiled St. Paul native and African-American sports pioneer Toni Stone. Stone, who played second base, was the first woman to play in baseball's Negro American League in the 1950s. She also played on several different teams around the country during her professional career and, as a result, confronted racism and sexism in profound ways. By her mere presence—not to mention her success in such an environment—Toni Stone serves as a role model and sports pioneer to whom we can all look for inspiration.

In our last newsletter we launched a new column entitled “Learning Our Legacy.” The purpose of the column is to profile individuals who have made significant contributions to the development of women's sports. In this issue we learn about Dorothy McIntyre, Associate Executive Director of the Minnesota State High School League. Under her leadership, competitive athletics for high school girls have reached a level of excellence without precedence. In addition, her tireless efforts on behalf of Title IX have enabled Minnesota to become a national leader in the fight for gender equity. Turn to the “Learning our Legacy” column and read about one of this state's greatest sports legends.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank you all once again for your continued support of the Tucker Team as we carry out our mission of research, education, and community outreach on behalf of sportswomen everywhere.



Mary Jo Kane

## LEARNING OUR LEGACY: A PROFILE OF ELOISE JAEGER

### ELOISE JAEGER: A PIONEER IN PROMOTING WOMEN IN SPORT

Professor Eloise Jaeger has played and continues to play a pioneering role in promoting women in sport at the University of Minnesota.

Eloise Jaeger began her involvement at the University of Minnesota as an undergraduate taking classes in physical education in preparation for a career in teaching. She received her M.Ed. in 1944 from the University of Minnesota and her Ph.D. in 1952 from the University of Iowa.



Professor Jaeger taught women's physical education at Minnesota for many years and, in 1962, became the Director of the Department of Physical Education for Women.

In the years to follow, Professor Jaeger saw through many changes at the University including the formation of the School of Physical Education, Recreation, & School Health Education. This Department

contained all the physical education programs, the recreational leadership programs, and a program in school health education. She said there was a "cooperative spirit" within the Department and a university-wide environment where men and women were treated equally.

In 1971 Eloise Jaeger was named the Director of the School of Physical Education and became the first woman at an American college or university to have jurisdiction over both men's and women's physical education pro-

grams. Professor Jaeger, a true pioneer who doesn't consider herself as such, says "I've never thought of myself as a pioneer. I did the job to do it and did the best I could do." Soon thereafter, in 1975, she was promoted to Assistant Dean of the College of Education.

Professor Jaeger was a force behind the establishment of women's intercollegiate athletics as we know it today. She spoke of her experiences participating in *Play Days* and *Interscholar Intercollegiate Athletics* during a time when the typical woman's role in athletics was as a cheerleader; women participating in sports were often laughed at and not appreciated for their talents. Thanks to Professor Jaeger's commitment to women's athletics, things have changed since *Play Days*. Professor Jaeger is very proud of how far women's athletics have progressed both in terms of publicity and appreciation for women's performances.

Eloise Jaeger was impressed with the Tucker Center's mission and decided to donate funds to set up a scholarship. Professor Jaeger believes that because of the increase in girls' and women's participation, it is essential that scholars and students explore important issues pertaining to all aspects of sport and physical activity, including their physiological, psychological and sociological dimensions. Through her generosity, this first ever Tucker Center scholarship will be made available to permanently insure that the best female and male

### DONOR PROFILE: MARGARET CHUTICH

Margaret Chutich, a recent benefactor to the Tucker Center, says "I've always played sports myself and am a big believer in its benefits to girls and women. It is absolutely necessary to have an institute that studies sport and makes sure that people know the history of girls and women. It's wonderful that the Tucker Center is at the U of M and fills this really valuable role."

[Mary Jo, please fill in what Margaret does and where]

Chutich emphasizes that it's important to research the reasons why girls participate in sport as well as the impact of participation. "The President's Council report [on Physical Fitness in the Lives of Girls, produced by the Tucker Center] shows many positive aspects. Sure, there are negative aspects and these need to be figured out—eating disorders, etc. But these are not caused by participation, though they sometimes do come out. [The report] is a unique contribution and serves an important role in supporting these ideas with fact."

Chutich met Tucker Center Director, Mary Jo Kane, during the initial stages of the "Throw Like A Girl: A Revolution in Women's Sports" videotape and curriculum guide project (see elsewhere in this newsletter). Chutich

and her grandmother, Margaret Morrill, were both featured in the film as female athletes respectively at the beginning of and long before the passage of Title IX. Chutich says she came to know, appreciate, and believe in Kane and the Tucker Center through her participation in the video.

"Mary Jo is fantastic; she's really incredible." Chutich explained. "She is so energetic and has the brightest ideas about programs and projects and is so articulate. She's a veritable quote machine." About women in sport in general Chutich says, "It's wonderful that women have a chance to play professional sports and I believe those opportunities will grow. But what I like is the girls' development gained through participation in sport. They get in good shape, they learn teamwork, they gain competence and mastery, they learn how to win and how to lose, how to respect their competition and how to compete. The last is a really rough concept, but it's important to know this to make your way in the world. And, playing sports is fun!"

If you would like to support the Tucker Center, please call us or fill out the attached card and mail it in with your donation.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND RESEARCH UPDATES

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**“Throw Like A Girl” Project.** As part of the Tucker Center’s mission to engage in community outreach and public service on May 5 we mailed out the “Throw Like A Girl: A Revolution in Women’s Sports” videotape and curriculum guide package to every middle school and high school in the state of Minnesota free of charge. As many of you know, this award-winning video examines the benefits and barriers of playing sports for girls and women. To kick off the distribution we hosted a “mailing party” on May 2 at the University of Minnesota’s Aquatics Center. During this event students from Minneapolis’ De La Salle High School worked with Tucker Center staff to put together packages that included the video and curriculum guide. University of Minnesota dignitaries, along with Minnesota Lynx players Andrea Lloyd Curry and Angie Potthoff were on hand to mark the celebration. De La Salle students Aaron Pikala, Javin Smith, Erinn Stonestrom, Maureen Barry, Alexis Lawrow-Svedvik and Alison Frank along with their teacher Mary Beth Barry later volunteered to package 500 videotapes for “Throw Like A Girl” Day at the WNBA’s Minnesota Lynx home opener on May 31. At the opener, teachers, administrators and students from around the state were invited to attend a special showing of the “Throw Like a Girl” video. In addition, individuals who appear in the video were honored on center court just before the tip-off in an “Honor Our Legacy” ceremony. The purpose of the ceremony was to acknowledge the unsung heroes of women’s sports who work behind the scenes so that young girls can reach their full potential through sport. These unsung heroes include, for example, mothers and fathers who serve as role models and provide a support network for their daughters as well as their sons. If you would like to receive more information, please call us or visit our website at <http://www.tuckercenter.org/>.

**Tennis Plus Program.** Developed and run in collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club of Minneapolis, this program was able to reach 20 girls and help them learn both tennis skills as well as life skills. Nicole Black, Ph.D. student in Kinesiology and a Tucker Center affiliate, directed the program with a group of graduate student volunteers. She was able to provide a teacher-student ratio of 1:2, ensuring an intensive learning experience for the girls. Starting the program with a kickoff by the United States Tennis Association (USTA) where each of the girls was given a T-shirt and poster of professional tennis playing sisters Venus and Serena Williams, and ending with the distribution of an "equipment package" (including a racquet, water bottle, and tennis balls) the girls enjoyed the program and participated energetically throughout. A typical hour would start with an opening circle and review of Tennis Plus concepts, warmup, 25 minutes of

skills practice then a game geared toward that day's particular focus. To close the girls all joined in a cheer that they had made up. Black reported that the girls were "So excited that [the program] was just for girls and it took place where it was safe and they could be themselves and they could have fun and learn something new." The USTA has expressed an interest in the Tucker Center to help pilot similar programs to underserved populations at the grassroots community level in the future.

**"Trial of Activity for Adolescent Girls" submitted.** The Tucker Center has collaborated with the Division of Epidemiology in submitting a grant proposal "Trial of Activity for Adolescent Girls" submitted in April to the National Institute of Health. The primary aim of the proposed study is to design and evaluate a coordinated school and community-based intervention to prevent the decline in physical activity levels and cardiopulmonary fitness among middle-school girls. The Tucker Center's specific role will be to review intervention material and materials produced by the study intended for the community, including recruitment materials and public relations materials. We will also help in establishing community links during the early phases of the study.

## STAFF UPDATES

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**Joah Iannotta**, graduate assistant for the Tucker Center from March 1998 through June 2000, is now a research assistant developing study proposals at the National Academy of Sciences (founded in 1863) in Washington, D.C., on the Board on Children, Youth, and Families. The Board was created to provide a national focal point for authoritative, nonpartisan analysis of child, youth, and family issues relevant to policy decisions. Established under the joint aegis of the national Research Council and the Institute of Medicine, the Board aims to bring the collective knowledge and analytical tools of behavioral, social, and health sciences to bear on policy and program development for children, youth, and families. Joah’s hard work at the Tucker Center will be greatly missed.

**Missy Lott**, intern and staff person for the Tucker Center intermittently from July 1998 through August 2000, has taken a position as an Assistant Strength Training Coach at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana. Missy will be helping athletes at Notre Dame with the same initiative and attention to detail with which she so aptly gave to the Tucker Center.

*Good luck to you both!*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Mary Jo Kane*, Professor and Director of the Tucker Center, and Research Assistant *Joah Iannotta* will deliver a presentation entitled "Personal Narratives Tell the Story: A Critical Analysis of Sport Media, Female Athletes and Body Image" at the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport (NASSS) national meeting November 10-12, 2000, in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
- *Mary Jo Kane*, Professor and Director of the Tucker Center, will deliver the keynote address, "Media Representations of Female Athletes: The Good, the Bad and the Dangerous," at the Journalism and Women Symposium (JAWS) national meeting September 15-18, 2000, in Port Ludlow, Washington.
- *Melpomene Institute's Auction for Women and Girls*: Click that mouse! Flip through that catalog! Visit Melpomene's website at <<http://www.melpomene.org/>> or call (651) 642-1951 to browse the catalog and bid on watering holes and mouth-watering brownies, autographed books and tennis balls, cool clothes and hot vacations. Bidding starts now and ends on November 2nd. The annual auction helps thousands of girls and women lead healthier lives by supporting Melpomene programs linking physical activity and health through research, publication, and education.
- *Kim Pearce*, Graduate Assistant, will be giving a presentation entitled " \_\_\_\_\_ " at this year's National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) annual meeting in \_\_\_\_\_ .

### ***Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport***

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