

Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport

Tucker Center News

University of Minnesota

Spring 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.



Mary Jo Kane



Shannon Miller

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 4 under Community Outreach Update.

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.

LEARNING OUR LEGACY: A PROFILE OF DOROTHY MCINTYRE

Dorothy McIntyre believes in “validating our past, the history and legacy of women’s sports, so that it can be built into our present.” As you read this installment of Learning our Legacy, you will learn that Dorothy McIntyre, Associate Director for the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL), is a person who takes history seriously, and believes in legacies and their power to shape the future, especially for girls and women in sport.



McIntyre came from Iowa, a state rich in the tradition of girls’ basketball, and quickly became a leader in Minnesota high-school girls’ sports. McIntyre grew up a farm kid, and like most other Iowans, she watched girls’ basketball. Some of her best and most vivid childhood memories

are of the girls’ state basketball tournament. She remembered, “You could feel the electricity. Teams would greet each other yelling across the court, and *everyone* was there.” Back then, tournament heroes became statewide legends. In later years, many of these great female basketball players were inducted into the Iowa Sports Hall of Fame. During the induction ceremony—which takes place at the state tournament—women from 30 to 50 years old accept their awards and hard-earned recognition. The importance of these traditions, and the impact women can have as role models made quite an impression on McIntyre. It was a blueprint she would bring to Minnesota.

After graduating from Luther College with a teaching degree in 1957, McIntyre came to Minnesota to teach social studies, science, health and physical education at Ellendale-Geneva High School. She also advised the Girls’ Recreation Association. Two years later, she took a teaching position at Eden Prairie High School where she advised the Girls’ Athletic and Recreation Association. The addition of “Athletic” to the Association’s name was a sign of changing attitudes toward women’s sport, and indicated the desire to move from a purely recreational intramural sports program, to a competitive extramural system of sport opportunities for high school girls. While at Eden Prairie, McIntyre started the girls’ gymnastics program and served as its first coach. She did everything she could, including driving the bus, to ensure

that all girls’ teams went to out-of-town competitions.

During the 1960s, and under the guidance of similarly committed coaches and women’s sports advocates, grass roots and developmental sports for girls grew exponentially. McIntyre played a major role in this growth by developing the initial Bylaws for Girls’ Athletics. In 1969, the bylaws were formerly accepted and girls’ athletics became an official program of the MSHSL. Under McIntyre’s leadership, the first state tournament for girls was offered for track and field in 1972. Gymnastics, tennis and volleyball followed in 1974–75; basketball, cross-country running, and slalom skiing in 1975–76; golf and softball in 1976–77; and soccer in 1980–81.

McIntyre also presided over a period of unprecedented growth in women’s interscholastic sports in the wake of Title IX, landmark federal legislation passed in 1972. Prior to Title IX, only 424 teams for girls in 10 different sports existed throughout the state. Today, over 3,659 teams participate in 23 different sports, including adaptive athletics. During the 1998–99 school year alone over 92,000 females participated in high-school athletics. This growth can be directly attributed to Dorothy McIntyre and her commitment to gender equity. As Committee Member and Editor of the Gender Equity in Athletics Manual, McIntyre has been instrumental in the state’s self-review process required by state and federal laws. This project works with school districts to assist them in implementing gender equity in their athletic programs.

One of McIntyre’s most recent and far-reaching accomplishments is the Women in Sports Leadership Conference sponsored by the MSHSL. The purpose of the conference is to provide a forum for sharing information and networking among individuals interested in enhancing sport leadership opportunities for women, to motivate and support women in sport leadership positions, and to encourage the recruitment and retention of girls and women in sport-related careers. This annual conference, first offered in 1997, attracts athletic administrators, coaches, and officials, as well as student-athletes, parents, and internationally known sport scholars and activists.

When speaking with McIntyre about the Leadership Conference, the legacy of women’s sports before and after Title IX becomes quite clear. Reacting to this country’s lack of elite sportswomen in the 1950s, the United States Olympic Committee developed a nation-wide grassroots and developmental sports program in gymnastics and track and field. McIntyre

was one of the squadron of coaches and physical education teachers who volunteered their time, money and energy to offer girls and parents instructional sports clinics. This core group worked tirelessly to create sport opportunities for girls and women. It was this effort, along with many others, that laid the groundwork for Title IX.

Such a remarkable history is acknowledged and celebrated at the Leadership Conference where the women who created the girls' developmental sports programs of the 1960s are honored so that "people could see the women who took the shots." The Conference has also gathered women who played basketball and swam on high-school teams in the 1920s and 1930s. This latter group, which consists of women aged 70–91, tell stories of their athletic feats, riding the train for competitions and playing in city halls across the state.

These stories are being collected in a book that documents the early existence of over 350 school-sponsored basketball and swim teams before they were eliminated in the 1940s based on the belief that competitive athletics were too "unladylike." McIntyre is proud to document this history: "It's validating what we're doing now by remembering what happened. And those women's lives and stories are finally being validated. It's just wonderful!" This year's Women in Sports Leadership Conference is scheduled for October 14 and 15 at Eden Prairie High School and you can

register through the MSHSL at 612-560-2262 or <<http://www.mshsl.org/>>.

As a coach, teacher, and director of girls' athletics, McIntyre believes we need to "find and support kids that may not recognize their ability." In particular, McIntyre feels girls need extra encouragement to join teams. As she insightfully remarked, "When friends, parents, supporters, coaches, and administrators find the 'glint in their eye,' we need to encourage girls' sport participation."

McIntyre believes sports have broken many barriers, allowing girls and women to more fully participate in society at all levels. What she most celebrates is seeing so many young women directly benefiting from the progress McIntyre has helped chart in this state. Throughout her career, McIntyre has been committed to ensuring that girls and women have teams to play on, and that those teams are administered with an infrastructure of women in key roles. McIntyre's work and passion reflect her belief that groups of committed people can come together to "help make dreams into a reality" while "passing the torch and continuing the legacy." Whether we are recreational or competitive athletes, many of us can trace our start back to high-school sports, and we can thank people like Dorothy McIntyre for helping us gain the opportunity to play.

— Jorjean Fischer, Tucker Center intern, and
Kim Pearce, Tucker Center Research Assistant

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: TONI STONE

In honor of Black History Month, the Tucker Center commemorates local sports hero Toni Stone. When the histories of women's baseball and the men's Negro American League are told, Marcenia Lyle Alberga should not be forgotten. Playing under the name "Toni Stone," this St. Paul native was the first woman to play professionally in the Negro American Leagues.

Stone's tenacity in a male arena during an era when racism and sexism were rampant make her an important figure in baseball. As a woman ball player, she experienced both acceptance and resistance from teammates and opponents. She once explained to teammate Al Lombardi on the New Orleans Creoles, "A woman has her dreams, too. When you finish high school, they tell a boy to go out and see the world. What do they tell a girl? They tell her to go next door and marry the boy that their family's picked out for her. It wasn't right."

While living in San Francisco, Stone played for an American Legion championship team from 1945 to 1947. In 1947, she won a position on a semi-professional team, the San Francisco Sea Lions, where in her first two at bats, she drove in two runs. In 1949, Stone accepted an offer to play with the New Orleans Creoles, a men's Negro American League (NAL) minor league team. With the Creoles, Stone played second base and batted .265. In 1951, she signed with another NAL team, the Indianapolis Clowns. In 53 games with the Clowns Stone fielded her position with speed and agility while batting .243. In addition to her athletic prowess, Stone conducted herself with great dignity both on and off the field. For example, when Stone realized that her presence on the all-male Clown's roster was being used as a gimmick to attract fans, she refused to play in a skirt or shorts.



“Stone” continued from page 3

One of Stone’s most heroic playing moments came in 1953 when she hit a single off of the legendary pitcher Satchel Paige: “He threw that fastball, and I . . . just stood up there and hit it across second base,” she recalled with a chuckle.

Stone’s final season of professional baseball was spent with the Kansas City Monarchs. She retired from professional baseball in 1954 but continued to play amateur and recreational baseball until she was 60 years old. In 1985 Stone was inducted into the Women’s Sports Foundation’s International Hall of Fame. You can find more information about Toni Stone through the following resources:

- Oglesby, C. A. with Greenberg, D. L., Hall, R. L., Hill, K. L., Johnston, F. & Ridley, S. E. (Eds.) (1998). *Encyclopedia of Women in Sport in America*. Phoenix, AZ: Oryx Press.
- Smith, L. (Ed.) (1998). *Nike is a Goddess: The History of Women in Sports*. New York: Atlantic Monthly Press.
- Thomas, R. (May, 1996). *She made it a league of her own*. Emerge. Online: <<http://www.negro-league.columbus.oh.us/stone.htm>>.

— Kim Pearce, Tucker Center Research Assistant &

COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE

Image Is Everything: Achieving Equitable Media Treatment for Females. Thanks to some of our generous supporters, the “Image Is Everything” workshop for high-school girls has been expanded to include schools in rural Minnesota as well as the Twin Cities. This innovative workshop is designed to teach girls how to recognize and counteract the harmful effects of racism, sexism and homophobia using the media’s discriminatory practices toward female athletes as a powerful example. This year the workshop has been performed at Hutch-inson, De La Salle, Watertown-Mayer, and Apollo (St. Cloud) High Schools.

Initially, the workshop was limited to 12–15 females per high school. However, the feedback we received from some early participants indicated we could have an even greater impact if we reached out to more students. The workshop format was thus altered to include two components. First, an assembly of students is gathered to see a slide presentation containing stereotypic images of athletic females found in newspapers and magazines. Some schools have opted to invite all of their female athletes, and, in the case of De La Salle, a co-ed media literacy class viewed the slide presentation. This new format ensures that many of the issues addressed during the workshop—representations of female athletes as sexy girlfriends rather than as accomplished athletes—now reach up to 150–200 students per school.

The second component of the workshop involves a more in-depth exploration of the media’s treatment of

female athletes. This part of the workshop is limited to 15–25 participants. During an all-day seminar, girls learn to make the connections between the media and equity issues in their schools and communities, as well as how stereotypic images affect a female athlete’s body image. Said one participant from Watertown-Mayer, “I really liked the opportunity we were given to discuss, openly, women’s sports issues.” Responded another student-athlete, “I am so pumped now and so confident about things that I was less confident about before.”

The goal of the workshop is both to encourage girls to think critically about the media and their experience in athletics, and to consider the ways in which they can act to make a difference in their own communities. It seems to be having an effect. According to one workshop participant, “We had a lot of good discussions that were really interesting and fun to talk about. This inspired me to go out and kick some butt in sports and in life!”

Throw Like a Girl: A Revolution in Women’s Sports.

As many of you know, this award-winning video examines the benefits and barriers of playing sports for girls and women. Told through the eyes of different generations of Minnesota families, it is a story about the challenges that needed to be overcome in order to reach a landmark moment in women’s sports—the passage of Title IX in 1972—and of the victories that have occurred in its wake.



Because an important part of our mission is community outreach and public service, we wanted to make this video available to parents, teachers, students, coaches and policy makers throughout the state. We developed a curriculum guide which we pilot tested in the South St. Paul School District. Preliminary feedback indicated that the video and curriculum guide will have a broad-based impact. For example, students remarked that: "I learned what Title IX was" and "It was cool to see all those women who were so good at playing." Teachers and coaches were equally impressed: "As a teacher, I found this curriculum guide useful. The issue of Title IX is something most high-school students can relate to and offer some perspective" and "The video does an exceptional job of displaying various degrees of females in sport. I especially enjoyed seeing female athletes being role models for all young athletes. This is a great tool for the classroom and I recommend it for

all teachers and coaches." The video and curriculum guide will be available this summer to all middle schools and high schools throughout the state. If you would like to be placed on a distribution list and receive more information, please call us, go to our website at <http://www.kls.coled.umn.edu/crgws/> or send email to title9video@kls.coled.umn.edu.

Tennis Plus. The Tucker Center, in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club of Minneapolis and the Joy of Sports Foundation (Washington, DC), have formed a partnership to deliver a tennis/life skills program for girls. Funding for this project was provided by the United States Tennis Association. Tennis Plus, directed by Tucker Center affiliate and Ph.D. student Nicole Black, focuses on teaching tennis in conjunction with life skills such as concentration, relaxation, imagination, cooperation, responsibility, goal setting, and self-esteem. The program will serve 20 girls, ages 10–13, from the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis. Women currently affiliated with the University of Minnesota are now being recruited to help ensure the success of this innovative program. No previous tennis teaching experience is necessary. A one-day training clinic will be provided for all who volunteer to participate in the program. Tennis Plus will meet one day a week after school for 60–90 minutes, starting in early April and running through May, 2000. Those interested in volunteering should call Nicole Black at 612-341-8296 or email black053@tc.umn.edu.



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STAFF UPDATES

The Tucker Center participates in numerous projects that ultimately lead to improved conditions for female athletes on many fronts. One of the ways the Tucker Center accomplishes this goal is to offer individuals hands-on leadership experiences through volunteer or internship opportunities. Our two most recent interns wanted to share some thoughts with you about their Tucker Team Experience:

- Former intern **Stephanie Klaviter**: Steph Klaviter graduated from the University of Minnesota with a major in Kinesiology in December of 1999. Steph played softball for the Gophers for four years and is currently playing in the Women's Professional Fastpitch League for the Florida Wahoos. She talks about her first exposure to the Tucker Center: "I took a class that Dr. Mary Jo Kane taught called Women in Sport and Leisure. Through that class I was able to start an internship during the fall of 1999 with Dr. Kane and the Tucker Center. Sport has always been the center of my life and a big factor in shaping the woman I have become. My dream in life is to not only play sport at the highest level, but also to be able to share with young girls the positive effects sport has had on my life. At the Tucker Center I was a part of the *Image is Everything* workshop that allowed me to make my dream come true. We went to local high schools and discussed stereotypes of sportswomen found in the media and created alternative, positive images with the females athletes. It was a day of fun that involved discussions about a wide variety of issues for adolescent females. While at the Tucker Center I also worked on the Borghild Strand Distinguished Lecture Series that featured Ann Bancroft, and also represented the Tucker Center at the Minnesota State High School League Coaches' Convention. I met many wonderful people and got the opportunity to work for an organization that is truly making a difference. I would like to send a special thanks to Dr. Kane and the rest of the Tucker Center staff. You have provided me with the opportunities, knowledge, and experience I need to make a difference. Thanks!"
- New intern **Jorjean Fischer**: Jorjean Fisher, the Tucker Center's newest intern, has been a teacher (E.B.D.) and coach for 16 years and currently teaches and coaches cross-country, track, and nordic skiing at Eastview High School in Apple Valley. Jorjean is completing her internship this spring and is focusing her attention on the *Image is Everything* workshop. On her motivations to become involved with the Tucker Center, Jorjean explained, "Taking the Women in Sport and Leisure course from Mary Jo Kane brought new perspectives to some critical issues that face female athletes. Helping out at the Tucker Center seemed to be the best way to obtain more information and then transfer that information to young athletes."



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203 Cooke Hall
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ***Whatever It Takes: Women on Women's Sport*** (ISBN: 0374525978). Edited by Joli Sandoz and Joby Winans, this new book is a passionate tribute to the power of sport in women's lives. From Elizabeth Cady Stanton's writings on bicycling, to Anna Seaton Huntington on rowing, this is the first anthology representing women's personal essays on sports. With edge, passion, and depth, "Whatever It Takes" demonstrates the enormous importance of sports in the lives of girls and women. These essays deal with everything from finding a mentor—whether it's an Olympic gold winner or a neighborhood coach—to reveling in female team spirit. There are historical selections, as well as discussions of such developments as Title IX. The contributors, including world-class athletes and celebrated writers like Mariah Burton Nelson, Grace Butcher, Diane Ackerman, and Maxine Kumin, tackle traditional favorites such as basketball and softball, as well as more exotic entries along the lines of boxing, motorcycle racing, and rock climbing. For more information, including review copies, contact Cary Goldstein of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, by phone at 212-206-5322 or fax at 212-206-5340.


- A new book called ***Stadium Games: Fifty Years of Big League Greed and Bush League Boondoggles*** by Jay Weiner, a sports writer for the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, is about to be released. While the book is a social history of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis-St. Paul through the prism of professional sports facilities, it addresses in numerous places the gender gap in stadium politics. Weiner notes how key women public officials were marginalized by stadium boosters. And he devotes an entire chapter to stadium critic Ricky Rask, who served as a lightning rod for stadium opposition with her stance on social priorities like child care and school funding. "Stadium Games" will be published by the University of Minnesota Press in mid-March, should be in bookstores soon after, and is already available on Amazon.com. Weiner will have a reading and book signing party at *Ruminator Books*, formerly *The Hungry Mind*, in St. Paul on April 15 at 7:00 p.m.
- **i-Glow.com**, a new site for girls who play sports, is holding a logo contest. For more details check out their website at <http://www.i-glow.com/>.
- The **Minnesota Lynx** invites you to accept the challenge of fighting breast cancer with *The Great Basketball Dribble* on Saturday May 6, 2000. Participants in this event will collect a minimum pledge of \$25 and then dribble, or simply walk, a 2.5 mile route through downtown Minneapolis. Your pledge includes your event registration, T-shirt, same day entertainment, on-court clinic and Minnesota Lynx scrimmage, as well as a free ticket to watch a Minnesota Lynx home game during the 2000 season. Most important, your pledge will go toward breast cancer research in Minnesota. Call the "Great Basketball Dribble" hotline at 612-673-8395 to speak with a Minnesota Lynx representative. Hope to see you there!
- In February, **Mary Jo Kane** delivered a keynote address—"Representations of Athletic Females in Young Adult Sports Fiction: Intersections of Race, Gender and Sexuality"—at a symposium on women's sport's. The symposium, "From Title IX to the World Cup: Women in Sports," was sponsored by the Department of Women's Studies at the University of Kansas.



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University of Minnesota
203 Cooke Hall, 1900 University Ave. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
612-625-7327 vox | 612-626-7700 fax
crgws@tc.umn.edu
<http://www.kls.umn.edu/crgws/>

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KUDOS

Joah Iannotta, research assistant in the Tucker Center and a second year doctoral student in Kinesiology, received a \$2,000 research grant from An Uncommon Legacy Foundation to pursue work on her dissertation, "Sexuality and Resistance in Women's Athletics: Combating Homophobia." This project explores the strategies coaches and athletes use to confront discrimination and create tolerant team climates for all athletes. Iannotta elaborated, "Originally, I had planned on only talking to lesbian coaches to understand how they worked to create cohesive teams, but when I was doing a pilot study I was amazed at how many straight coaches wanted to tell me about their experiences as well. Because homophobia affects women of all sexual orientations it seemed important to expand the study to include the perspectives of any coach or athlete who actively worked to create a more inclusive team environment."