

advertising agent Arthur Meyerhoff (1945-1950) and, finally, by local team presidents (1951-1954). Team Administrators consisted of many of the leading businessmen in league towns. Managers were obtained almost exclusively from the ranks of retired major or minor league baseball players and players were recruited from all sections of the United States and the southern half of Canada.

The league's popularity grew steadily from 1943 to 1948 when seasonal attendance figures peaked at 910,747. After 1948, attendance began to decline as steadily as it had risen since 1943. Declining attendance eventually resulted in heavy financial losses to league backers which, in turn, lead directly to the league's demise. Several factors can be cited to account for the league's decline. Among these were discontent among team administrators, changes in league administration, a reduction in promotional budgets and programs, the growing popularity of television, and changes in the game itself.

The All-American Girls' Baseball League was a unique phenomena in the history of women's sport in the United States. In many respects it was the first truly professional team sport for women in the United States. It consisted of a central governing body as well as local governing boards, and it had a formal structure modeled after existing professional men's leagues. Teams played over 100 games per season and players, as full time ball players, were paid between \$85 and \$150 per week. The league demonstrated beyond any doubt that women could play baseball and, when properly promoted, women's baseball could draw spectators. Despite the league's demise, its duration suggests possibilities for the successful organization of women's professional team sports in the future.

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# The History of Women's Intercollegiate Athletics in Ohio 1945-1972

by  
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The purpose of this study was to record the development of women's sports in Ohio colleges and universities, to identify outstanding leaders who have contributed significantly to the development of women's competition in Ohio, and to identify and record the significant events that comprised the historic growth of women's intercollegiate competition in Ohio from 1945-1972. It was also the purpose to add to the limited amount of research completed in this area so as to provide more information from which leaders in women's sport may draw insights regarding future directions and problems of intercollegiate competition in Ohio.

The study was limited to the State of Ohio and its colleges and universities between the years 1945-1972. The sports included in the study were basketball, volleyball, golf, tennis,

bowling and competitive synchronized swimming.

Information regarding competition in Ohio was collected from interviews with persons directly involved with specific programs of intercollegiate athletics for women. The minutes from organizations directly associated with women's intercollegiate sports were reviewed as well as the constitutions, by-laws and policies of these organizations. Other reports, letters, pamphlets, tournament results and scattered information were collected from a variety of individuals at various institutions throughout the state.

The growth of women's sports in colleges and universities during the last few decades has been phenomenal. It moved slowly and cautiously at first but increased rapidly in the last ten years. Competition at levels once deemed inadvisable if not impossible for women has become a reality.

Ohio for the most part has had a conservative stand on intercollegiate athletics for women and has closely followed national trends. Programs progressed through the post World War II era of the Sports Day to the growing programs of the fifties and sixties to high level competitive situations of the early seventies. In these thirty years. Ohio's leaders strongly felt the need for policy to govern these programs. The Women's Physical Education Section of the Ohio College Association has been the most consistent leader in Ohio's history of women's intercollegiate sports. The women of Ohio, for the most part, worked through this organization and looked to it for guidance and leadership.

The women of Ohio, as across the nation, are aspiring for new levels of skill and competition, more opportunities and means to advance to regional and national championships. This implies a need for more leadership, organization, equipment, money, regulations, coaches, officials, and many more areas which will pose future problems for the women of Ohio. The groundwork has been laid for a strong, sound program of intercollegiate athletics for the women of Ohio by women who have been primarily concerned for the competitor of Ohio. The structure itself now depends upon the young builders—coaches and athletic directors—to keep it sound.



Robert W. Henderson,  
Honor Award Recipient,  
at 1975 NASSH Convention



John A. Krout  
receives Honor Award  
from President Eyster