

Expansion of Sports Opportunities for North Carolina Females in the 1940s

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Country club golf was enjoyed enthusiastically by upper-class females in North Carolina throughout the 1940s. Women and girls competed in local contests, including special events, as well as invitational and state tournaments. During this decade, the state's greatest golfer, Estelle Lawson Page, continued her winning ways by capturing six state and six regional championships, even though several tournaments were not conducted due to the war.

Girls in rural and small towns in North Carolina joined their high school basketball teams, often the only competitive sport offered them. They vigorously pursued regular season victories and tournament titles. A few women continued to play basketball on municipal or recreation league teams. Southern Textile League teams, most notably Hanes Hosiery, achieved national prominence in basketball.

Several companies sponsored bowling and softball teams for promotional purposes. Maxine. Allen was the state's premier duck pin bowler, while numerous other women bowled in leagues and tournaments. Bertha Dunn starting in the mid-1940s helped win numerous state and regional titles and amassed outstanding pitching records. Dunn and Faye Harkey turned down offers to play in the All-American Girls Basketball League.

Swimming teams from Goldsboro and Tarboro dominated the state championships, plus several team members set national records, the first by Prince Nufer. Champions Julia Pickens of Charlotte and Frances Council of Raleigh led their respective city's badminton clubs in regional and state

tournaments. Tennis lessons and league play were available to girls and women at country clubs.