

# Woman's Suffrage and Sport for Women in Tennessee: 1910-1930

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Tennessee cast the pivotal vote in the ratification of the Suffrage Amendment, allowing it to become the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States' Constitution. This study examined women's sport in Tennessee during the period ten years before and ten years after women received the right to vote. An attempt was made to determine if this new found political freedom influenced her venture into the sporting world. Scholastic, Intercollegiate, and Industrial sporting opportunities were examined, and the influences, parallels, and contradictions that existed were analyzed to see if there was a relationship to Woman's Suffrage. Ethnic, economic, political, social, and age factors were given special attention in studying Tennessee women's involvement in sport from 1910 through 1930.

Every Tennessee college/university available to women students from 1910 through 1930 were identified, and data was collected on the number of sports teams offered as well as the coaches' affiliation with each of the schools for each of the twenty years. Select public high schools from each section of the state were identified and data was collected as noted above on the status of girls' interscholastic sport during those years. The major newspapers from the four largest cities in the state—Nashville, Memphis, Chattanooga, and Knoxville—, 1910-1930, were examined for sporting news concerning girls/and women's athletic teams in industrial, school, and college/university settings, as were any other sporting situations (country club, church, or private) that could be identified. These primary data were analyzed against the secondary sources that depicted the sporting opportunities across the nation for women during this era.