

Robert Markel, Nancy Brooks and Susan Markel, *For the Record: Women in Sports*. World Almanac Publications, New York, 1985. Illus., index, tables. pp.ix + 195. \$U.S.8.95.

Since federal legislation in the United States, popularly called Title IX, forbade sexual discrimination in schools women's athletics in that country has burgeoned. Athletic scholarships for women have blossomed, plus magazines such as *Women's Sport and Fitness* and books like *Her Story in Sport* (Howell), *The Woman in Athletic Administration* (Parkhouse and Lapin), *100 Greatest Women in Sports* (Holland), *Challenging the Men* (Dyer), *The Sporting Woman* (Boutilier and Sangiovanni) *Women's Running* (Joan Ullyot), *Winning Women* (Mitchell and Dyer), *Fair Ball* (Hall and Richardson), *Women Who Win* (Parkhouse and Lapin), *Women and Sport* (Ogelsby), *Canada's Greatest Women Athletes* (McDonald and Drewery) and *Women in Sport* (Remley), have appeared on the bookshelves. They range from theoretical expositions to bitter attacks on a system that has subjugated the rights of women.

For the Record: Women in Sports is neither here nor there. It is certainly not theoretical, and it lacks bitterness. It does not even have an introduction by the authors to explain what the book is all about. It simply begins, chronicling various sports and presenting short biographies of outstanding sportswomen and the records of women in those sports.

There is an obvious North American bias in the selection of athletes and sport. (The book was written by North American authors and published in North America for a North American audience.) Sports that are left out, for example, are archery, one of the first sports women competed in at the modern Olympic Games, netball, water polo, squash, vigoro, shooting and cricket. Cricket, netball and even vigoro can perhaps be excused, as it is an American book and these sports are not played in that country. However, the other deletions are surprising.

Essentially the book proceeds sport by sport. Ice skating, for example, has a section on its historical development, understandably emphasising women's participation. The outstanding female figure skaters are then identified, with accompanying miniature biographies. Lastly, the record of women in world, United States and Olympic championships are chronicled.

For Australians the selection of sports and athletes would naturally be disappointing. Tracey Wickham, still current world record holder in the 400 metres, is not mentioned. Omitted also are such Australian sporting heroines as Betty Cuthbert, Marjorie Jackson and Shirley Strickland, as well as recent stars such as Glynis Nunn and Michelle Ford. Heather McKay, a phenomenal athlete who won the British Open an unprecedented sixteen times, is not included, as squash was not selected for coverage in this 'complete book of women's achievements in sports'. Canadians can similarly be disappointed as some of Canada's finest are also 'forgotten', such as Nancy Greene (skiing), Elaine Tanner (swimming), Petra Burka (skating), Karen Magnussen and Ethel Catherwood, Canada's first gold medallist in athletics.

In spite of these inadequacies this book is a valuable addition to the documentation of women's achievements in sports. It is intended to be a 'record book', a compilation of the attainments of women. As such it fills a void, as previous documentation has been heavily weighted towards male accomplishments, *For the Record* is a useful reference book.

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