

Bob Welch

## Sisley

No jockstraps for the women



Can you see the Oregon women's basketball coach flying to Chicago to wine and dine a highly-touted high school center? A female short stop getting a free four-year education because she can hit and field a baseball? Oregon and Oregon State in an intense bidding war for the state's top field hockey prospect?

Becky Sisley, head of Women's Intercollegiate Athletics here, can't and doesn't want to. But with the recent implementation of Title IX, there's a strong possibility such things could happen to women's collegiate programs across the country.

Section 86.37 (c) of the equal opportunity regulation provides that "reasonable opportunities" for athletic scholarships should be "in proportion to the number of students of each sex participating in interscholastic or intercollegiate athletics."

The federal government wants equality. But Sisley, head of a women's program that offers no scholarships, doesn't think being equal with the men's program is necessarily a positive thing.

"Just look what's happened to men's athletics," she said. "All the cheating in recruiting, the win at all cost syndrome, the big business... is that positive?"

"We don't want to give scholarships," she said. "Once you give a scholarship, the desire to win starts coming above everything else. You've got to win to get more money for more scholarships...and the whole thing becomes a mess."

"Our program here is going extremely well, now. The students are super happy with it and a change like that (going to scholarships) would turn over the apple cart."

Sisley has always been a proponent of athletics for the athlete; leave the fanfare in Hollywood, she'll tell you, we just want to provide our girls with a sound educational experience and have some fun in the process.

Title IX may not allow that to continue.

"It's pushing a lot of women's programs in directions they don't want to go," said Sisley. "We don't want into the 'big business' of athletics. We're happy where we are."

The scholarship, she says, proposes a number of problems:

- It leads to selfishness among the athletes. "It'd be more counter-productive than productive," Sisley said. "They've given scholarships at Kansas and found a complete turnover in the attitude of the athletes. They tend to become more concerned about themselves than the team."

- It changes the focus of the program's administration. "Scholarships will lead to recruiting," said Sisley. "And that leads to more concern for a winning program than for the people involved in that program."

- It changes the program's goal into entertainment, not education.

Sisley isn't the only one concerned about the negative force of Title IX. AIAW Pres. Laurie Mabry told the delegates at last week's AIAW convention in Arizona that "Title IX's benefits may not all be to our likings and there will be problems of co-existence in legal harmony."

Amendments to allow subsidized recruiting visits and coaches' release time to recruit were turned down at the convention; thus, while scholarships are legal for AIAW members, recruiting is still taboo.

Sisley's hoping it will stay that way, but questions whether it will. "It's quite possible," she said, "that Title IX could thrust recruiting upon us to make us equal with the men."

If it's inevitable that scholarships be instituted in the women's program, Sisley would like to see aid given to those athletes who have been in the program for a couple of years.

"They just started giving scholarships at Washington on that basis," said Sisley, "and the response has been quite positive. Plus there's no recruiting involved."

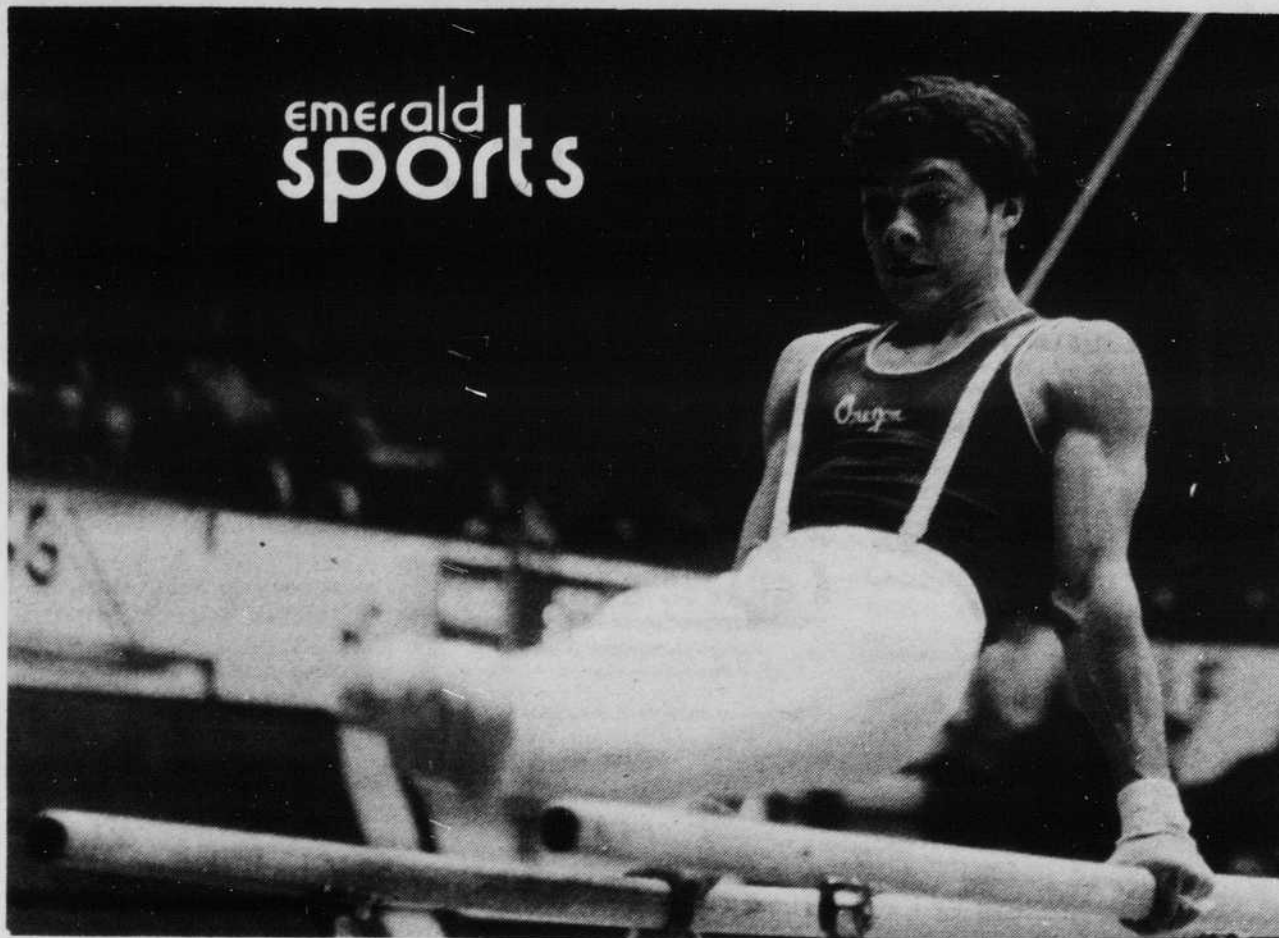
A 13-member task force is currently assessing all the athletic programs on campus in order to comply with Health, Education and Welfare regulations. Under law, the University must then decide if-and-how men's and women's programs will be re-structured and develop a plan to effectively accommodate the interests and abilities of both sexes.

As for Sisley, she'd like to have about \$45,000 to add additional personnel to WIA. And a locker room that, unlike the one the women use now, has not been deemed a fire hazard and has more than three showers and one toilet.

But scholarships, no thanks.

"Except for some minor things," said Sisley, "we're happy just as we are."

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The Oregon men's gymnastics team joins with the women's gymnastics team Friday in Seattle for a co-ed meet with Washington. The Flying Ducks hit their season high Saturday night against Brigham

Young-210.55, while the women scored an impressive 97.75 in a meet against Portland State and Linn-Benton C.C., just .25 short of the AIAW team qualifying standard.



### Wednesday, Jan. 21

Wrestling, Fresno State, McArthur Court, 7:30

### Thursday, Jan. 22

Men's swimming, Southern Oregon, Leighton Pool  
Women's basketball, Oregon College of Education, Monmouth, 9 p.m.

### Friday, Jan. 23

Wrestling, Portland State at Portland  
Men's and Women's gymnastics, Washington at Seattle  
Men's and women's swimming, Oregon AAU, at Leighton Pool  
Women's basketball, Oregon State Invitational (JV), Corvallis

### Saturday, Jan. 24

Men's basketball, Oregon State, McArthur Court, 8:05 p.m.  
Wrestling, Minnesota, McArthur Court, 2 p.m.  
Men's gymnastics, Washington at Seattle  
Men's and women's swimming, Oregon AAU, at Leighton Pool  
Women's gymnastics, Pacific University and Oregon College of Education, at Forest Grove, 1 p.m.

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## NCAA reverses decision

ST. LOUIS (AP)—The NCAA voted Saturday night to throw out the controversial squad size limitation of 60-48 in football and 13-10 in basketball.

The action was a triumph for Alabama football coach Bear Bryant and Indiana basketball coach Bobby Knight, who recently lost court suits attempting to overturn the restrictions.

Most schools will return immediately to their own conference's limits.

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