



Photo by Ken Shin

University of Oregon women's basketball star Julie Cushing (25) was named to the All Tournament Team by a panel of coaches following Saturday's championship game. Joining the freshman from Salem on the team are Sue Smith and Karen Strong of Portland State University, Margie Nielson of the University of Washington, and Joni Slagle of Western Washington State College.

Women in athletics become 'kosher'

By TOM WOLFE
Of the Emerald

"It used to be that a woman lost her femininity competing in sports — now it's the thing to do," says Becky Sisley, director of University women's athletics.

"There have been big changes in women's athletics in the last few years," Sisley says. She predicts the change will continue, if not accelerate, in the next few years.

An extensive regional structure for University women's competition, the Northwest College Women's Sports Association, was formed in 1966. National championships began in 1971. These increased awareness and acceptance of local women athletes, Sisley says.

Two years ago federal legislation (Title IX) began requiring equity in funding and structure of women's and men's athletics. "There has been a tremendous surge of change since then," Sisley says. The University's own decision to merge its men's and women's programs may have been a direct result of that legislation, she noted.

"We've been moving closer to the men's program in terms of structure and caliber of competition," Sisley says. "The games are becoming more intense and there is improved quality of competition."

Sisley says the media has been responsible for much of this change. Olympic coverage and television focus on several women athletes have given a better image to women's sports, says the director.

"Only four or five years ago it was a big issue for girls to play in Little League. Now we're finding that dads are just as proud of their daughters as their sons. Talent is talent, and they can appreciate that," Sisley says.

The history of women's sports at the University was largely unchanged for many years following the University's first female intercollegiate competition, a tennis match against Oregon Agricultural College (now Oregon State University) in 1915.

Traditionally women athletes have not had the benefits of large budgets, expert coaching, adequate practice equipment and housing, uniforms and officiating, Sisley says. To a great extent this disparity still exists, but should be lessened by the sharing of facilities and staff under the athletic merger now underway, she believes.

Sisley says high schools started building their women's programs more quickly than did the University and entering freshmen are coming in better-trained than some of the returning veterans.

Some high schools are now nearing equality in the sports opportunities they provide boys and girls, observes Sisley. As this happens the women's program begins to be more and more like the men's, she said, with correspondence from high school women wanting to know about the University sports opportunities and reputation.

Philosophically though, the women are consciously trying to avoid duplicating the men's program.

To this end, they have adopted a formal statement of philosophy to guard against any regression during this period of change. The women's program requires coaches be qualified as professional physical educators.

In addition they maintain "there shall be no efforts to sway the emphasis of the program from education to entertainment," and students should be given leadership roles in the organization and management of the program.

Oregon Daily Emerald

Athletic trainers break male mold

By BRENDA TABOR
Of the Emerald

Women involved in the University's intercollegiate athletic program are among the first female athletes to break into the vestige of the male athletic training program.

Although years passed before athletic trainers and treatments were made available to women, the facilities and services were shared at the University before Title IX mandated them equal services, facilities and equipment.

Giving women access to athletic trainers may have decreased injuries previously attributed to facilities in Gerlinger Annex. Specifically the concrete based floors blamed for numerous "shin splints," a catchall for leg injuries

of unknown cause, says Richard Troxell, head women's athletic trainer.

The floors in Gerlinger Annex, used by Women's Intercollegiate Athletics (WIA) weren't designed with accident prevention in mind, he says.

"Last year at one point in the season, we had 35 per cent of the basketball players afflicted with shin splint problems and three knees that required surgery," he says.

But this year he embarked on a conditioning program for all women athletes and found leg injuries greatly reduced with no surgery required.

Conditioning as well as treatment, says Troxell, is an area traditionally neglected in women's ath-

letics. He attributes a higher incidence of injuries in women to the lack of proper conditioning.

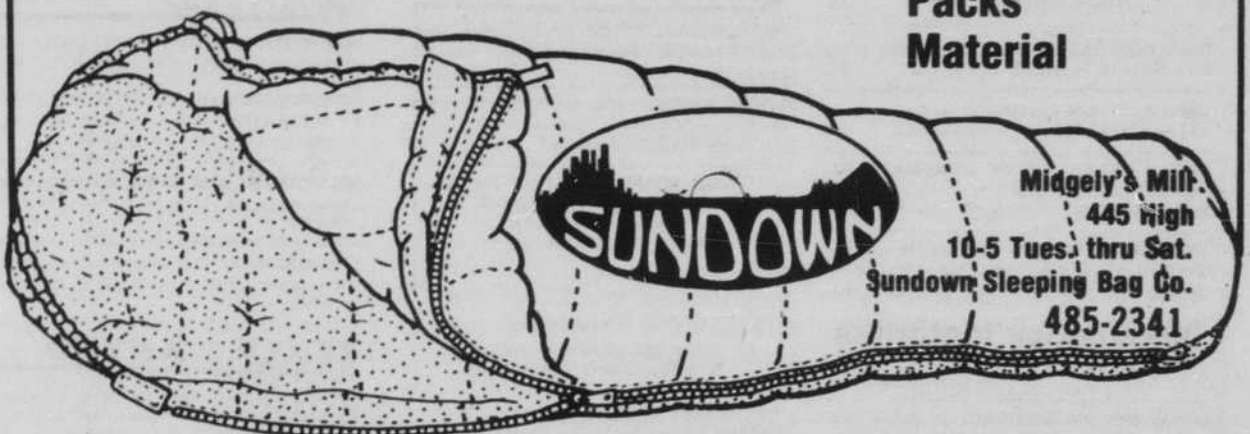
Troxell says women are predisposed to dislocated kneecaps because of the high angulation of their femurs.

But he says their injury rate and response is no different from men's. "On the whole, women athletes are easier to work with than men," he adds.

Use of the facilities leapt by 40 per cent this year, he says, as women became accustomed to using the services provided. Troxell prefers to work with the women. He says they "tend not to keep up the tough image like men, and are more honest and open about their injuries" — and cooperative with long neglected treatment.

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