

Discrimination in athletic department cited

Complaint alleges Title IX violations at OSU

By BLAIR CRUMPACKER
Of The Emerald

Two and one-half years ago the American Civil Liberties Union lodged a complaint with the University alleging unreasonable differentiation between male and female athletes in the athletic program.

Now it's Oregon State's turn.

The ACLU has accused OSU of "massive violations of federal and state law" in a complaint issued on behalf of 20 women students and six taxpayers.

The complaint, which was filed with the OSU Affirmative Action Officer, Pearl Spears Gray, alleges unequal treatment of male and female athletes in 12 categories: financial aid, housing and dining facilities, game and practice schedules, equipment, supplies and uniforms, medical facilities, competitive opportunities, coaching, tutoring and assistance, and financial support.

OSU Athletic Director Dee Andros says he plans to meet with Gray to consider the allegations.

"Some of the charges cer-



Emerald graphic

tainly aren't warranted," he says. "In the last three and one-half years we have worked diligently. We know we're not quite there... but great strides have been made for women."

Nancy Gerou, women's athletic director at OSU, refused to comment on the complaint itself, adding that, "In general, OSU has had a different version of compliance than the ACLU."

Until the Department of Health, Education and Welfare announced new guidelines for Title IX compliance on Dec. 4, application of the law to revenue-generating sports, par-

ticularly football, had been a major source of confusion and controversy in federally-funded schools across the nation.

ACLU Executive Director Stevie Remington said the complaint against OSU was a follow-up to ACLU action against the University, which began with a complaint filed by Robert and Barbara Aiken in April, 1977.

The Aikens, whose daughters played basketball for the University in 1977, charged that the University unreasonably differentiated between female and male athletes in providing transportation to athletic events, meeting officiating and coaching needs, and in its commitment to provide competitive athletic programs.

The University Title IX compliance officer ruled the allegations justifiable and the complaint was sent to the Office of the Chancellor of the State System of Higher Education for evaluation.

Chancellor Roy Lieuallen overruled the University compliance officer in 1978, but his decision was reversed by the

Oregon Court of Appeals in April, 1979, and the University was ordered to re-examine its policies.

The Aiken case has been a "strong stimulus" to recent developments in the University athletic program, says Julie Carson, deputy athletic director.

Citing recent improvements in facilities, number of coaches, and some salary scales in women's athletics, Carson says, "The Aikens made the University take a strong and careful look at its facilities, and they saw the inequities. The force of law is

saying, 'We want to see what you're doing,' and the University is acting on it."

Negotiations between the ACLU and the University are still in progress. Remington says she hopes to receive positive reports from lawyers working on the case at the next ACLU board meeting in March.

Meanwhile, Oregon State has 30 days in which to investigate the alleged discrimination. If those who filed the complaints are not satisfied with the University's action, they may appeal to the chancellor for a public hearing.

Bassett raps planners

WASHINGTON, D.C.—ASUO Pres. Scott Bassett says he's disappointed with the organization of the American Student Association's student government conference here this week.

Last-minute plans were wrapped up Thursday morning for the four-day conference, which began Thursday afternoon.

"There was a lot of last-minute organization that the Oregon delegation ending up doing for the ASA," Bassett said. "But if Oregon hadn't done the work there's a good chance somebody else would have."

Bassett and Jim Bernau, former Oregon Student Lobby executive director, have done much of the last-minute work. "Jim has pulled together almost all of the workshops at the last minute," Bassett said.

The Oregon delegation may be one of the largest at the conference. In addition to the five

University students, three OSU representatives, two Oregon State University delegates and the student body presidents from Southern Oregon State College and Portland State University are attending.

Bassett says now that the organization is complete the conference should be a success.

Seventeen workshops are scheduled today, including discussions on nuclear power, the Department of Education, and draft registration. University veteran Russ Linebarger and ASUO Vice Pres. Dennis Mohatt will discuss grassroots organization against the draft this afternoon. Following the workshop, Linebarger and two other anti-draft people will debate with representatives from the White House, the armed services and the selective service on the merits of the draft.

Conference organizers expect more than 500 delegates at the largest student government conference since 1971.

Corrections, Amplifications

A benefit for legislative candidate Carl Hosticka, featuring the Smokey Valley String Band, will be held at the Laurelwood Golf Course on Saturday at 8 p.m., not Friday as printed in

the Out and About calendar.

The Early Keyboard Festival listed under Friday's music happenings in the Out and About calendar has been cancelled.

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