

Hiring

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Women's names are not often the first mentioned when discussing possible candidates for coaching and administrative positions.

"When men are in charge, they are inclined to talk to their own friends, and they are inclined to be men," Howlett said. "So when you have a position open, you're in."

Social factors also contribute to the problem. Many women don't want to move if it would force their husbands to relocate and find jobs, Howlett said. She said women tend to take fewer risks than men and don't go after the jobs.

More than 50 percent of the NCAA coaches of women's teams are men. At Indiana U., six of the eight female sports have male coaches.

Lack

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exhausted her college eligibility? Any type of job she wants, but not one necessarily related to athletics, said the coaches of women's basketball and volleyball at U. of Florida.

Beverly Kearney, U. of Florida's women's track and field coach tells her players to concentrate on their education. "Unless you're an All-American coming out of college, your career is basically over."

Kearney said there are a lack of role models for female athletes, and that affects the number of women who pursue careers in coaching and teaching sports.

Ann Marie Lawler, U. of Florida's assistant athletic director for women's sports, agrees. "I've tried to encourage our female athletes to consider coaching as an alternative," Lawler said.

Five of the 13 head coaches at U. of Florida are women. They make between \$33- and \$42,000 a year. The range for male coaches at U. of Florida is between \$33- and \$100,000 a year.

Nationally, the percentage of female to male coaches is even lower. NCAA records show that only 18 percent of the nation's head coaches are women.

Sports Illustrated recently reported that since 1972 the number of women coaching women's sports has dropped from 90 to 48 percent, and more than 30 percent of the women's athletic programs have no female administrators.

There is only one woman in Division I who coaches a men's varsity team.

Higginbottom, who played a year in the ill-fated women's basketball league with the Nebraska Wranglers, believes the league will make a comeback.

But Lyra Vance, former Gator volleyball star, who played volleyball for the New York Liberties during the 1987-88 season, says the real world of professional sports was tough.

"There's not enough support from the crowds, financially, to make it work. And there's a lot of politics involved."

Vance traveled with the team during its four-month, 40-match season. At 22, she was the youngest member on a team where the average age was 33.

Living conditions matched the players' salaries. The starting players make between \$5,000-\$6,000 for the season.

"The organization just wasn't there," Vance said. "I guess it's tough in women's sports. They need a lot of money to do it right."

"I didn't know what going to the pros was all about," she said. "It's not all it's cut out to be."

"I feel that as we're teaching these young ladies, there are going to be openings for them," said Isabella Hutchison, Indiana U. associate athletic director and director of women's athletics.

"You just can't get this attitude that it's a male world, I'm not going to have the

"And maybe you can't be in Division I right off. You need to go to Division II or Division III schools to get your experience," Hutchison said.

But women are doing well in the private sector — in fitness and health club management, said James Brown, former

sports available increased, Brown said.

Women's sports were regulated from 1972 to 1982 by the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women.

Since the demise of the AIAW and the overseeing of women's athletics by the NCAA, many college men's and women's programs merged.

Although Howlett does not see a relationship between that and the decline of women administrators, Hutchison does.

"Under the AIAW, you had women athletic directors, and they ran the women's programs and had all the input in the rules and regulations of women's athletics," Hutchison said.

When it merged with the NCAA, women's voices were not heard for rules per se, because then the male athletic directors had the power, she said.

The NCAA's financial stability has helped women's athletics, while the AIAW was short of funds.

"You just can't get this attitude that it's a male world, I'm not going to have the chance. If you're quality, you're going to get that chance."

— Isabella Hutchison,
IU Director of Women's Athletics.

chance.

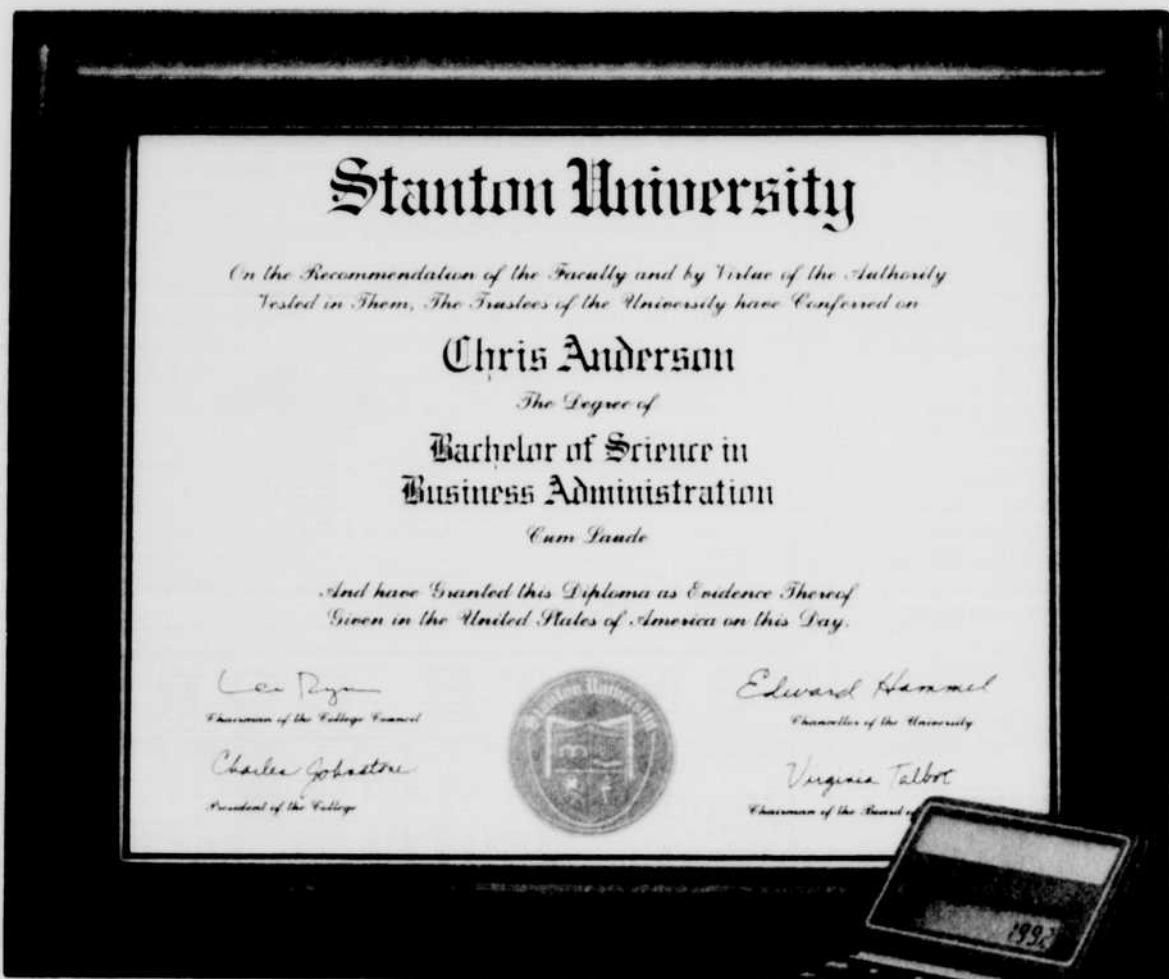
"If you're quality, you're going to get that chance," she said. "But you also have to come up the ranks."

"You just can't pop right out of playing basketball and expect to get a head coaching position."

IU gymnastics coach and associate professor of physical education. Brown teaches a class in interscholastic athletic programs.

After 1972, when Congress passed Title IX, which prohibited discrimination in education, the number of women's

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