

Title IX taking shape in California's colleges

California schools trying to find ways to work with gender equity

One of the most influential and controversial issues to affect college athletics over the past few years is Title IX, the federal law that mandates equal opportunity.

The so-called gender equity law is playing a major role in how collegiate athletic departments decide where to spend their money. Schools are being forced to consider not only the monetary concerns of the department, but also the equality of these concerns.

Oregon is currently in the planning stages of how it will deal with the issue of gender equity in the future. Last year the University said it was considering the addition of a women's athletic team in the future to try and even out the number of athletic scholarships given to men and women.

This same type of debate is going on in schools all over the nation and sparking debate on most college campuses. The issue of gender equity is currently heating up at one California school, while others recently addressed the issue head-on.

At USC, the case of Marianne Stanley has the eyes of the nation watching. Stanley was the successful women's head basketball coach for the Trojans for the past four seasons until this summer, when she was unable to agree on a new contract.

Stanley had compiled a 63-43 record at USC and has taken her teams to the NCAA tournament in two of her last three seasons. Before coming to USC,

Stanley coached at Old Dominion, where she built a dynasty in the late 1970s and early 1980s, leading the Lady Monarchs to three national championships and an NIT title.

Exact details of how the contract negotiations went are unclear, but it appears that Stanley and the Trojans were only about \$15,000 apart over a three-year period. In April, USC athletic director Mike Garrett reportedly offered Stanley a three-year deal that started at \$80,000 and increased by \$10,000 each year. In addition, Stanley would continue to receive a \$6,000 housing allowance and her assistant coach Barbara Thaxton would receive a pay raise as well.

Stanley wanted a three-year deal that would end with her being paid almost the same amount as USC men's head coach George Raveling, about \$110,000. The first two years differed from USC's offer by \$2,000 in the first year and \$6,000 in the second year.

When the two sides could not come to an agreement, USC apparently offered Stanley a one-year deal for \$96,000, which included a clause that said Stanley would not sue the school. However, once again, the two sides could not come to an agreement.

Finally, in August, Stanley was dismissed as head coach at USC and replaced by former Trojan All-American Cheryl Miller. Stanley responded by filing a federal sex-discrimination suit against Garrett and the school itself.

This case will probably be tied up in the courts for a long time, as the initial decision will almost certainly be challenged in the appellate courts. The issue has caught the attention of the sports world and will continue to do so as schools try to find ways to make their



Former USC women's basketball coach Marianne Stanley (center) is pictured with the Trojan's 1992-93 senior class, Stanley's final group at USC.

men's and women's departments equal.

Other universities in California recently made progress toward reaching gender equity when the California State University system and the National Organization for Women made an agreement last week.

CSUS and NOW reached a settlement that is designed to open up more opportunities for female athletes in the state university system. This plan is not going to directly split men's and women's athletic scholarships 50-50, but instead assures the number available for women will be close to equal with the number of women on campus.

This agreement followed a lawsuit

filed by NOW against the state schools system, claiming CSUS was in violation of the California Education Code and the Equal Protection Provision of the California Constitution. The suit was filed after it was noted that more than one-half of CSUS students are women, but only 30 percent of student-athletes were women.

USC is an independent, private school, and as such is not affiliated with the CSUS system. Thus these two decisions are not interrelated, but it is interesting to notice the differences within one state.

— Steve Mims

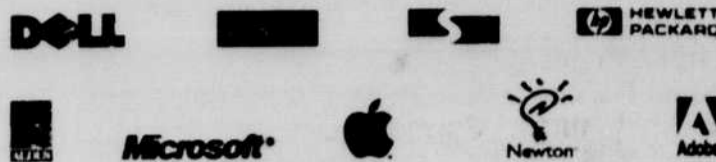
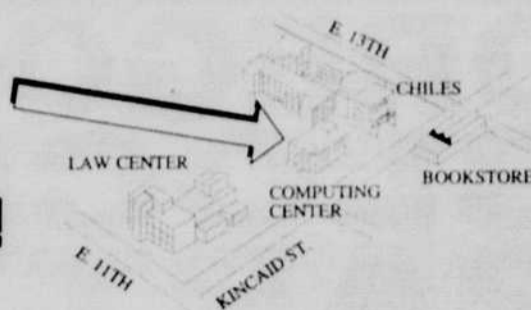
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