

# Judge: Sports discriminatory

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Brown University discriminates against female athletes because far fewer women than men participate in college sports, a judge ruled Wednesday in a decision that could force schools nationwide to revamp athletic programs.

U.S. District Judge Raymond Pettine gave Brown 120 days to come up with a plan to comply with Title IX, the 1972 federal law prohibiting sex discrimination at schools that receive federal money.

Pettine's ruling came in a 1992 lawsuit filed by female athletes at the Ivy League school, who claimed Brown had violated the Title IX requirement that schools offer equal athletic opportunities to men and women.

"At Brown, far more male athletes are being supported at the university-funded varsity level than are female athletes, and thus, women receive less benefits from their intercollegiate varsity program as a whole than do men," Pettine ruled.

University officials said they will appeal. "This is a major victory for women across the country," said Lynette Labinger, lead attorney for the female athletes.

"This ruling should serve as a wake-up call to universities around the country that they better start complying with the law or face a court order to do so."

During the trial last December, Brown lawyer Walter Connolly had warned that if the school lost, universities across the country would be forced to cut men's athletic teams.

In his ruling, Pettine said that was not necessarily so because there are several ways for a school to meet Title IX.

"It may eliminate the athletic program altogether, it may elevate or create the requisite number

of women's positions, it may demote or eliminate the requisite number of men's positions or it may implement a combination of these remedies," Pettine wrote.

Title IX requires a school to have a "substantially proportionate" ratio of female to male athletes; expand its athletics to meet women's interests and abilities; and maintain a program that "fully and effectively" meets the interest and abilities of female students.

Brown offers an equal number of men's and women's sports — 16 — but many more men than women participate. One reason is that some teams are larger than others; the Brown football team, for example, has 126 slots for athletes while the largest women's team has only 50.

The judge noted that during the 1993-94 academic year, there were 555 male athletes and 342 female athletes. The percentage of female athletes was 38 percent that year, while women accounted for 51 percent of the campus population.

"The gender balance of Brown's intercollegiate athletic program is far from substantially proportionate to its student enrollment," Pettine said.

After Title IX took effect, Brown, like other schools, made efforts to boost athletic opportunities for women.

In 1991, during a round of university-wide budget cuts, Brown eliminated funding for the women's volleyball and gymnastics teams. Funding for the men's golf and water polo teams also was cut.

After the women sued, Pettine issued an injunction in 1992 ordering the school to restore funding for the two women's teams.

Three days into the trial, the two sides announced a partial settlement of the part of the suit claiming male athletes at Brown get preferential treatment.

# Sam Donaldson fires ranch hand

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Ranch hand Gilbert Salas has a bad back and a seventh-grade education. He's living in a converted storage shed, getting by on food stamps and his wife's \$5-an-hour part-time job at a butane company.

The last thing he needs is a debate with ABC-TV newsman Sam Donaldson.

"He's too good a talker for me to talk against. He leaves presidents speechless," Salas said in Spanish during an interview Wednesday from his home in Hondo, a village in rural south-central New Mexico.

The 53-year-old Salas believes he's been wronged by Donaldson, who fired him in July from his job on the newsman's 11,000-acre ranch, where he raises cattle, sheep and mohair goats.

Salas, who has no health insurance, said Donaldson paid some of his medical bills when he hurt his back throwing tires onto a pickup truck, then fired him when he presented a doctor's note saying he could do only light work.

"He told me I couldn't do the work anymore. I told him I was still under a doctor's care," Salas said. "He told me, 'I can't pay your doctor bills for the rest of your life.'"

Donaldson said it's unfair to

paint him as a "hard-hearted" rancher, because his employees get better pay and have better working conditions than most ranch workers.

"I pay far above the minimum wage, and everyone is offered health insurance," Donaldson said.

Donaldson said Salas, who worked at the ranch for 27 years,

injured his back working for the previous owner, Pat Joyce. Donaldson purchased the ranch in January 1992.

"He wore a back brace from the moment I met him," Donaldson said. "Gilbert was clearly in pain a lot of the time. I am sorry about that. All I can tell you is he had the bad back when we hired him."

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# New kit allows parents to detect kids' drug use

NEW PROVIDENCE, N.J. (AP) — Parents can check their children's rooms and belongings for drugs with a \$20 kit that will provide them with confidential results.

Called DrugAlert, the kit can detect trace amounts of up to 30 illicit substances, including marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, LSD and PCP, according to its maker, Barringer Technologies Inc. of New Providence, near Newark.

The kit contains a moist pad that can be wiped across clothing, books or furniture to pick up drug residue. The pad can be mailed back to the manufacturer for laboratory analysis.

"Anyone who has been in contact with illegal narcotics will inadvertently acquire trace amounts of the narcotic," Stan Binder, Barringer's chairman and chief executive, said Wednesday.

"For instance, a cocaine user will have traces on his hands and clothing. These traces will find their way to his car, his school locker and objects in his room."

But Binder cautioned that a positive test result does not necessarily indicate a child is a drug user. Traces could be left by another person or picked up through innocent contact.

If Barringer detects drugs it mails the information back to the parent with advice on what to do. Parents can also get the results by phone, with-

out revealing their names, by using a confidential code number.

The testing process destroys the sample, so there is no way it could be used as evidence in court, Binder said.

DrugAlert was introduced this week by Barringer, which helps police and the FBI test for illegal narcotics and bombs. It is being sold by mail.

One medical expert said Wednesday the device might be beneficial, but a civil liberties lawyer said he's concerned that corporations could use the kit to spy on their workers.

Dr. Larry DeMilio, of the Carrier Clinic in Bellemead, a psychiatric facility, acknowledged that some people might feel that such devices could poison parent-child relations. But he said that if a child is using drugs, that indicates there already is trouble in the relationship.

The bigger problem is parents ignoring signs of drug use, said DeMilio, medical director for child and adolescent services at the Carrier Clinic.

"On balance, it's not a bad thing," he said. "If it's a choice between doing nothing and doing this, I would much prefer seeing parents do this."

Bruce Marvin, staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey, said he's worried that employers could buy the device to conduct secret drug tests on their workers.

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