

Sports influence U.S. life



Fifty-four percent of U.S. sports fans say fights between players, where there is no injury, lessen their enjoyment of the game.

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similar levels of interest in sports are happier together, according to John Crothers, Pollock, Ph.D., senior editor of the report and president of Research & Forecasts, Inc. "Although most Americans (57 percent) believe sports have no impact on family life, those with shared high levels of interest believe sports bring families closer together."

The report indicates a strong focus on children's physical activities, with the following conclusions:

- Three of four parents (75 percent) encourage children to participate in sports and engage in athletic activities with their children.

- More than nine of 10 parents (92 percent) believe competition is good for children because it teaches them to strive to do their best.

- More than eight of 10 (82 percent) agree that participation in sports by youth would greatly reduce crime.

Although support for children's activities is high, 86 percent of parents believe that organized sports for youth place too much emphasis on winning and not enough on physical and psychological development. More than 90 percent of the leadership group—coaches, sports doctors and journalists—expressed similar views.

Media coverage critiqued

More than a fourth (28 percent) of Americans believe there is too much sports coverage on television, although large majorities say women's events do not receive adequate coverage in newspapers and on television.

Three of five (60 percent) of Am-

Equal opportunities in sports

Women and blacks have realized advances in the sports world, according to the report, but for both there appear to be inequities. Two of three Americans (66 percent) believe sports offer more opportunities for blacks than are available in other fields, but 36 percent feel black youths spend too much time on sports.

Are sports free of racism? Most respondents (52 percent) say not, but 51 percent of those ages 14 and older believe whites, blacks and other minorities participating together on sports teams helps integration and reduces tension in other areas of life. Equal numbers of blacks, whites, men and women express this view.

Signs of improving equality in sports include findings that:

- Most Americans believe boys (95 percent) and girls (86 percent) should participate in sports.

- Almost nine of 10 (86 percent) say they would be happy if their daughters became professional athletes.

- Two of three respondents (both sexes) say they are equally interested in men's and women's competition.

Successful season for OSU

The 1982-83 season was the most successful in the history of women's basketball at Oregon State University, but coach Aki Hill is spending little time basking in the limelight.

Hill and her assistant coaches are busy recruiting as the April 13 letter-of-intent day draws ever nearer.

OSU finished the season at 24-6, the most victories ever for a Beaver team in women's basketball. Hill led the Beavers to the Northern Pacific Athletic Conference championship in the league's inaugural year, then guided OSU past UCLA in the first round of the NCAA playoffs. It was Oregon State's first victory ever at nationals, though OSU has a pair of National Women's Invitational Tournament championships. Long Beach State put an end to the OSU season with a 97-72 win over the Beavers in the West Regionals at Pauley Pavilion on the UCLA campus.

"I think we did just right," Hill reflected. "That was our target, to win the league championship and play in one or two national games. That was what we wanted. The general character of the Beavers is that we were team-oriented. We didn't have great depth from the bench."

Hill said her team did not play

particularly well in the NorPac championship game, but she could sense a feeling before OSU's first NCAA playoff game against UCLA.

"In that first national game, the team had real motivation—you could see it," Hill said. "That is what made me most happy, because I knew then that they didn't need me anymore, and they even left me at the motel! It makes me feel good, though, when the team reaches that certain level."

One team on a different level was Long Beach State. OSU could find no answer for 49er superstar LaTaunya Pollard, who poured in 33 points in the Beavers' final game. The 49ers simply had too much quickness overall for OSU, which got a fine performance from Judy Spoelstra, who had a season-high 26 points on 12 of 17 from the field.

Hill now faces the task of replacing Spoelstra, Robyn Clark and Jan Martin, all of whom have completed their eligibility. It will be a major rebuilding job—Martin at center, and Clark and Spoelstra at forwards, combined for more than half of the Beavers' points and rebounds this year.

"Our recruiting priority is defin-

itely in the front line," Hill said. "This will be a survival year for us. We also need quickness. All of the top teams—UCLA, Texas—are switching from a power game to quickness. Strength is still respected, but quickness has become more important. And we are falling behind."

Raveling leaves WSU staff

George Raveling, Pac-10 coach of the year, has announced that he will leave Washington State to accept the head coach position at the University of Iowa.

In his 11 years at WSU, Raveling has won 167 and lost 136, taking teams to NCAA tournaments twice.

This year's team had a 14-4 record for a second place win, one game behind UCLA. They lost to Virginia in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Raveling replaces Lute Olson, who moved to the University of Arizona. Raveling's salary is reported to be approximately \$200,000 a year for five years.

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The first television broadcasts were made in England in 1927 and in the U.S. in 1930, but regular broadcasting did not begin until 1939 in New York City.

Cats are unable to taste sweet food.

The 15th century Inca system of relay runners moved messages across their South American empire at a rate of 150 miles a day.

The English of the 15th to 17th centuries believed that the color red was helpful to the sick. Patients were dressed in red nightgowns and surrounded with red objects.

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