## Sports influence U.S. life



Fifty-four percent of U.S. sports fans say fights between players,

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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 conclusion

•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 sical an psychological development. tors and journalists-expressed sim-

where there is no injury, lessen their enjoyment of the game. ericans say violence is a serious problem in sports today, and 75 percent feel it is harmful to children. Conversely, 14 percent admit that they enjoy watching fights among players. The issue of drugs in sports drew strong response. Many of those surveyed would prefer stiff penalties for regular users of hard

> suspensions for violators. A majority (76 percent) believes professional athletes are overpaid, yet almost half (48 percent) say athletes should be allowed to strike.

drugs. Two of five recommended re-

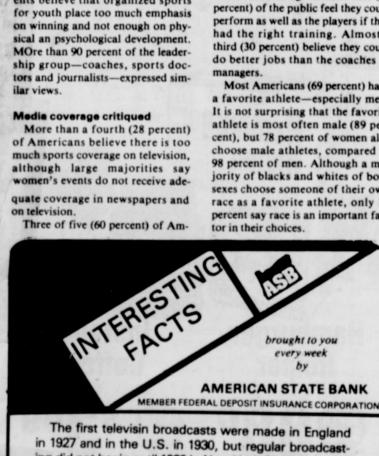
moval from a team of full-season

## Daydreaming is common

Sports influence is pervasive, according to findings in the Lite Sports Report. One of three (34 percent) persons daydreams about athletic success, and one in five (22 percent) would choose to be a professional athlete rather than a famous movie star, internationally known scientist or statesman.

Watching sports also generates some fantasizing. Almost half (45 percent) of the public feel they could perform as well as the players if they had the right training. Almost a third (30 percent) believe they could do better jobs than the coaches or managers.

Most Americans (69 percent) have a favorite athlete-especially men. It is not surprising that the favorite athlete is most often male (89 percent), but 78 percent of women also choose male athletes, compared to 98 percent of men. Although a majority of blacks and whites of both sexes choose someone of their own race as a favorite athlete, only 10 percent say race is an important fac-



ing did not begin until 1939 in New York City.

Cats are unable to taste sweet food.

of 150 miles a day.

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 opportun-

Equal opportunities in sports

ities 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 ath-

•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 letterof-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 cam-

"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

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

"Our recruiting priority is defin-

particularly well in the NorPac 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 be-

## 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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