

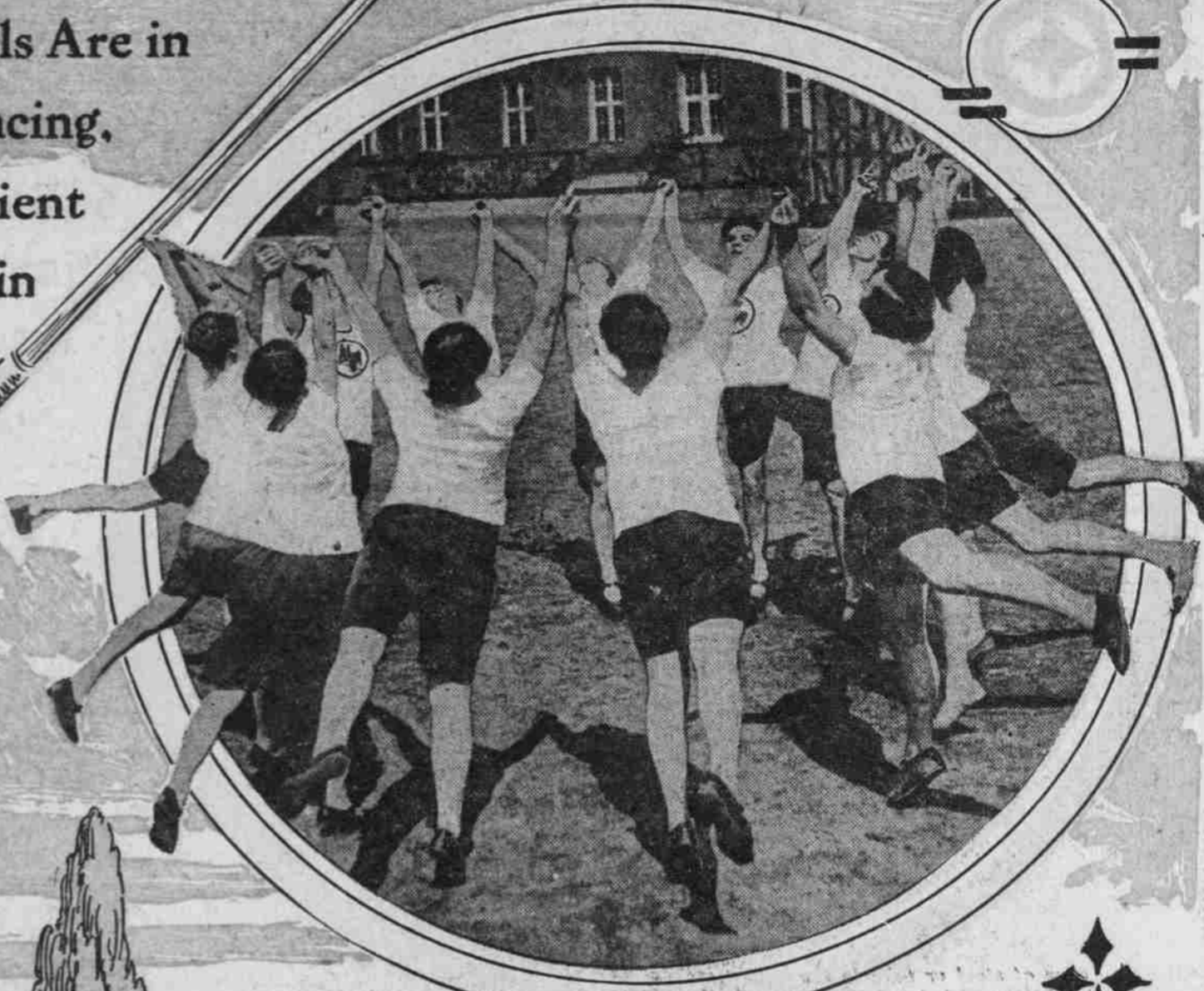
"The Modern Girl Has Gone Mad Over Athletics

Catherine Davis, a Scranton (Pa.) girl high jumper, clearing the bar in practice. She's also a crack baseball player.



In All the World the Story Is the Same, and Even Though Some Physical Trainers Say That It's Bad for Them, the Girls Are in for Track and Field Athletics, Fencing, Tug of War, and Even the Ancient and Exciting Sport of Javelin Throwing

Germany is training an army of women athletes. The picture shows Berlin high school girls preparing with folk dancing for the big athletic meet at Spandau.



This graceful poise of Miss Katherine Agar of Chicago, record holder for two-handed javelin throw, suggests a reason why she's champion.



Maybelle Gilliland of Leonia, N. J., has been chosen to represent America on the track team at the international athletic meet for women next week at Pershing stadium, Paris.

IN LESS than 50 years the girl who swooned at the sight of blood has been replaced by the girl who drives her own car, rides her own horse and hoos her own row. The gentle woman no longer goes in for attacks of "the vapors"; she no longer holds all forms of physical activity unmanly. The reverse is true with a vengeance. Dr. Frederick A. Woll, head of physical training at the College of the City of New York, said recently that the modern girl had gone mad over athletics. This, he regarded as not altogether an unmixed blessing. For while it was excellent, for the women and for the race, that girls should be paying so much attention to the development of their bodies, he didn't believe that the more violent forms of athletics would ever do women any good. But whether for good or for evil, the modern girl is certainly a partisan of the strenuous life. Proof of this may be found by glancing at any sporting page. It is further evident in the fact that the

biggest athletic event of 1922 will be a purely woman's affair. This event—the first international track meet for women—will be held in Pershing stadium at Paris next week. Women athletes from all over the world will compete and the United States will send a delegation, headed by Florida Batson of New York and New Orleans, that will be composed of representatives from every state. The date that marks this event will be important in history. Miss Batson, captain of the team, has proportions that closely approach physical perfection. She is a Smith college girl, is blue-eyed, and just 20. The tape reveals her measurements as follows: Height, 5'4"; weight, 117 pounds; right arm bicep, 9 1/8"; left arm bicep, 12 3/8"; right arm bicep doubled, 11 1/8"; left arm bicep doubled, 10 3/8"; right forearm and left forearm, 5 3/8"; right and left wrist, 6 3/8"; neck, 12 3/8"; waist, 25"; hips, 34"; right and left thighs, 18"; knees, 13"; calf, 12 3/8"; ankles, 7 3/8". She says she got these proportions from systematic exercising. Preliminary events held all over the

United States served to emphasize the part played by athletics in the lives of modern women. Not only have a quantity of first rate women athletes been brought to the fore, but the number of women who go in for sports proved amazingly large. Nor is this interest in athletics confined to one part of the country. In the south, where the tradition of luxury and ease for women is strongest, quite as many sound athletes proportionate to the population were brought forth as in any other section. And it may be stated in this connection that Alexa Striling, the present Metropolitan golf champion of New York and former champion of America, was reared and learned all her golf in Georgia. Women entered athletics for the most part through swimming. Twenty years ago, when women were still supposed to scream at the sight of blood, swimming parties were social events almost entirely. Male swimmers would take their wives, sisters and sweethearts along to make up an appreciative audience. Occasionally one of the girls ventured into the water

to "learn swimming." But as the same girl would continue to learn swimming for three or four years, it was generally concluded that she—and all like her—were interested more in their instructors than in getting results. After a while, though, women began to take swimming seriously. The establishment of Y. W. C. A. buildings containing swimming pools did much to stimulate the love for swimming in women. For there they could go about the business of learning with a serious mind and without any men about to laugh at their appearance or lack of skill. American Swimming Supremacy. Meanwhile, of course, women were achieving a new athletic freedom in all occidental countries, with the result that at the last Olympic meet in Antwerp there was a gathering of water nymphs such as the world had never seen before. American supremacy was easily established and held. Such swimmers as Ethelda Bleibtrey, Helen Wainwright, Charlotte Boyle, Aileen Riggin, Alice Lord and many others represent perfec-

tion in physical development because of their swimming and have rolled up many brilliant records. Now women are crowding men in all departments of sport. Even such exclusively male games as football and baseball are opening up to women, while basketball became a girl's game a long time ago. The modern woman's keenness for sport has, in fact, led her into such highly specialized sports as fencing, boxing with the feet, javelin throwing, ski jumping and the like. According to experts, women should eventually become better fencers than men. Already one woman is threatening the supremacy of the male fencers in America. She is Miss Adeline Gehrig, a New York stenographer, who, in her leisure time, became champion woman fencer of the United States. When Miss Gehrig was a very young child she longed for activity and freedom, but her elders disapproved the idea. They didn't consider it good training for a young woman. But she climbed trees and ran races all the same and her friends and neighbors rebuked her by calling her a tomboy. When she grew up, though, she had a well-trained body and was not slow in taking her place high among the American women athletes. Her entry into fencing was accidental. She happened to be handling a foil in the presence of an instructor at the New York Fencing club. He came over and urged her to take instructions, saying that she seemed to know instinctively the correct movement of wrist and arm.

She took his advice and has been champion of America for the past two years. Recently Miss Gehrig won the title of all-round champion athlete in a meet held at Chicago. But it is not merely the specialist and the champion who is mad about athletics. It is true of the great majority of women in America and England and to a less extent in other European countries. Nor are they contented to stick to tennis and golf. Those who are not doing distance swimming are playing polo, basketball, handball or going for Marathon running and other track athletics. At a recent meet held at Brighton Beach, New York, for the purpose of making final selections for the team that will represent America in Paris, a number of hurdling and jumping records were established. Several New York athletic trainers who saw the meet declared that such finely developed women had never before been seen in history—even in the days of the old Greek gymnasium, when women took exercises along with the men. It has been suggested that the great improvement in records made by women athletes during the past few years is due to the gradual overthrow of traditional restraint ingrained by the inherent fear of being "unrefined," "unwomanly" or "like a tomboy." They have adopted the regulation clothes in every sport now. In England girls run at track meets in regulation running skirts and pants. Miss Dorothy Bough of Temple University, Philadelphia, uses that costume

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