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New attitudes

Fems gain rights in sports

WASHINGTON (AP)—The old joke was that women went to college to get their Mrs. — a degree in marriage.

No matter how untrue that line was then and is now, it did reflect the lack of opportunities women had on campuses to do things other than win bake-offs and husbands.

Title IX of the 1972 Education Act, which forbids discrimination "under any education program or activity receiving federal financial

assistance," has begun to change that.

It doesn't prevent women from finding husbands, nor men from finding wives, but it does make it illegal for any school which receives federal funds to deny women equal opportunities in athletics.

And women are making the most of those opportunities, which one official in the federal government calls "God-given, but not recognized by Congress until 1972."

The University of Pittsburgh, for example, has stopped playing games with women's athletics. Its women's sports program is one of the most aggressive in the country.

"We want to win," says Pitt's assistant athletic director Sandra Bullman. "We will do what has to be done to win. That is what we are here for."

One school that seems to be more than one step ahead of the law is UCLA. In men's basketball, UCLA is the standard of excellence.

With \$180,000 in its women's athletic coffers — three times as much as last year — and a prediction of \$500,000 by 1979, UCLA might become known as the UCLA of women's sports.

"They're trying. They're making a good-faith effort," says Miss Gregory.

And they've also come up teams just for women, a sort of temporary reverse discrimination to atone for past abuses.

"If a woman is already a superstar, she can try out for the men's teams," Miss Gregory says of the

plan called affirmative action. "But men can't try out for the women's teams."

"This is limited, though. It'll go on, not necessarily until women are up to par with the men, but at least until the women have received the training they have been precluded from in the past."

On the surface, one non-exclusive coed team seems fair; under the surface the water can be highly polluted.

"We don't want all men's teams open to women," says Joanne Thorpe, assistant athletic director at Southern Illinois.

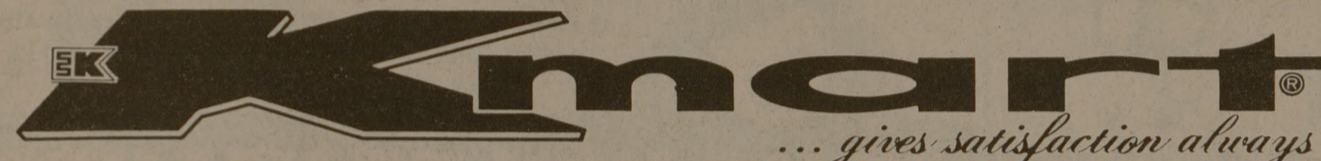
No matter what happens, Title IX will probably be the biggest thing to hit women's and men's sports since the invention of the whistle.

The hoped-for effect of Title IX is that there will eventually be little difference between men's and women's sports.



But maybe since the men's win-at-all-cost philosophy has rubbed off on some of the women, some of the women's values can catch up to the men.

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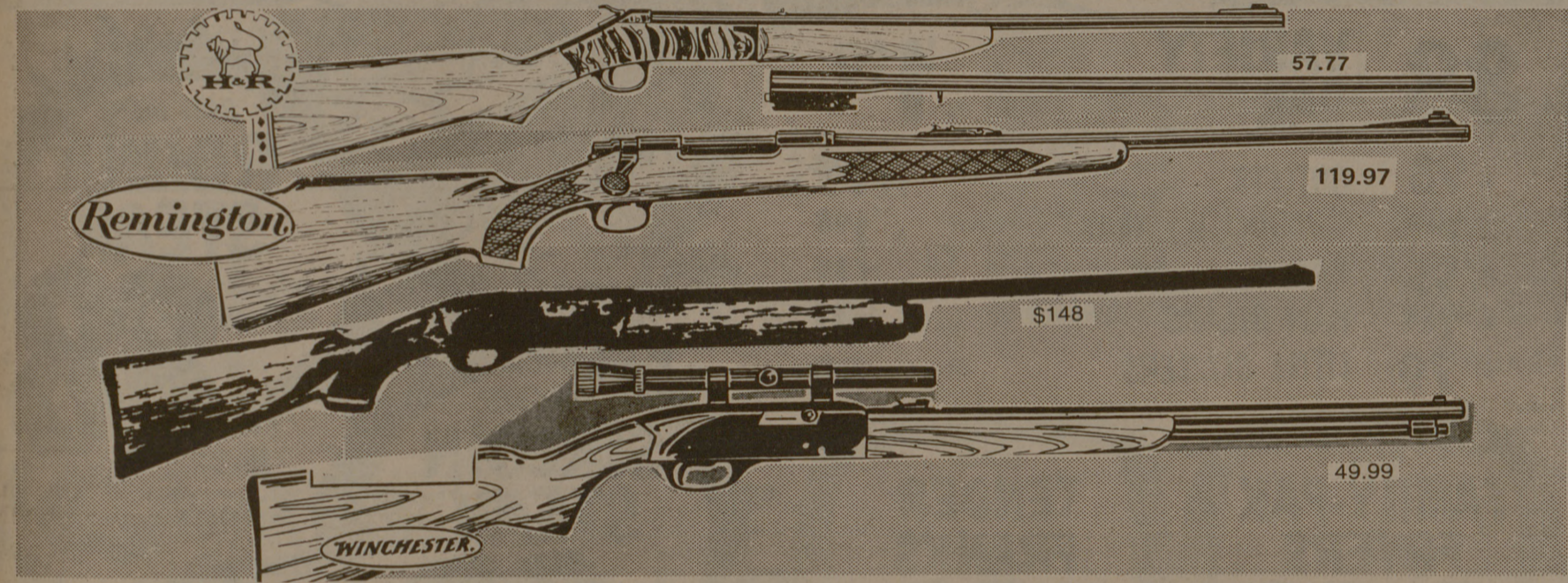


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