

Women's athletics making progress

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Sports Staff

The single factor that served as the catalyst for promoting women's athletics at Texas A&M was a government act known as Title IX. Published by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare in 1975, the rule deals with nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in a variety of different fields.

Concentrating on the athletic section in Title IX, the ruling states that a person cannot be excluded from participating in athletics because of their sex. Also, the rule says that equal opportunity in all areas of athletics and equal programs at the same competitive levels must be furnished by schools for both sexes.

But Title IX says nothing about equal funding in the areas of athletics for the sexes. And that is one area that schools with women's athletic programs are vastly different.

One of the causes for the differences between university programs stems directly from HEW's passage of Title IX. Though HEW designated a set of rules and regulations

a set of guidelines to follow in carrying out their rulings.

"Without their (HEW's) guidance we're not too clear on Title IX," said Kay Don, assistant athletic director and head of women's athletics at Texas A&M. "We don't know if what we're doing so far is right or not. Right now, all we can do is hope that we're moving in the right direction."

The direction that Don is trying to move the women's program is in anticipation of HEW's future guidelines concerning Title IX.

But Don isn't alone in her struggle to upgrade women's athletic programs at the university level. Dr. Donna Lopiano at the University of Texas at Austin and Jeanine McHaney at Texas Tech University, the two women's athletic directors at the other two largest state supported schools, have the same struggle and headaches that Don has at Texas A&M.

The most important ingredient need for running an athletic program is money. In this category, Texas is by far the most prosperous of the three schools.

Texas' women's athletic program is operating on a budget of \$421,674 for the 1977-78 year. Included in the figure are the wages paid to coaches and athletic personnel (managers, trainers), salaries for office personnel, scholarship money and expenses needed for running the six women's sports at Texas.

Texas fields teams in basketball, volleyball, swimming and diving, track and cross country, tennis and golf.

In comparison, Tech also fields teams in the same six sports and has

"Without guidance we're not too clear on Title IX."

relatively the same expenses that Texas does, but Tech is operating on a budget of \$247,000 this year.

Texas A&M stands in the middle of the three schools with their budget. With the same expenses, Texas A&M operates its women's program on a budget of \$300,000. Average in comparison to the other two schools, but Texas A&M fields teams in eight sports. The Aggies support a gymnastics team and a softball team along with their other six teams.

One area that Texas is putting their money towards that Texas Tech and Texas A&M aren't is in the form of higher coaches salaries. Texas' highest paid coach is earning \$20,240 a year coaching volleyball. In comparison, Texas A&M's highest paid coach earns \$10,000 a year coaching basketball while out at Tech, the basketball coach is the highest paid, earning \$16,000 a

year. Texas' lowest paid coach earns \$14,000 a year coaching swimming.

So how can Texas afford to give its women's program thousands of dollars more than Texas A&M or Tech gives theirs? There is more money being donated to their program from the university.

The biggest chunk of money Texas receives for its women's program comes from the Texas students. The women received \$160,000 this year from the students.

Texas developed a system whereby a student buys an athletic ticket (student service fee) at the beginning of the year that entitles the student to attend athletic events throughout that year. Eight dollars of the fee went to the women's sports. Last year the women only received four dollars out of the student service fees, but that figure was doubled this year in an attempt to upgrade the women's programs.

The Texas women's athletic program also received \$150,000 from the men's athletic program this year. The remainder of the money in their budget came from a special fund in the president's office at the university. That figure amounted to approximately \$110,000 this year.

Texas Tech has a little different system for allocating its funds to its women's program. As at Texas, Tech's largest source for funds also comes from its students. Out of the student service fees this year,

the women's program received \$125,000.

But that figure was a disappointment according to McHaney. Last year's women's athletics received \$155,000 from the student service fees, but the athletic board cut back on the amount of money delegated to the women's athletics.

Tech's women also received approximately \$90,000 from administrative sources and \$28,000 from the Red Raider Booster Club.

At Texas and Texas Tech the women are a separate athletic department from the men. Not so at Texas A&M where the two departments are unified under a single athletic director, Emory Bellard.

Instead of receiving money from a number of separate sources, Texas A&M's women work hand-in-hand with men's athletics.

Each coach of the eight women's sports at Texas A&M submits a budget proposal to Athletic Director Kay Don. Don, in turn, combines

the athletic council for approval.

All of Texas A&M's money in the athletic budget comes from athletic revenue and private donations. Since women's sports don't generate any income for itself, the women

rode the coattails of men's athletics to the tune of \$300,000 this year.

(Tomorrow, a look at the comparison between the men's and women's athletic programs at the three schools.)

Equal programs at the same competitive levels must be furnished

to follow regarding men and women's athletics, they haven't written

It's time to build a new coliseum

By STEVE LEE

The University of Houston has the Hofheinz Pavilion. The University of Texas has the newly-opened Super Drum. Texas A&M University has G. Rollie White Coliseum.

About the only thing these three structures have in common is that part of college basketball is played in each.

This may seem a harsh comparison to make. But G. Rollie White Coliseum is 24 years old and of conventional structure while the other two coliseums are modern and the latest.

Coliseums such as Hofheinz Pavilion and the Super Drum are more the exception than the rule among college facilities.

But Texas A&M has undergone considerable growth in 24 years. Also, the Aggies won the Southwest Conference championship in basketball two years ago. In light of this, are there any plans for a major complex to replace Jolly Rollie?

The answer is negative, mostly.

There has been some talk of a new coliseum project among University officials for the last four or five years.

Dr. Carl Landiss, head of the Department of Health and Physical Education, said there is a "long-range site study for a new coliseum of about 18,000 capacity" to be built near the new baseball park. However, there are no specific plans for a new coliseum now.

"I would speculate that the building of a new coliseum is simply not a top priority to the University now," said Wally Groff, assistant athletic director for business affairs.

"When A&M won the championship, talk cropped up among officials after students consistently filled the coliseum for each game," Groff said. He added, however, that "this talk has since faded out."

Groff suggested that interest waned in a coliseum project because of "no apparent demand" for a new coliseum. He said attendance is the best indicator of demand.

"The coliseum is adequate but not the most desirable. As long as we're not filling it for basketball, I'd have to say it's adequate," Groff said. "But a coliseum with a larger seating capacity would be more desirable."

The seating capacity of G. Rollie

White Coliseum is about 7,200, including 1,743 reserved seats.

"The only game that filled the coliseum completely this last season was the Texas game," said Spec Gammon, sports information director.

Groff also said that funding a new coliseum is a problem.

"There is no way any university athletic department can finance a new coliseum," said Groff.

At the University of Texas, the athletic department does not own the Super Drum. The UT athletic department rents the coliseum from the university for each home basketball game.

The situation is similar at A&M. The athletic department does not own G. Rollie White Coliseum. It is owned by the university and given to the health and physical education department for instruction purposes. Construction projects are university decisions.

Groff said funding would be a problem even if the university approved construction of a new coliseum, because of the scope of such a project. Also involved would be

the question of priorities.

But if the University is willing to build a new baseball park, why wouldn't the building of a new coliseum also have high priority?

The answer given to this comes in the form of a comparison.

According to Groff, the new baseball facility is a necessity. Compared to other SWC schools, the old field was outdated and the seating inadequate.

Groff holds that G. Rollie White Coliseum is actually as good or better than some of the other facilities in the SWC.

"At TCU and SMU, for example, the coliseums may be nicer but not bigger than G. Rollie," Groff said. "And at Baylor, the seating capacity is adequate, but the area around the

basketball court is dirt and the stands are a good distance away."

Groff added that the capacity of the University of Arkansas Barnhill Fieldhouse is comparable to G. Rollie White's.

It is evident that coliseum capacity is the crucial question.

But the present coliseum also is used for Town Hall events, commencement exercises, and other activities.

And more than one ceremony is necessary to complete graduation, because of the limited capacity.

Under these circumstances, Groff said, "there would be justification for a new facility."

Foyt favored in Coors 200

A. J. Foyt will be making his 260th start in a Championship (Indy type) car on Saturday, April 15, at Texas World Speedway in the COORS 200. He will be trying to win his 60th such race. He won his 59th at Mosport, Canada, last summer and his 58th last May when he became the first driver ever to win the Indianapolis 500 for the fourth time.

During his career, he has amassed more than 40,000 United States Auto Club points and six National Championships. By comparison, no other driver has amassed 30,000 points nor won more than 33 races. Only one other driver, Roger McCluskey, has driven in more than 200 races.

It won't be easy for Foyt to get his 60th win. The competition is extremely tough this year. Johncock, Sneva, Andretti, Rutherford and Ongais are all running very well, and Foyt says that Dick Simon has his operation running well this year and so does Spike Gehlhausen, and Larry Dickson, the former Spring

Car Champion, is also running well. The Speedway record is 214.158 mph set by Mario Andretti in 1973 and still stands as the world record. When it comes to records, Foyt has almost all of them. He expects Andretti's record to be broken.

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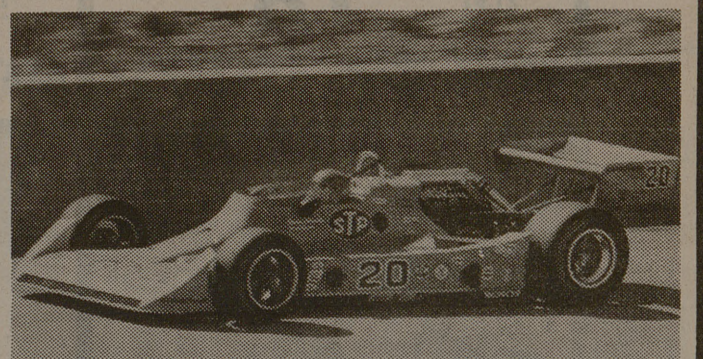
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