

# AIAW to face new life inside world of NCAA

*Editor's note: This is the second two-part series on the trials and tribulations of the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics.*

Women, which after June 30 no longer be the major organization for women's college athletics.

by Frank L. Christlieb  
Sports Editor

During its 11 years of existence, the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women discovered that the male-dominated college sports scene didn't stray much from tradition. College athletics still wear the traditional fabric of their male counterparts, although the heads have grown a bit thin as a result of the past few years' changes.

At any rate, Texas A&M's women's athletic program will be under NCAA rules and regulations next year. And Assistant Athletic Director Kay Don said that, as with any change, there will be adjustments to make.

On the part of the AIAW, however, after spending those years contributing to the unwavering growth of women's athletics, the AIAW retains only a faint breath of life.

As of June 31, the AIAW will not be a force in college women's athletics. In fact, the organization won't even exist.

Although AIAW institutions

will become members of either the National Collegiate Athletic Association or the smaller National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, its actions will certainly be remembered as precedent-setters in the world of college women's athletics.

Kay Don, Texas A&M assistant athletic director for women, has had a chance to witness the struggle of the AIAW since its creation in 1971. As the Region IV representative to the AIAW Executive Board, Don has been involved in the AIAW's buildup into a 700-member organization.

Region IV includes schools in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Don said that after AIAW officials realized last year that the NCAA "was running them out of business," they decided that measures had to be taken to reassert the position of the AIAW.

"The AIAW lawyers investigated the possibility of a lawsuit and tried to determine on what grounds to file the suit," Don said. "In September, the AIAW filed suit against the NCAA, based on the Sherman Antitrust Act, claiming that (the NCAA) was monopolizing and that it was using its political and money power to run another organization out of business."

At the same time, the AIAW asked for a preliminary injunction to stop NCAA championships for women for 1981-82, or until such time as the lawsuit could be decided.

But the injunction was denied, and after another injunction was turned down in February, the AIAW submitted an appeal. The Executive Board voted to withdraw the appeal March 3, and a federal judge directed that efforts be made by the AIAW and the NCAA to cre-

ate a merger between the two organizations.

The lawsuit, however, remains unheard by a federal district court.

The judge then instructed the AIAW to send a merger proposal to the NCAA by April 3, after which the NCAA was to reply within 15 days. Don said she

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doesn't know the contents of the NCAA's reply to the proposal, but expects to find out this week or next week.

So although the AIAW had not reached a final decision to dissolve, its members began to plan their exits from the organization. The dissolution would bring about a transfer into the NCAA for many women's athletic programs which had competed in the AIAW.

Don said that all AIAW recruiting rules were to be lifted during the dissolution process. "This meant basically that we would have no recruiting rules as of March 1," she said.

But the NCAA had other plans. "The NCAA knew this was

going to happen, so they sent out a letter to member institutions stating that if any of us did not continue following AIAW rules that we were under as of Feb. 28, we would be subject to sanction in 1982-83," Don said. "So that kept everybody using the rules that they were under at the time, even though the AIAW had lifted the rules."

The AIAW Executive Board then met early this month to decide what steps the organization had to go take to bring about the dissolution. Officials made plans for a special delegate assembly June 7, at which the final decision will be made.

"So as of June 30," Don said, "the AIAW will be dissolved. At that point, the executive committee, which is composed of the past president, the president

and the president elect, will become the executive board, in order to continue any of the corporate matters — we're actually a corporation. There will probably be some bills still out and some housekeeping that you have to continue with."

The law firm representing the AIAW says it will not drop the lawsuit, even though the AIAW will not be paying for the firm's services.

"The AIAW's law firm has indicated that it will continue the lawsuit through whatever stage they felt that financially they could continue to handle it," Don said. "That means that the AIAW will no longer provide money for that service. They feel like they can carry it through the initial lawsuit, which they feel will probably be

heard in August or September. "They don't know if they can financially handle an appeal or anything, but they feel that they can at least go through the initial lawsuit just to see what exactly would happen."

At any rate, Texas A&M's women's athletic program will

be under NCAA rules and regulations next year. And Don said that, as with any change, there will be adjustments to make.

"Because we know we're going to be dealing with the NCAA rules as of August or September, even though that See AIAW page 15

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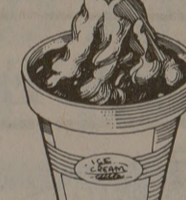


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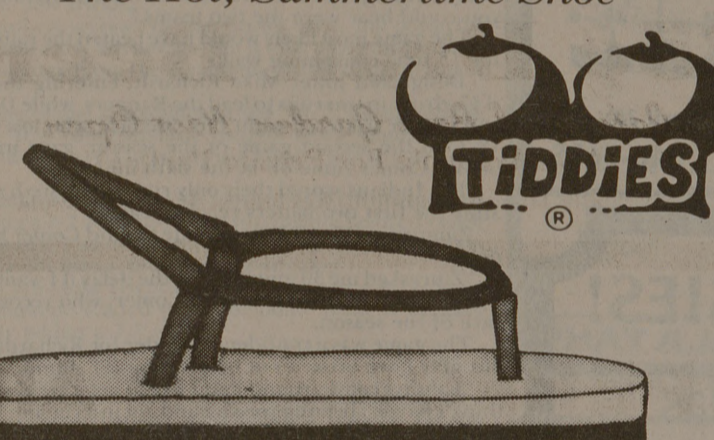
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