

WOMEN'S ATHLETICS - AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

Women's intercollegiate athletics was first organized on a national basis' in 1941, the year the first national collegiate championship was held in the sport of golf, organized by the Department of Physical Education for Women at The Ohio State University. The tournament was not held during World War II, but was resumed following the war and continued to be held as an annual event.

In 1956, the need to establish a method for assuring the continuation of the golf championship brought about the formation of the Tripartite Committee through appointments made by the National Association for Physical Education for College Women, the National Association for Girls and Women's Sport, and the American Federation of College Women. The Tripartite Committee urged the continuation of the national collegiate golf competition, and subsequently suggested the need for studying the problem of intercollegiate competition for college women in general. Upon the recommendation of the Tripartite Committee, the National Joint Committee on Extramural Sports for College Women (NJCESCW) was formed to attempt to guide and administer women's intercollegiate athletic programs

The Commission of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (CIAW) grew out of the NJCESCW in recognition of the need for expanding national championships and the desire to have governance of women's intercollegiate athletics under the auspices of one organization, the Division for Girls and Women's Sports (DGWS) operating under the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation.(AAHPER). The purposes of the CIAW were to provide a framework and organization pattern for the conduct of intercollegiate athletic opportunities for women and to sponsor national championships for college women under the guidance of the DGWS.

Formation of AIAW was approved by the DGWS Council and the AAHPER Board of Directors in 1971, but the CIAW continued to operate until July 1, 1972, at which time the AIAW officially came into existence. The AIAW developed from the CIAW in recognition of the need for institutional membership and elected representation. On June 1, 1979, AIAW assumed separate legal identity and became a nonprofit corporation in the District of Columbia.

While in existence, the AIAW organized and administered all competition at the regional and national levels. In 1981-82 the organization offered 41 national championships in 19 sports - badminton, basketball, crew, cross country, fencing, field hockey, golf, gymnastics, indoor track and field, lacrosse, skiing, soccer, softball (fast and slow pitch), swimming and diving, synchronized swimming, tennis, track and field, and volleyball. The AIAW ceased operation on June 30, 1983, after suffering substantial losses of members and revenue following the National Collegiate Athletics Association's (NCAA) decision to offer championships for women in its top competitive division, Division I. Women 5 championships have since been approved by the NCAA in Divisions II and III.

Immediately following the NCAA's decision to offer championship for women, AIAW filed a lawsuit against the NCAA charging that the latter's decision to offer championship for women violates antitrust laws and is an attempt to monopolize and control women's sports. In early March, Judge Thomas P. Jackson of the U.S. District Court of the District of Columbia ruled that the NCAA did not violate antitrust laws by setting up a program of women's championships, even though the move made the AIAW suspend operations. Currently, the Executive Committee of the AIAW has appealed Judge Jackson's decision and at this writing, the outcome of this appeal is set for November 1983.

While in existence, the AIAW recognized nine official organizations of regional governance. Southern Region II Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women was composed of schools in Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. The purposes of Southern Region II were:

- 1) To foster broad programs of women's intercollegiate athletics consistent with the educational aims and objectives of member schools, and in accordance with the philosophy and standards of the NAGWS and AIAW.
- 2) To provide opportunities for women's intercollegiate varsity competition at the regional level and to qualify teams for national competition.
- 3) To provide an avenue of communication between state organizations and AIAW.
- 4) To determine guidelines for regional tournaments.
- 5) To increase public understanding and appreciation of the importance and value of sports and athletics as they contribute to the enrichment of the life of the female athlete.
- 6) To conduct such other activities as shall be approved by the executive Board of Southern Region II.

The officers of Southern Region II which made up the Executive Board are: the Region II Representative, presidents of one state organizations of Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, region II Treasurer (past regional representative), Region II Ethics and Eligibility chairperson, Student Representative, and Region II Commissioner of Championships. The Regional Representative served as a voting member of the AIAW Executive Board. There were five regional representatives during the existence of Southern Region II of the AIAW:

- 1972-1975 Jan Watson, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, N.C
- 1975-1977 Mary Roland Griffin, Winthrop College, Rock Hill, S.C.
- 1977-1979 Barbara Smith, Longwood College, Longwood, VA
- 1979-1981 Becky Hudson, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY
- 1981-1983 Miriam Shelden, University of South Carolina, Spartanburg, S.C.

At the final AIAW Southern Region II Executive Board meeting on April 16, 1983, it was resolved that AIAW Southern Region II be dissolved effective June 30, 1983. This decision was reached after thorough discussion of recommendations from each state concerning Region II's future and disbursement of funds.*

*Information for this historical sketch comes from the 1981-82 AIAW Directory; the 1980-81 Southern Region II Handbook (found in Box 17 of the collection); two articles in the Chronicle of Higher Education, January 6, 1982 and March 10, 1982; and the minutes of the final meeting of Region II Executive Board, April 16, 1983 (found in Box 27 of the collection).

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