June 23, 2022

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SPORTS

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A Timeline of **Girls Sports in Waukesha County**

1970:WIAA holds ever state tournament for a girls sport (Swimming & Diving).

1971:WIAA holds first gymnastics state tournament.

WIAA holds first girls track and field state meet.

WIAA holds first girls tennis state tournament.

1972: TITLE IX IS OFFICIALLY SIGNED INTO LAW BY PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON.

WIAA holds first girls golf state tournament.

1973:WIAA holds first girls volleyball state tournament.

1974: Pewaukee becomes first area school to win a WIAA girls sports state title (girls volleyball)

1975: Laura Gordon Brookfield Central becomes first area WIAA girls individual tennis state champion.

WIAA holds first girls cross country state meet.

1976: Brookfield C e n t r a l becomes first area school to win WIAA gymnastics state title.

WIAA holds first girls basketball state tourna-

WIAA holds first softball state tournament.

1979: Menomonee Falls East becomes first area school to win WIAA softball

1983:Brookfield Central becomes first area school to win WIAA girls team tennis state title.

WIAA holds first girls soccer state tournament.

1985: Brookfield C e n t r a l becomes first area school to win WIAA girls basketball state title.

1987: Arrowhead becomes first area school to win WIAA girls swimming and diving state title.

1989:Brookfield East becomes first area school to win WIAA girls soccer state

1992:Waukesha becomes first area school to win WIAA girls cross country state title.

2000: Waukesha first area school to win WIAA girls track and field state title.

 $2002^{:\text{WIAA holds}}_{\text{first girls}}$ hockey state tournament.

2003:Brookfield becomes first area school to win WIAA girls golf state title.

2022. WIAA holds girls wrestling state tourna-

Marisa Roth of Brookfield Central becomes first area WIAA girls wrestling state champion.

"No person in the United States shall, based on sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

- Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972

Title IX turns 50

Former area girls sports participants reflect on 50 years of growth

By Michael Grennell mgrennell@conleynet.com 262-513-2667

On June 22, 1972, there weren't many options available for girls in Waukesha County who wanted to play sports.

It had only been two years prior that the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletics Association sponsored a state tournament for a girls sport for the first time in its history, as Madison Memorial became the first state champions in girls swimming and

The WIAA made some more changes the following year, as it sponsored for the first time gymnastics, girls track and field, and girls



Kettle Moraine's girls basketball team celebrates after winning the WIAA Division 1 state championship earlier this year. The Lasers win marked the seventh time a Waukesha County school won the state title since WIAA began sponsoring the girls basketball tournament in 1976.

tennis state tournaments.

girls sports throughout the state, but as of June 22, 1972, the options for girls who wanted to play sports were still very limited.

The next day would change all of — albeit with little fanfare at

For on July 23, 1972, President It was a sharp turn of events for Richard Nixon signed into law the Education Amendments of 1972. Among the various laws and codes within that legislation was one law that would come to be commonly the pen, President Nixon had known as Title IX. It decreed that opened the floodgates on what publicly-funded schools could not discriminate participation based on

What's Inside

Carroll University women's sports coaches discuss Title IX 2B

AP: In the midst of COVID-19 pandemic, athletic directors keep Title IX at the forefront while making decisions 4B

AP: Title IX has not only provided opportunities for women across the United States, but also around the world 4B

At the time, it was intended to provide protection on a wide range of matters. But what few realized at the time was that with a few strokes of

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TITLE IX: Oconomowoc Athletics

Title IX has brought new opportunities for girls

Ocon coaches talk about the lasting impact of law

By Mark Hutchinson mhutchinson@conleynet.com 262-513-2693

OCONOMOWOC - During the 1968-69 school year. Wisconsin Interscholas tic Athletic Association concrowned state champions in 15 sports.

Not one of those title teams consisted exclusively of girls.

Times began to change the following year, though, and on June 23, 1972, President IX of the Education Amending doors and removing bar- ever existed otherwise. riers that once prevented from participating in educational, athletic and career opportunities of choice.

since then.



ducted tournaments and Oconomowoc girls cross country coach Katy Hayes, second from left, is joined by members of the OHS 2018 graduating class at Rux Stadium.

has grown by 1,057%.

The impact of this comprehensive federal law over the past five decades has pro-Richard Nixon signed Title vided countless opportunities for millions of studentments of 1972 into law, open- athletes that may not have

The WIAA recognized people, on the basis of sex, state championship teams in 11 girls sports during the recently completed 2021-22 their campaign.

Two years prior to the pas-How far we have come sage of Title IX, the WIAA conducted its first girls tour-Since the passage of Title nament with the State Girls IX, female sports participa- Swimming & Diving Cham-

tion at the high school level pionships on Oct. 31, 1970, at Beloit High School.

During the 1970-71 school year, the WIAA conducted girls state tournaments for gymnastics and track and field. Tournament participation that year reached 4,312

Fast forward to 2020-21, and 60,637 girls, including multiple sport student-athletes, participated in 11 sports. A 12th sport was added in 2021-22 with the girls of sponsorship wrestling, which launched

See OCON, PAGE 3B

No shortage of success in girls sports over the years

Delsman looks back at some of the milestones from area schools

Think about all of the success the female athletes from Waukesha County have enjoyed the last 50 vears.

All kinds of teams and athletes have climbed to the top of the WIAA mountain, winning team or individual state championships. It's something they'll never forget, talking about them many years later with their families and friends at social gatherings, reunions, wedding receptions and in the bar when having a beer or two with former class-

mates and teammates. And there have been many great runs of championships by county teams and athletes. Arrowhead's girls swim team won five consecutive state championships from 2002 through 2006. In all, the AHS girls swim team has won 11 state championships tied for the county lead. Catholic Memorial's girls soccer program also has won 11 state crowns, winning six in a row from 2012 through 2017.

Right behind them are the Waukesha West girls cross country program, the



CHUCK DELSMAN

Catholic Memorial girls volleyball program and the Brookfield Central girls tennis program all with seven state championships. And the list is a long one behind them for schools that have won multiple state crowns.

The first county state championship came in 1974 when the Pewaukee girls volleyball team, coached by Joan Neuser, won the WIAA Division 2 state championship by downing Omro in the finals at Neenah in just the second year of the sport being sanctioned by the

Not only has there been a ton of team success, but also individual state championship winning performances. And the best example of that is in girls swimming where Arrowhead's

See **DELSMAN**, PAGE 2B

TITLE IX Q & A WITH AREA COACHES

Title IX: 'One of the most important and significant moments in our history'

Waukesha County girls sports coaches share their thoughts on impact

By Rob Reischel

Fifty years ago, approximately 294,000 girls nationwide played high

school sports. Today, roughly 3.4 million girls across the country play a high school

Not only is participation up 1,156% from where it was in 1972, more than 60% of girls today play at least one high school sport.

The strides have been remarkable, and most believe the No. 1 reason for the growth is Title IX.

On June 23, 1972 a landmark legislation was passed that read: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subiected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

That law — which bans discrimination on the basis of gender in educational institutions and programs that get federal funding — kicked off a history. Without it girls wouldn't have

As we celebrate the 50-year anniversary of Title IX, I asked a handful of female coaches across Waukesha County what the law has meant for their sports and the challenges that

What follows is an edited version of those interviews.

Mallory Liebl Brookfield Central girls basketball

Bio: Liebl graduated from Milwaukee Pius in 2005 and is one of the bright young coaching stars in the game today. Liebl took over the Lancers' program in 2014, has won 63.3% of her games and has led Central to four regional championships.

Q: In your opinion, how important was Title IX, and what has it meant for the growth of girls sports?

A: Title IX is one of the most important and significant moments in our surge in female sports across the near the amount of opportunities

they do in sports now, especially at the

The growth of girls' sports has had a domino effect, of sorts. Because of the opportunities girls have now in sports, it's opened the doors to so many important aspects in life. I firmly believe that sports are life's greatest teacher, and because of Title IX, girls are able to experience so many

life lessons through sports. Sports help girls become confident in themselves, learn how to work hard, how to set and attain goals, learn how to be a leader and communicate effectively, how to face and overcome adversity, how to handle disappointments. Everything needed to succeed in life and navigate life's challenges as adults in the real world can be taught through sports, and that is so invaluable to young females as they learn and grow in life especially now in today's society.

Q: How do girls sports today compare to girls sports when you were growing up? Overall, are they healthier?

A: When I was growing up, girls had a lot of opportunities to participate in sports, but over the years those opportunities have become

See **Q&A**, PAGE 3B



Freeman file photo

Brookfield Central senior Ainsleigh Gilson is challenged near the basket during a Greater Metro Conference girls basketball game earlier this year. Central head coach Mallory Liebl calls Title IX one of the most importand and significant moments in U.S. history.

TITLE IX: CARROLL UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S SPORTS

For Pioneers coaches, the impact is large and long-lasting

Carroll's Foster, Gradecki, Saal and Schultz weigh in on how Title IX changes lives

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girls or women's sports about the impact that Title IX has had over its 50 years of existence, you're likely to hear words like important, historic or monumental when describing it. For University women's soccer coach Susie Foster, it's almost

indescribable. "I think from my personimpact that it's had both on me personally and then I think collectively," Foster said. "As I think about Title IX, it's synonymous with opportunity and equality. I think it can be felt in so many areas, and when I think back to when I was an athlete, when I was getting recruited, I remember my mom telling me, 'I never played sports. I never had a chance to do the things that you're doing.'

"Now being a collegiate coach and constantly recruiting young women, a lot of the moms that sit in you and wanted to play my office now did the same things that I did and had the opportunity to play and participate and compete in youth sports, high school or collegiately, and I think about the impact that it's had and the opportunities that it's provided for experiences that come from those moments that wouldn't otherwise have been

Pioneers volleyball head coach Becca Saal also grew up hearing her mother talk play growing up that Saal had available.

my mom tell me these sto-

only participate in cheer- 3 million more additional then once she was in col- for girls in sports. lege then she actually had letes and for female ath-

athletes, even as a coach, has increased significantly growing up that's part of since the passage of Title your identity is being an IX. athlete and being in sports and being able to hang out sage, first you have to be with other athletes I think able to create opportunities al perspective it's hard to is very important. So those to draw the interest, and capture in words the opportunities in female now you see more females sports are just ways that you can connect with other people."

Saal added that for her personally, being able to participate in sports and sports was very important to her growing up.

"It was just easier when you had other people there sports and be physical and do things like that."

One thing that can be agreed on by both Saal and these athletes continue to Foster is that Title IX has created a plethora of that just speaks volumes opportunities for girls and become leaders. They've women across the country. And women's basketball head coach Lindsay Schultz learned how to set goals. echoed that sentiment.

> it's obviously impacted my started the process of cre-Women's Sports Founda- come." tion they had a big article

leading in high school, and high school opportunities

"So just even starting at WAUKESHA — When you the opportunity to particithat level and creating ask someone involved in pate in sports," Saal said. opportunities, and then "So just having the opportunity there for you I think tunities for high school is really important for ath- sports, more female student athletes, now our participation for sports in "Also I think all of us women's college athletics

"So I think with that pasparticipating in sports and having those opportunities that, before Title IX, maybe they were just club sports ... it was just very sparse in terms of the opportunities. spending time around So Title IX has had a signifother girls interested in icant impact over these last 50 years.

But the impact of Title IX "I never fit in and talked is not found just in the abilabout clothes and makeup ity for women to play and stuff, but I had four sports. It's also providing older brothers and so I did opportunities for women in a lot of sports," Saal said. their futures off the field.

"Yeah 100% (playing sports opens opportuniwho were like-minded as ties). I'm just a big believer in sports is life lessons it's preparing you for the game of life," Schultz said. Within sports, whether go on in the field of sports or something else, they learned discipline, they've learned confidence, they've

"And so I think just "I mean, being a college females in general, just women's basketball coach those opportunities even as they hang up their shoes Much like with Foster, career. With the passage of and they stop playing the Title IX 50 years ago, that game, they have been able to build these life skills ating more opportunities throughout the years that about how she didn't have for young athletes," Schultz is going to help them be the same opportunities to said. "I just read, on the successful in years to

Saal agreed with that ries about how she could implemented, there's been help women prepare for the that. So yeah I think there's said.









Photos courtesy of Carroll University Athletics

Clockwise from left, Carroll women's soccer head Susie Foster, softball head coach Amy Gradecki, volleyball head coach Becca Saal and women's basketball head coach Lindsay

challenges that life can a lot of things we can get women's soccer and even throw at them.

lessons. We learn that it's us later on in life." hard. Playing sports isn't play and get those opportunities to be successful," she said. "I think that's the same way in life. Life's hard, it's not going to be easy. You're going to find some opportunities where you have to focus and perform so you can be success-

There's little easy. The people who prac- among them that many hardest are usually the made over the past 50 years ones who get in and get to with women being able to play sports, but just because these strides have been made, doesn't mean there isn't more work yet to be done.

"Strong women in the business and the athletic even to this day. And envelope and getting us "I grew up listening to on the 50-year anniversary, idea, adding that being able ful and climb the ladder if more equity," Carroll soft- has been awesome but

out of sports and these women's softball — the "In sports we learn opportunities that can help viewership is so good now and you think about the doubt College World Series and women's soccer just got tice the most and work the major strides have been equal pay to the men, and you know all of those things are huge strides, but there's still more to do I think.

"When you do look at the smaller venues, the high schools the small colleges, there's still a discrepency world is really pushing the there's various reasons for that but I think the growth and since Title IX has been to play sports can really it's a job or something like ball coach Amy Gradecki we're not done. That's what implemented, there's been help women prepare for the that. So yeah I think there's said. "You think of I think."

SCOREBOARD

MLB

Arizona

Seattle

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE Central Division

W L Pct GB

32 38 .457 11

BREWERS	39 31 .557 —						
St. Louis	39 31 .557 —						
Pittsburgh	28 39 .418 9 1/2						
Chicago	25 43 .368 13						
Cincinnati	23 44 .343 14 1/2						
East Division							
	W L Pct GB						
New York	45 25 .643 —						
Atlanta	39 30 .565 5 1/2						
Philadelphia	36 33 .522 8 1/2						
Miami	30 36 .455 13						
Washington	25 46 .352 20 1/2						
West Division							
	W L Pct GB						
Los Angeles	41 25 .621 —						
San Diego	43 27 .614 —						
San Francisco	38 29 .567 3 1/2						

Tuesday's Results St. Louis 6, BREWERS 2 L.A. Dodgers 8, Cincinnati 2 Pittsburgh 7, Chicago Cubs 1 Washington 3, Baltimore 0 Miami 9, Colorado 8 San Francisco 12, Atlanta 10 Texas 7, Philadelphia 0

Houston 8, N.Y. Mets 2

San Diego 3, Arizona 2, 11 innings AMERICAN LEAGUE

AMERICAN LEAGUE							
Central Division							
	\mathbf{w}	\mathbf{L}	Pct	GB			
Cleveland	35	28	.556	_			
Minnesota	38	31	.551	_			
Chicago	33	33	.500	$3 \ 1/2$			
Detroit	26	42	.382	$11 \ 1/2$			
Kansas City	25	42	.373	12			
East Division							
	\mathbf{w}	\mathbf{L}	Pct	GB			
New York	50	18	.735	_			
Toronto	38	30	.559	12			
Boston	38	31	.551	$12 \ 1/2$			
Tampa Bay	37	31	.544	13			
Baltimore	30	39	.435	$20 \ 1/2$			
West Division							
	W	\mathbf{L}	Pct	GB			
Houston	42	25	.627	_			
Texas	32	35	.478	10			
Los Angeles	33	38	.465	11			

Oakland Tuesday's Results Tampa Bay 5, N.Y. Yankees 4 Boston 5, Detroit 4 Cleveland 6, Minnesota 5, 11 innings Chicago White Sox 7, Toronto 6, 12

30 39 .435 13

Seattle 8, Oakland 2 Kansas City 12, L.A. Angels 11, 11

On The Air

Television

Women's PGA Championship: First Round. (Golf) 1 p.m. — 2022 Men's College World Series: Game 13 (if necessary). (ESPN) 1 p.m. — MLB Baseball: St. Louis Car dinals at Milwaukee Brewers. (BSWis) 2 p.m. - PGA Tour Golf: Travelers

TODAY

Championship, First Round. (Golf) 6 p.m. — 2022 Men's College World Series: Game 14 (if necessary). (ESPN2)

FRIDAY — 2022 KPMG Women's PGA Championship: Second Round. (GOLF) 2 p.m. — PGA Tour Golf: Travelers Championship, Second Round. (GOLF) 4:30 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Racing

Series: Tennessee Lottery 250, Practice. 5:30 p.m. — Premier Lacrosse League: Redwoods LC vs Whipsnakes LC. (ESPN2)

5:30 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Ally 400, Practice. (USA) 7 p.m. — 2022 Stanley Cup Final: Tampa Bay Lightning at Colorado Avalanche. (ABC)

7 p.m. — MLB Baseball: Toronto Blue Jays at Milwaukee Brewers. (WSN) 7:30 p.m. — CFL Football: Hamilton Tiger-Cats at Winnipeg Blue Bombers. (ESPN2)

League: PFL 5: Featherweights & Heavyweights — Main Card. (ESPN)

Professional Fighters

TODAY
1 p.m. — MLB Baseball: St. Louis Cardinals at Milwaukee Brewers. (AM 620)

FRIDAY 7 p.m. — MLB Baseball: Toronto Blue Jays at Milwaukee Brewers. (AM 620)

Recreation

Shooting

WAUKESHA GUN CLUB Wednesday's Results **Summer Sporting Clays League** Andy Schmidt 48, Monty Strandberg 48, Blake Rhoden 47, Chris Rhoden 47, Dick Krings 47, Joe Durica 47, Monty Strandberg 47, Kyle Strandberg 47, Jim Wallis 45, Matt Yunk 45, Gary Pavloski 45

Summer Trap League Virgil Ferry 46, Steve Wolf 45, Tom Cumberland 44, Mark Keating 44

Summer Skeet League



LOOK BACK: 1969 Carroll College women's track team

In this March 13, 1969 Freeman archive photo, members of the then-Carroll College women's track team run on an indoor track. The College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin would not sponsor a women's track and field championship until 1987 — 40 years after the first CCIW men's track and field championship was held.

Delsman

From Page IB

Andrea Boritzke is the alltime wins leader with 16. Right behind her are teammates Maggie Zblewski with 14 and Kylsie Grimes with

All of the above teams and individuals, plus many, many more, deserve to be applauded for their outstanding performances on the WIAA's biggest stages.

But here's the bottom line to all of that success. Without Title IX being put into law in 1972, girls sports might have gotten off to a very slow start.

That Title IX law reads easily. Title IX prohibits sexbased discrimination by any school or education program that receives funding from the federal government.

Without that decision, organized girls sports run by state athletic associations might have not happened for another 10 years, maybe longer. Sooner or later girls sports would have made its debut but who knows when. Because of that great decision by the national powersto-be in 1972, girls athletics got off to a good start and



The Catholic Memorial girls soccer team rushes the field after winning its sixth straight state title in 2017 with a 4-0 victory over Winneconne.

om area games Head to <u>qmtoday.com/slideshows</u> for

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has gotten nothing but better later in the 1970's. Soccer ever since. And it continues to get better each school year. That's best evidenced by the addition of girls wrestling this past winter.

How far has girls athletics come in those 50 years? A long, long way. There were just five team sports in 1972, those being golf, swimming, tennis, gymnastics and track and field. Another four, cross country, volleyball, basketball and softball were added

came on board in 1983, hockey in 2002 and wrestling this past winter. Proudly, both the girls and

boys teams in Wisconsin for girls athletes, but perfect now have 12 sports each to choose from.

girls sports is that not only do they have the same chance to play in games, but also to train at their own high schools in the same way the male athletes can and

those games on.. Their offseason opportunities are just as abundant. It's still not a perfect world

have equal facilities to play

something that some times really doesn't exist. And the good news for But their opportunities to display their skills has never been better and never been more equal.

Hats off to all of the county female athletes. And hats





Freeman archive photos

LOOK BACK: 1986 WIAA softball sectional final: New Berlin West vs. Sussex-Hamilton

LEFT: New Berlin's Donna Scheibe beat Sussex-Hamilton catcher Ann Nettesheim to the plate, but was called out for tagging off third too early. RIGHT: Hamilton's Julie Metzger slides safely into second while New Berlin shortstop Beth Brouchhausen waits for a throw from the outfield.

In a softball sectional final on June 3, 1986 at Sussex-Hamilton, the Chargers would defeat New Berlin West to advance to the state tournament for the second straight season and the third time in seven years. Sussex-Hamilton would then see its season come to a close in the first round for the second year in a row. The Chargers would go on to make four more state appearances from 1987 through 1991, but would only win one game over those four appearances.

Ocon

From Page IB

the recognition of the 50th anniversary of Title IX on Jan. 29 in La Crosse

Several Oconomowoc High School girls sports coaches were asked to offer perspectives of the changing times. None of them had reached high school when the emergence of WIAA girls sports began a half-century ago, but their commentary reflected their gratitude for the doors that have been opened since

Katy Hayes excelled in cross country and track at OHS and collegiately before returning to her alma mater to coach both sports.

"I think it's almost impossible to describe how Title IX has impacted my life. ... both as an athlete myself and as a coach," Hayes said. "I cannot imagine how different my life would be if I hadn't experienced sports as a young girl and then found my true passion in cross country. Running provided me with an outlet, connected me with a team that shared my values and taught me numerous life lessons about commitment, goal setting, perseverance and grit.'

Hayes has shared those lessons with the athletes she coaches.

"When I think about the young women I've been entrusted to coach over the past 10 years, nothing brings me more joy or pride," she said. "I believe that most of my athletes would report that my goal is

not only to craft them into strong, fast runners, but into resilient, passionate women.

'The beauty of Title IX has been not only opening opportunities to young girls, but opening all of our eyes to what sports can do."

OHS gymnastics coach Jennifer Sunder-Bratz expressed amazement at the occasion of Title IX's golden anniversary.

'Fifty years. ... wow!" Sunder-Bratz said. "Title IX changed sports and what it meant to be an athlete forever. For me, as a former female athlete. I have had so many opportunities that would not have existed if this did not happen.

"Now as a coach, I watch young women gain skills they would never have had the opportunity to have without sports. I have watched my gymnasts grow in leadership skills, teamwork, resilience and communication.'

Kim Mueske was named head girls basketball coach at OHS last month after spending the previous three years as junior varsity coach or a varsity assistant.

"Mueske's Cedar Falls (Iowa) High School team compiled a record of 51-1 during her junior and senior seasons, and she closed out her prep heyday as a state champion.

She, too, appreciates how far girls high school sports have advanced since the early 1970s

"It is incredible that it has been 50 years already!" Mueske said. "As a female athlete in my late 30s, I've been very fortunate to participate in and play sports all throughout my life without hesitation. Sports were my escape — my safe place — a

place where I could get away from the day to day dealings of life and connect with people who shared a similar passion and love for the games as I did.

"I can't imagine not having the opportunity to play and compete. There would be a large piece of me missing.

Mueske, a mother of three children, is grateful for the sports landscape on which they perform today.

'As I think about my two daughters, their friends, the girls basketball team and really all the female athletes at OHS, I am very grateful for the opportunities they have today and will have going forward,' Mueske said. "Female athletes have demonstrated and continue to demonstrate they are capabale of greatness. They put in the time, effort and the hard work it takes, just as our male athletes do each day.

'Just in my few days of attending OPower (Oconomowoc's strength and conditioning program) so far this summer, I have witnessed that. It is inspiring to see coaches and athletes, males and females, across programs at OHS work together, support each other and genuinely care for the development of all ath-

Hayes, Sunder-Bratz and Mueske have reaped the benefits of Title IX as both athletes and coaches, but several OHS male coaches have also witnessed them while overseeing girls sports teams at the school.

Dave Schweder and Jason Dahl are two of them.

'There have been so many studies done showing the correlation bettween playing youth sports and suc-



Oconomowoc High School gymnastics coach Jennifer Sunder-Bratz, right, and her team participate in Jerseys for Jackson to honor the memory of Jackson Sparks, who died in the 2021 Waukesha Christmas parade.

cess as one grows into adulthood," said Schweder, who coaches softball.

Boys, for so long, had been given those opportunities to participate in youth sports and grow from that experience. Because of Title IX, girls have been given that same chance. So many female athletes who play youth and high school sports go on to enjoy success at higher levels. Through our program, it has been great to see what some of our players have been able to accomplish over the years. It is always great to see them 10 to 15 years down the road and hear how much playing high school sports meant to them. That to me is the biggest impact of Title IX

Dahl, who coaches golf, has seen

similar developments. "I think it's an important anniver-

brate the growth of sports for female athletes," Dahl said. "We have tremendous support from the community and school.

"With respect to golf, George Faherty did a great job establishing a solid program and we've continued to grow the program. In 2021, we had the highest numbers of girls come out for golf. Over my 14 years as coach, we have had some tremendous athletes come through our program, including two girls to go and play Division I and numerous girls continue to play at the Division-III level. This is a great sport that the girls will be able to take with them in their future careers.

"When you look at our women's sports programs, every team has had success over the past 50 years and some phenomenal athletes have sary for us to recognize and cele- come through OHS."

From Page IB

much more competitive. The idea of playing beyond the youth level for girls has become much more popular. Participation has grown drastically as the opportunities have grown. There's a demand for quality competitive programs available for girls to be part of and that speaks volumes about where we are as a society when it comes to girls' sports.

There's (also) a bigger focus on the training side of things and physical wellness, which in turn has led to girls being healthier and really focusing on taking care of their bodies and taking recovery seriously.

Q: What are the biggest challenges female sports face in the next 10-20

years? **A:** The biggest challenges are continuing to focus on having equal opportunities as males. We need to continue to help grow the game in any way we can and it will take people from all different areas of sports to help our younger athletes be seen and appreciated.

With social media giving us such a great avenue to promote female sports, we need to use that in a positive way to shine light on everything that girls are capable of as athletes. I believe the more that we can find ways to celebrate females in sports, the more the game will grow and continue to give girls opportunities that they couldn't even dream of 10-20 years ago.

Traci Buhr Hamilton girls volleyball

Bio: Buhr, a 1997 graduate of Milwaukee Pius, was a standout volleyball player with the Popes. She also played collegiate volleyball at St. Joseph's College (Ind.). Buhr took over the Hamilton program in 2013 and has helped the Chargers become one of the state's elite outfits, highlighted by a WIAA Divi-

Q: In your opinion, how important was Title IX, and what has it meant for the growth of girls sports?

A: I do think Title IX had a huge part to do with this because it's given so many opportunities for more women. If we're talking about high school and college, having the rules in place to allow equality for women are allowing the numbers to grow.

Even though this is something that went into effect 50 years ago, people are still that (legislation) to continue to grow all women's sports.

Q: How do girls sports today compare to girls sports when you were growing up? Overall, are they healthier?

A: It's really fun for me to use my high school (Pius) to where I'm coaching (Hamilton) because Pius was the epitome of female sports in the school was almost double the size it is now. And I would equivalent, if not more kids, trying out than we did at Pius. And I think a huge part of that is giving more youth opportunities from the fifth to the eighth grade levels.

Our youth sports are incredible, and that's the unique thing. Title IX has given these kids more opportunities, and having this platform to play in college has made kids want to play more when they're young.

Back when I played, unless you were at a private school, there were no public school opportunities to play before seventh grade in almost any sport. Now, there are opportunities already in fourth or fifth grade and sometimes earlier, and that's a very good

challenges female sports face in the next 10-20 years?

it's three things.

sion 1 state championship in coaches. You're getting a lot of parent coaches right now, which is good. But there's a lot of issues that develop when you have parent coaches. As much as they say they have the team's best interests at heart, you and I both know that a lot of times parentcoaches have only their own child's best interests at heart.

Second is finding officials. Watching officials take abuse from people in the stands is crazy. And there's just not a lot of interest from kids who have phased out of their sports wanting to be officials.

And No. 3 is multi-sport athletes. Personally, I want talking about it and using kids to be able to play multiple sports. I do not want fifth graders picking just one sport. When I hear that, it breaks my heart. I am not a fan of single-sport athletes. I think you need to have kids playing multiple sports as long as they can.

Heidi Kawczynski Waukesha North girls tennis

Bio: Kawczynski was a the 90s. It was just huge and four-year standout in high school and graduated in 2007. At North, she has helped the say right now, I have the program increase its participation numbers and overall

Q: In your opinion, how important was Title IX, and what has it meant for

the growth of girls sports? A: In my opinion, Title IX was a key step in advancing toward equity for sports in educational settings. Although I would like to think that a sport like girls' tennis would receive equal opportunities whether Title IX existed or not, history shows that might not be the case. Or, at the very least, it may have taken a lot longer to get to where we are now in high school sports.

Q: How do girls sports today compare to girls sports when you were Q: What are the biggest growing up? Overall, are they healthier?

A: While my high school girls' tennis program was a A: Across all sports I think fairly robust one, there are definitely advancements that No. 1 would be finding I see in girls' sports since

girls from a younger age. recall seeing many girls you've the weight room. Even if it was available to them, it wasn't common practice to actually use it. Schools like Waukesha North, where I

work now, do a fantastic job

of ensuring all coaches are

aware of the resources and

facilities available to them. I have definitely seen a shift over the years in the interest in girls' sports. When I began coaching for North in 2013, our JV girls team was incredibly small. It seemed as though girls' tennis at the school was primarily attended by those who had prior club or lesson experience. Now, our JV team is quite large, and girls who come out for tennis have the attitude that being active and learning a new sport can be a really beneficial experience.

Q: What are the biggest challenges female sports face in the next 10-20 years?

general sense that male sports are somehow more exciting or interesting to watch than girls' sports. While boys sports are very exciting and fun to watch, girls sports are just as interesting.

Go watch field hockey (traditionally a girls sport) and tell me it wasn't one of the coaches and finding quality then. Back then, I do not most exciting sport events

witnessed! sports make use of areas like watched a lot of both girls letes today are faster, and boys tennis matches throughout the years, and I can tell you that they are er. There are more opportuequally exciting to watch.

Kaitlin Kapitan **Kettle Moraine** girls soccer

Bio: Kapitan is a former Pewaukee standout (Class of 2011) who played collegiately at both UW-Oshkosh and UW-La Crosse. Kapitan took over the Lasers' program this spring and led Kettle Moraine to a 12-6-1 record and a trip to the WIAA Division 1 sectional finals.

Q: In your opinion, how important was Title IX, and what has it meant for the growth of girls sports?

A: Title IX has been so important for the growth of female sports. There are so many opportunities for girls nowadays and there is an ease when it comes to participation. I also think that A: I think there is still a male athletes respect female athletes and support the sports that they play. There is no gender discrimination amongst athletes.

Q: How do girls sports today compare to girls sports when you were growing up? Overall, are they healthier?

changed so much since I was ception.

I've in high school. Female athstronger and their IQ for the sport they play is much highnities for girls, but I would say numbers are fairly similar to when I was in high school. I do feel as though COVID impacted female sports numbers in a lot of high schools.

specifically Speaking about Kettle Moraine, when I first started working in the weight room, there were zero girls that would lift weights. Now, three years later, the number of female athletes has quadrupled and they feel comfortable not only entering the weight room but also performing their lifting pro-

Q: What are the biggest challenges female sports face in the next 10-20 vears?

A: The biggest challenge will continue to be the importance of resistance training for female athletes and getting females comfortable in the weight room.

I also think there will continue to be a challenge finding female coaches. Female coaches are role models for female athletes, but there are far less female coaches than male coaches. Having the same sex role model positive-A: Sports in general have ly influences one's self per-



Hamilton junior Sylvie Zgonc goes up for a kill as Brookfield East junior Maria Vella (15) and senior Maddie Barton jump to block Tuesday at East. Hamilton coach Traci Buhr said one of the most important things to her about Title IX is the number of opportunities it has opened up for

Title IX

From Page IB

would come to be the rapid rise of girls and women's sports across the country.

DSHA athletic director Peggy Seegers-Braun was one of the many girls in Waukesha County to benefit from these new opportunities that unfolded before her

"I played volleyball and softball there (at Catholic Memorial)," she said. "I believe when Title IX passed I was in grade school, and we had the opportunity to play some in grade school and then that opened up the opportunitiy to play in high school. It was a great experience for me. I loved it and that's eventually why I wanted to go into teaching physical education and coaching and then eventually I got into the athletic administration, where I've been the athletic director at DSHA for 35

Larry Desotell also got the chance to witness the growth of girls sports in the county, as he was the first softball coach at Arrowhead when the program began in 1979.

"We had to do everything. I firsts being accomplished in bases in, so all that was done those girls had never played live, because they all played slow pitch. That was a big thing to teach them. We were basically teaching them at the very, very fundamentals the the absolute fundamentals of how to play softball and baseball.

out and buy all the equipvear at Arrowhead, and it's been 43 years, and now they're telling me that some girls might have \$500 worth of bats in their bag, their own bag. I think we had three bats (total)."

humble beginnings for Arrowhead's softball pro- three female athletic direcgram, Desotell was able to tors out of the 10 schools each passing season, and in Braun said. "It's great to see the fourth year of the team's existence they won the first state title in team history.

there are still even more them."

had a friend of mine, Dave girls sports throughout the Conway, we went out and county. This year the WIAA laid home plate and the hosted its first-ever girls pitching rubber and I put the wrestling state tournament, where Brookfield Central by us," Desotell said. "The senior Marisa Roth became real thing then was most of the first Waukesha County girls wrestling state champithe game with the ball being on. And while that was happening, Mukwonago's Josephine Stachowski became the first girl in WIAA history to qualify for Division 1 mixed wrestling state tournament.

Even today after 50 years of progress, there are still "I remember we had to go new barriers being broken. And not just with girls ment. And I laugh now sports. When Seegers-Braun because I went to a game this first started as athletic director at DSHA, she was the only woman to hold that position in the conference and her voice was not often heard. Nowadays, it's a different story.

"It's interesting now And yet in spite of the because in the Greater Metro (Conference) we have watch his team improve with that are in there," Seegersit grow, it's great to be heard, but it took a long time to get there. But I think I can hold Now all these years later, my own with the best of



Arrowhead sophomore Abby Robel slides in safely at third base as West Bend West senior Jessie Reich covers the base during a nonconference game earlier this season at Arrowhead.

TITLE IX DURING THE PANDEMIC

In midst of pandemic, equity stays on minds of ADs

While making tough decisions, Press and wrestling site Mat a great deal from the human grams upgrade upgrade and wrestling site Mat a great deal from the human grams upgrade Title IX comes into play

By Aaron Beard AP Sports Writer

Title IX is always on Candice Storey Lee's mind and the Vanderbilt athletics director believes that's how it should be for any administrator running college pro-

"I would hope that's part of our DNA and that it is seen in how we make decisions on a day-to-day basis," Lee said. By most accounts, it is.

It certainly was during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. At times, Title IX was at the forefront of decisions by ADs. When schools examined which programs might be cut to save money as the spread of the virus shut down the sports world in 2020, the law prohibiting sexbased discrimination was a

It was an example of how would go forward at all. Title IX ensures equity education and prohibits dis-crimination on the basis of programs. And ultimately, down that path," Gilbert North Carolina's efforts sex in any education pro- cuts hit more men's program or activity receiving federal funds, such as student financial aid.

"The law is meant to shape decision-making and behavior, and it has done that," Virginia athletics director Carla Williams said. "I think it will continue to do that.'

Compliance can be measured in multiple ways, including whether the overall program's gender breakdown is proportionate to that of the general student body. The goal is ensuring men and women have equitable participation opportunities as well as access to scholar-

But the shutdown created financial pressures, particularly for Division I programs with lost revenue from the canceled NCAA men's basketball tournament and uncertainty about whether which largely football funds Olympic and lowerprofile sports programs

grams (47) than women's (22)

"I imagine it would have made it much harder for anyone to actually consider the cutting of women's sports," South Florida athletics director Michael Kelly said. "Unless, if they already had a preponderance or excess of women's sports and women's student-athletes women's student experience, then maybe they did. But I'm

are in that situation.' East Carolina athletics director Jon Gilbert faced that difficult decision.

not aware of too many that

The Pirates, an American Athletic Conference member, announced cuts to four programs —men's and women's swimming and diving, men's and women's tennis — in May 2020 while citing a \$4.9 million budget deficit. The school later announced plans in January 2021 to restart the women's programs while paying more than \$189,000 in a settlement to avoid a gender-equity lawsuit.

"As I've mentioned before,

side of it. It is not something upgrades, scholarship needs that I ever want to go through or want our studentathletes or department to go through ever again. But the financial difficulties are a reality and they continue to be a reality today.

Making the numbers work can be tougher at schools with higher female-to-male ratios in the student body.

At Portland in the West Coast Conference, where women represent about 60% of students, athletics director Scott Leykam said sports such as rowing often recruit walk-ons from campus. That was difficult when the campus shut down amid the pandemic, though the Pilots avoided cutting any of their 16 athletic programs.

'The other thing that we had to make some decisions on ... when everybody got that extra COVID redshirt year, (was) making sure that we were balancing that malefemale" ratio, Leykam said. Financial challenges will

"Certainly Title IX is always be an aspect of col-

the ongoing data from The Associated decision that still bothers me support 15 women's pro- cages and pitching areas for clear part of who we are.'

and mentorship programs. The campaign continues at the Atlantic Coast Conference school, which fielded women's varsity teams in 1971 before Title IX's implementation, even after exceeding a \$100 million target.

'I will say that (the campaign) of \$100 million just for women's athletics is something we've never focused said UNC athletics director Bubba Cunningham, who oversees a 28-sport program with 41 of 57 team national championships coming in women's sports. 'And that is a big focus of this campaign.

Vanderbilt, department recently announced the Southeastern Conference school would add women's volleyball for the 2025-26 season, a resurrection for a program discontinued after 1979-80.

And at South Florida, the program announced additions of women's lacrosse for 2023-24 Schools that chose cuts had extremely important for all lege sports, but more schools and women's beach volleybetween men and women in to consider Title IX compli-that it represents, and it cerare finding ways to fund and ball for 2024-25. That would push the Bulls to 12 women's for administrators, for lead-

> Kelly also points to a FORevHER Tar Heels cam- roughly \$1.5 million summer where we almost take it for in Division I, according to that was an excruciating paign launched in 2019 to project to renovate batting granted because it becomes a

baseball and softball, pushed joint-messaging fundraiser equitable treatment.

"I bet you 25 or 30 years ago, if I would've had a donor that only wanted to support let's just say baseball, the softball one would've fallen and lagged behind," Kelly said, adding: "But because our staff's become educated, to become more mindful of this as a whole, it became a joint project.

'At the end of the day, it worked out great because (donors) understood that and hopefully that will be an example for other projects we do going forward.

For Lee, in her second year as the first female AD in the SEC, it's an example of what she hopes will be the norm for athletics administrators.

'I would hope that in the next 50 years, this commitment to gender equity is really baked into who we are, what we do every day," Lee

"You hope that it continues to create more opportunities at every level, and not just for athletes but also for coaches, ership, for CEOs," "I would just like to see it

TITLE IX AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Title IX has provided opportunities to women worldwide

International students get a chance to play and get an education

By Daniella Matar and Teresa M. Walker AP Sports Writers

Bulanova, it was a matter of surprise — that she could be recruited to the bowling team at Vanderbilt "all the way from Russia."

Like other international athletes playing college sports in the United States, she had little sense of Title IX when she was younger. But the federal law has opened the door for thousands of female athletes from abroad to get an American education and possibly a shot at a life and career in the United States.

"People were surprised that Vanderbilt was able to recruit me all the way from Russia." Bulanova said. "They were like, 'Oh, wow. Their recruiting is really diverse.' Like, 'Wow. They saw you all the way from

Bulanova was looking to bowl in Europe after finishing her last year of school in Russia. In November 2015, she represented Russia in the World Cup in Las Vegas and bowled well enough that several American colleges wanted her to visit. She visited five colleges in one week in February 2016 before choosing Vanderbilt.

"What really made them stand out is obviously the education. And I was also looking for a good bowling program where I know that we're going to win something, we're going to be in competition for the national championship. So Vanderbilt had both, and that was championships in Hong at the moment to focus bet-

graduated in 2020 and is now in her second year competing on tour with the Profesworking on a master's degree at St. Francis in New York, where she is an assistant coach.

bilt win its second national expensive process for others. championship in women's also two other international players: Kristin Quah of Singapore and Emily Rigney of Australia.

started the Vanderbilt bowling program in 2004, building off a club team, and has one such agency. Originally three national runner-up finishes in addition to the up in Italy before moving to national championships.

"From a Title IX standpoint, I like to think that we're a success story of it kids from around the U.S., around the globe that wouldn't have had the opportunity to come to Vanderbilt, or even thought about going to Vanderbilt, and getting them to come to campus and so they get a world class education," Williamson said.

"They get to compete at a really high level. And they get to do their sport. They get to get their education. can have much more oppor-They get sort of the best of everything."

Quah was the first of the three to play for Vanderbilt allows them to practice after she reached out to the sport with a scholarship, university by email while and it's an experience that a playing for the Singapore junior national team. sadly doesn't have," Bregasi Williamson and an assistant said. went to the world youth

along with Bulanova and Rigney. Quah's first year at Vanderbilt was 2015. Bulanova and Rigney started the following year.

"So basically, like Kristin emailing us, expressing her interest, got us talking to sional Women's Bowling her, which then got us to MILAN — For Maria Association. She is also Hong Kong, which then got to find Williamson said.

Bulanova and Quah got scholarships via a direct Bulanova helped Vander- route, but it can be a more

Several agencies exist to bowling in 2018. There were help foreign athletes by putting them in contact with coaches and universities, as well as assisting them through the bureaucratic Coach John Williamson process once they get accept-

> Deljan Bregasi founded from Albania, Bregasi grew study in Miami and then New York on soccer scholar-

Bregasi set up USA College Sport in 2015 in Boston because we're able to take and said he has helped obtain scholarships for about 300 athletes, charging \$3,200 for the agency's ser-

> The agency originally focused on helping boys in Italy and Albania get soccer scholarships in the United States before expanding to other sports and female athletes in 2018.

"The girls are those who tunity in a certain sense because there is Title IX that, fortunately I'll add, girl who plays sport in Italy

"It's also one of our aims perfect," said Bulanova, who Kong and saw Quah bowl ter on female athletes



Maria Bulanova, from Russia, poses for a portrait before practice at Kingpin's Alley and Family Center on June 15 in Glens Falls, N.Y. Title IX has opened the door for thousands of female athletes from abroad to get an American education and a shot at a life and career in the United States.

because it's also, you could say, easier because in Italy women's soccer is growing while the level in volleyball and athletics is very high, and so it's worthwhile for us helping female athletes more because they have a good chance of getting a scholarship, seeing as there's Title IX," Bregasi

Serena Frolli, a 17-year-old middle distance runner from Genoa, Italy, used her time during the pandemic lockdown to research colleges herself and to speak to coaches before eventually deciding to use the services of an American agency.

"I have to say that it was quite expensive, but then looking at the scholarship that I got, you can say that it repays the initial costs," Frolli said. "But then they also help you throughout Krauter had no opportunity your time at university ... so to play collegiately in I liked that, too. And also my Europe, so she moved to

mother feels more calm Florida and spent three knowing that. She told me, 'Let's do it.'" Frolli is heading to North-

western in August to study mechanical engineering on a track scholarship. She knows that will give her more opportunities than if she had remained in Italy.

She has long dreamed of being both an astronaut and a medal-winning athlete. The benefits of Title IX allow her to pursue her double aspirations.

Why should I choose?' Frolli said. "That's why I'm going to the United States."

Similarly, Aline Krauter and Tze-Han (Heather) Lin left their homelands to play college golf in the U.S., opportunities made possible, in large part, by Title IX.

A superb junior player from Stuttgart, Germany,

years at Saddlebrook Prep in Wesley Chapel. She ended up playing four seasons at Stanford, winning the national team championship last month as a

Tze-Han was a top junior player in Taiwan when she was recruited by then firstyear Oregon coach Derek Radley. She ended up being the cornerstone of a team that would add two more Taiwanese players and that finished second at this year's national championships.

"The NCAA, having the same number of scholarships for men and women for sure allowed me to play golf and get the full scholarship," said Tze-Han, who finished fifth in the NCAA individual championships. "I don't think I would have gotten that anywhere else in the