

# SPORTS

THURSDAY  
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GMTODAY.COM

## A Timeline of Girls Sports in Waukesha County

**1970:** WIAA holds first 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 of Brookfield Central becomes first area WIAA girls individual tennis state champion.

WIAA holds first girls cross country state meet.

**1976:** Brookfield Central becomes first area school to win WIAA gymnastics state title.

WIAA holds first girls basketball state tournament.

WIAA holds first softball state tournament.

**1979:** Menomonee Falls East becomes first area school to win WIAA softball state title.

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

WIAA holds first girls soccer state tournament.

**1985:** Brookfield Central 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 title.

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

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

**2002:** WIAA holds first girls hockey state tournament.

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

**2022:** WIAA holds first girls wrestling state tournament.

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  
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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 diving.

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



Freeman file photo

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.

It was a sharp turn of events for 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 that — albeit with little fanfare at the time.

For on July 23, 1972, President 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 known as Title IX. It decreed that publicly-funded schools could not discriminate participation based on

### What's Inside

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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  
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**OCONOMOWOC** — During the 1968-69 school year, the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association conducted tournaments and crowned 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 Richard Nixon signed Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 into law, opening doors and removing barriers that once prevented people, on the basis of sex, from participating in educational, athletic and career opportunities of their choice.

How far we have come since then.

Since the passage of Title IX, female sports partici-



Submitted photo

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

tion at the high school level has grown by 1,057%.

The impact of this comprehensive federal law over the past five decades has provided countless opportunities for millions of student-athletes that may not have ever existed otherwise.

The WIAA recognized state championship teams in 11 girls sports during the recently completed 2021-22 campaign.

Two years prior to the passage of Title IX, the WIAA conducted its first girls tournament with the State Girls Swimming & Diving Cham-

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 girls.

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 sponsorship of girls wrestling, which launched

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# 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 years.

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 classmates 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



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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 WIAA.

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

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## 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  
Freeman Correspondent

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 sport.

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 subjected 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 surge in female sports across the

country.

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 still exist.

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 history. Without it girls wouldn't have near the amount of opportunities

they do in sports now, especially at the college level.

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

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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 important 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

By Michael Grennell mgrennell@conley.net.com 262-513-2667

WAUKESHA — When you ask someone involved in 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.

Carroll women's soccer coach Susie Foster, it's almost indescribable. "I think from my personal perspective it's hard to capture in words the impact that it's had both on me personally and then I think collectively," Foster said.

"Now being a collegiate coach and constantly recruiting young women, a lot of the moms that sit in 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 that just speaks volumes 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 had."

Much like with Foster, Pioneers volleyball head coach Becca Saal also grew up hearing her mother talk about how she didn't have the same opportunities to play growing up that Saal had available.

"I grew up listening to my mom tell me these stories about how she could

only participate in cheerleading in high school, and then once she was in college then she actually had the opportunity to participate in sports," Saal said. "So just having the opportunity there for you I think is really important for athletes and for female athletes."

"Also I think all of us athletes, even as a coach, growing up that's part of your identity is being an athlete and being in sports and being able to hang out with other athletes I think is very important. So those opportunities in female sports are just ways that you can connect with other people."

Saal added that for her personally, being able to participate in sports and spending time around other girls interested in sports was very important to her growing up.

"I never fit in and talked about clothes and makeup and stuff, but I had four older brothers and so I did a lot of sports," Saal said. "It was just easier when you had other people there who were like-minded as you and wanted to play sports and be physical and do things like that."

One thing that can be agreed on by both Saal and Foster is that Title IX has created a plethora of opportunities for girls and women across the country. And women's basketball head coach Lindsay Schultz echoed that sentiment.

"I mean, being a college women's basketball coach it's obviously impacted my career. With the passage of Title IX 50 years ago, that started the process of creating more opportunities for young athletes," Schultz said. "I just read, on the Women's Sports Foundation they had a big article on the 50-year anniversary, and since Title IX has been implemented, there's been

3 million more additional high school opportunities for girls in sports.

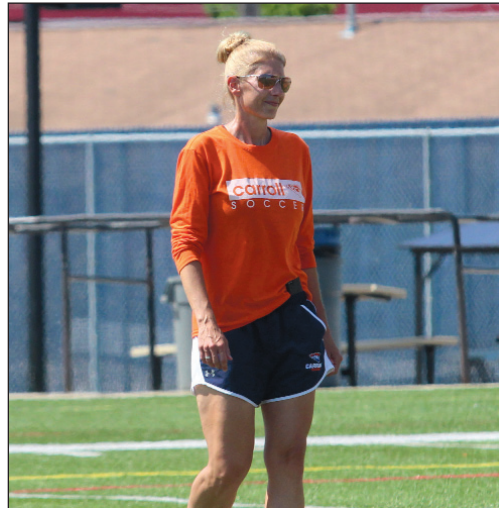
"So just even starting at that level and creating opportunities, and then once you have more opportunities for high school sports, more female student athletes, now our participation for sports in women's college athletics has increased significantly since the passage of Title IX. "So I think with that passage, first you have to be able to create opportunities to draw the interest, and now you see more females participating 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. So Title IX has had a significant impact over these last 50 years."

But the impact of Title IX is not found just in the ability for women to play sports. It's also providing opportunities for women in their futures off the field.

"Yeah 100% (playing sports opens opportunities). 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 these athletes continue to go on in the field of sports or something else, they become leaders. They've learned discipline, they've learned confidence, they've learned how to set goals."

"And so I think just females in general, just those opportunities even as they hang up their shoes and they stop playing the game, they have been able to build these life skills throughout the years that is going to help them be successful in years to come."

Saal agreed with that idea, adding that being able to play sports can really help women prepare for the



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 Schultz.

challenges that life can throw at them.

"In sports we learn lessons. We learn that it's hard. Playing sports isn't easy. The people who practice the most and work the hardest are usually the ones who get in and get to 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 successful and climb the ladder if it's a job or something like that. So yeah I think there's

a lot of things we can get out of sports and these opportunities that can help us later on in life."

There's little doubt among them that many major strides have been made over the past 50 years 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 world is really pushing the envelope and getting us more equity," Carroll softball coach Amy Gradecki said. "You think of

women's soccer and even women's softball — the viewership is so good now and you think about the College World Series and women's soccer just got 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 discrepancy even to this day. And there's various reasons for that but I think the growth has been awesome but we're not done. That's what I think."

SCOREBOARD

MLB

Table with columns for Major League Baseball (National League Central, East, West Divisions) showing W, L, Pet, GB for teams like Brewers, Cardinals, Yankees, etc.

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.

Table for American League (Central Division) showing W, L, Pet, GB for teams like Cleveland, Minnesota, Chicago, Detroit, Kansas City.

Table for American League (East Division) showing W, L, Pet, GB for teams like New York, Toronto, Boston, Tampa Bay, Baltimore.

Table for American League (West Division) showing W, L, Pet, GB for teams like Houston, Texas, Los Angeles, Seattle, 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 innings; Seattle 8, Oakland 2; Kansas City 12, L.A. Angels 11, 11 innings.

On The Air

Television TODAY 10 a.m. — 2022 KPMG 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 Cardinals at Milwaukee Brewers. (BSWs) 2 p.m. — PGA Tour Golf: Travelers Championship, First Round. (Golf) 6 p.m. — 2022 Men's College World Series: Game 14 (if necessary). (ESPN2)

FRIDAY 10 a.m. — 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. (USA) 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) 8 p.m. — Professional Fighters League: PFL 5 Featherweights & Heavyweights — Main Card. (ESPN)

Radio 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 Ron Stark 19



Freeman archive photos

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 1B

Andrea Boritzke is the all-time wins leader with 16. Right behind her are teammates Maggie Zblewski with 14 and Kysie Grimes with 12. 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.



Freeman file photo

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.

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

later in the 1970's. Soccer came on board in 1983, hockey in 2002 and wrestling this past winter.

Proudly, both the girls and boys teams in Wisconsin now have 12 sports each to choose from.

And the good news for 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

have equal facilities to play those games on. Their off-season opportunities are just as abundant.

It's still not a perfect world for girls athletes, but perfect is something that some times really doesn't exist. But their opportunities to display their skills has never been better and never been more equal.

That's what all of the county female athletes. And hats off to Title IX.

Advertisement for Freeman's slide shows with text: 'See more photos from area games. Head to gmtoday.com/slideshows for additional photos and reprint options.' Includes images of sports equipment and contact info: 262-542-2500, The FREEMAN, gmtoday.com.



