



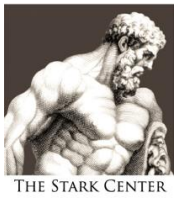
THE STARK CENTER

The H.J. Lutcher Stark Center for Physical Culture & Sports
The University of Texas at Austin

The University of Texas at Austin
Women's Athletics History Collection,
1917-2012

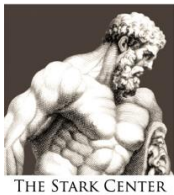
Abstract

The University of Texas at Austin (UT) Women's Athletics History Collection documents the history of women's athletics at UT with historical and administrative records, media coverage, and publications from the early years of women's sports clubs through varsity league establishment, the implementation of Title IX, and changes in national governance. The collection has a primary focus from the mid-1970s through the 1990s.



SUMMARY INFORMATION

Size of Collection:	4 boxes (5 linear feet)
Creator:	The University of Texas at Austin Athletics Department
Acquisition Info:	Documents were generated by several departments and people over several decades, most notably The University of Texas at Austin Athletics Department and Media Relations office. The materials were given to the Stark Center in periodic installments since 2011.
Accruals:	Accruals are expected on an irregular basis.
Language(s):	English.
Processed By:	Erin Coupal, Zoe Heinsohn, Carl Siegel, 2021. Updated by Caroline Jones, June 2024.
Conservation Notes:	No conservation treatment was performed.



RIGHTS AND ACCESS

Access Restrictions

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Privacy Restrictions

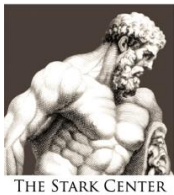
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INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Preferred Citation

The University of Texas at Austin Women's Athletics History Collection, The H.J. Lutcher Stark Center for Physical Culture & Sports, The University of Texas at Austin.

Other Finding Aids

UT Physical Training for Women Records, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin. https://txarchives.org/utcah/finding_aids/03247.xml.

AIAW Records, 1972-1980s, Woman's Collection, Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas. <https://twudigital.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p1281coll7/id/1052/>

The University of Texas at Austin Women's Basketball and Intercollegiate Athletics Collection, 1976-2006, H.J. Lutcher Stark Center for Physical Culture & Sports, The University of Texas at Austin. https://txarchives.org/utlsc/finding_aids/00012.xml

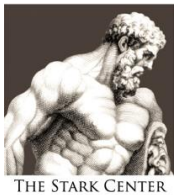
Anna Hiss Collection, H.J. Lutcher Stark Center for Physical Culture & Sports, The University of Texas at Austin. https://txarchives.org/utlsc/finding_aids/00005.xml

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

The University of Texas at Austin (UT) began its athletics program in the 1890s with an initial focus on football. The inclusion of women in sports at UT began with the hiring of Anna Hiss as a women's Physical Training instructor in 1918. Hiss established a women's intramural program which later became part of the College of Physical Activities in 1924. This program offered women a variety of activities in which to participate, the first being the Texas Turtle Swimming Club. A total of ten clubs initially formed the core of women's intramural sports at UT: swimming, tennis, golf, riding, archery, fencing, badminton, bowling, tumbling, and riflery.

In 1933, the women's intramural sports program separated from the recently established University of Texas Sports Association to begin a more formal program that continued to expand into both varsity and an increasing number of intramural programs over the next several decades.

In 1973, the women's and men's intramural sports departments were combined into the Division of Recreational Sports. The university's women's athletics department, a program for varsity athletes, was established in 1974 to comply with Title IX, a civil rights law passed in 1972 prohibiting sex-based discrimination in federally funded scholastic programs. Donna Lopiano



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was hired as the first Director of Women's Athletics at UT in 1975, where she continually advocated for gender equity in the men's and women's athletic programs. Lopiano left the university in 1992 for a position with the Women's Sports Federation. After a national search, Jody Conratt, then head coach of the UT women's basketball team, was appointed Director of Women's Athletics where she served until 2001.

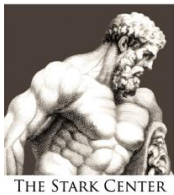
The UT Athletics Media Relations office serves as the principal media liaison for all UT intercollegiate athletics programs. The UT Media Relations office describes its role as to “actively publicize and promote the positive aspects and manage the media demands of all University of Texas intercollegiate athletics programs.” In addition to creating publicity materials and responding to media requests, the Media Relations office also tracks mentions of UT athletics in local and national publications resulting in collections of newspaper and magazine clippings.

Chronicled in this collection is the period leading up to and including the cessation of the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) due to National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) operations. The AIAW, founded in 1971, was an organization dedicated to the governance and promotion of women's intercollegiate sports whose membership and governance eventually came to mirror the influence that the NCAA had in the world of men's intercollegiate sports. In 1975, the NCAA published a proposal to incorporate women's intercollegiate athletics through the establishment of women's championships and athletic scholarships, resulting in a significant loss of membership, influence, and funding for the AIAW. Lopiano, along with others in the UT women's athletic program, opposed the encroachment of the more commercially focused NCAA on what had until then been the purview of the AIAW. After losing an antitrust lawsuit filed against the NCAA, the AIAW folded in 1983.

One of the most noteworthy events documented in this collection is the 1992 lawsuit filed by seven female students against UT in response to a stated lack of participation opportunities for varsity and intramural women athletes. The lawsuit, brought under Title IX based on sex-based discrimination against female athletes, settled out of court in favor of the seven students. The ruling brought national attention and resulted in the university committing to doubling the number of varsity women athletes at the university and increasing the number of female athletic scholarships offered.

CITATIONS FOR ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women, A non-profit Corporation, Appellant, v. National Collegiate Athletic Association, an Unincorporated Association, Appellee, Justia US Law. Accessed October 10, 2021.



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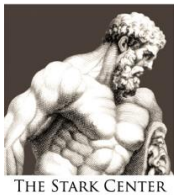
“The History of Longhorn Sports.” Texas Legacy Support Network. Accessed October 10, 2021.
<https://www.texaslsn.org/donna-lopiano-2>.

“History.” History - UT RecSports. The University of Texas, 2021.
<https://www.utrecsports.org/about/history>.

Perez Beene, Corye. “Deep in the Sports of Texas: TIAAW, Title IX and Women’s Intercollegiate Athletics in the 1970’s,” 2013.

Shibly, Amy. “Playing Field Levels at Texas.” *The Washington Post*. WP Company, July 6, 1997. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1997/07/06/playing-field-levels-at-texas/f571d66e-e905-4034-8751-722c7aa6c76d/>.

“Title IX Case Review.” *Academics*. Accessed October 10, 2021.
<https://academics.hamilton.edu/government/dparis/govt375/spring97/default.html>.



SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

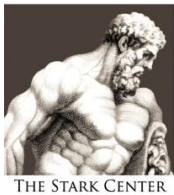
This collection documents the development and activities of early intramural and later varsity women's sports teams at The University of Texas at Austin (UT) from 1917-2012, with most of the material dating from the mid-1970s, when the Women's Athletics Department was established, through the mid-1990s. Generally, these materials concern the history, administration, and operation of women's collegiate athletics both specifically at UT and in the broad context of the United States. Overall, this collection documents the trajectory of women's athletics at UT from the early history of recreational clubs to current varsity leagues and how federal regulations and national organizations affected these outcomes.

History of Women's Athletics at The University of Texas at Austin, 1917-2012

The materials in Series 1 cover both the general history of Women's Athletics at UT as well as materials created by the department over the course of that history. Subseries 1.1 consists primarily of a variety of formats encompassing the overall development of the Women's Athletics Department from its inception in 1917 as a women's intramural sports program to its official establishment in 1974 and through 2012. Documents include working copies of an article, *History of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women*, publications from outside the university, and department-generated histories of intramural sports and specific sports clubs mostly contained in a bound album. Subseries 1.2 contains more specific and department-generated material, including a significant portion of materials created by the department over the course of its activities, such as by-laws, team and event photographs, university print publications and yearbooks, and photocopies of hand-drawn event flyers. Also included is an extensive oral history from department head Donna Lopiano about her time with the Women's Athletics Department, numerous news clippings concerning a 1996 gift of \$3 million to women's athletics from wealthy Texan and sports enthusiast Red McCombs, and rosters detailing club and team membership from 1917 through 2011.

The University of Texas at Austin Women's Athletics & Media Department Operations, 1974-2012

Operational records in Series 2 consist of department-generated newsletters, press releases, and general coverage of sporting events, scores, and statistics. In Subseries 2.1, administrative materials from the Women's Athletics Department give particular attention to individual athlete achievements by tracking distinctions and awards won by student-athletes competing in various sports over the period covered in this series. The Media Relations files in Subseries 2.2 consists of media coverage of athletics events and contain documentation of events associated with UT's Second Century Celebration in 1994, a yearlong series of events co-sponsored by the Men's and Women's Athletics Departments commemorating 100 years of athletics at UT, most notably internal planning documents and post-event media coverage of a symposium, *Issues of Integrity*



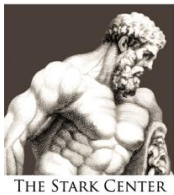
in Athletics, held in April 1994. Promotional multimedia documents consist of two VHS tapes (2005 and 2006), and one DVD (2011), all with video documentation of ceremonies or showcases of UT women's athletics.

Governance, Title IX, and Gender Equity, 1970-1997

Series 3 contains documents related to national-level administration, organization, and governance of women's college athletics, as well as documents related to political conflicts arising from the implementation of gender equity legislation affecting collegiate athletics. Subseries 3.1 chronicles the conflict between the AIAW and NCAA through the NCAA's original proposal to incorporate women's sports and internal memos responding to that proposal within the AIAW and UT Athletics Department. This subseries also contains media coverage of the AIAW/NCAA conflict, AIAW assembly minutes (including the vote to dissolve the AIAW in the aftermath of its unsuccessful antitrust lawsuit against the NCAA), and memos between members of the AIAW and the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) concerning the practical aftereffects of the conflict. Subseries 3.2 includes material related to the Title IX legislation, as well as materials concerning universities' implementation of and compliance with the resulting gender equity policies in collegiate athletics. This subseries also includes media coverage of several legal challenges of Title IX between 1992-1997 (including a 1992 lawsuit against the University of Texas), as well as correspondence between the College Football Association (CFA) and the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) challenging OCR's strict interpretations of Title IX. Finally, subseries 3.3 contains a research file consisting of two Gender Equity studies carried out by the NCAA in 1992 and 1997, as well as a variety of materials concerning the portrayal of women's athletics in media coverage.

***Sidelines*, 1984-1994**

Series 4 is made up entirely of the semi-monthly publication from The University of Texas at Austin Women's Athletics Department, *Sidelines*, that covered women's sporting events, scores, and statistics, and general department news and information. Published by volume over an academic year, the series begins with Issue 2, February 1984, and runs through June 1994. Missing from the chronological series are April, June, July, September, and December 1984; January and April 1985; August 1987; and February and March 1993.



COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series 1: History of Women's Athletics at The University of Texas at Austin, 1917-2012

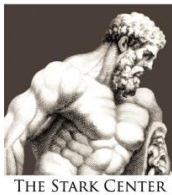
This series consists of 2 subseries: 1.1, Historical overviews; and 1.2, General history -- chronological

Subseries 1.1: Historical overviews, 1921-2012

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
<i>History of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women, 1977-1994</i>	1	1
Various publications, 1925-2012	1	2
Club Histories, 1921-1949	1	3

Subseries 1.2: General history -- chronological, 1917-2011

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
General history, 1920s	1	4
General history, 1930s	1	5
General history, 1950s	1	6
General history, 1960s	1	7
General history, 1970s	1	8
General history, 1980s	1	9
General history, 1990s	1	10
Rosters, 1917-2011 (2 folders)	1	11-12



Series 2: Women's Athletics Department & Media Relations Operations, 1974-2012

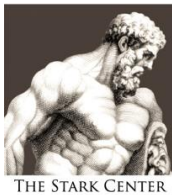
This series consists of 2 subseries: 2.1, Administrative Files; and 2.2, Media Department

Subseries 2.1: Administrative Files, 1974-2012

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
Admissions & scholarships, 1974, 1995	2	1
Letterwomen, champions, & All American athletes, 1974-2010	2	2
UT Athletics Department newsletters, 1976-1984	2	3
Associated Press Women's Poll (basketball), 1977-2011	2	4
Scores & statistics, 1978-2012	2	5
Athlete awards, 1989-1991	2	6
General research, 1994, 2008	2	7

Subseries 2.2: Media Relations, 1975-2012

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
Internal memos & team logos, 1975, undated	2	8
Newspaper clippings, sports events, 1975-1981	2	9
Newspaper clippings, sports events 1987-1993	2	10
News releases, 1978-1985, 1993	2	11
Department events, 1993-1994, 2008	2	12



Promotional multimedia, 2005-2006, 2012	2	13
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Series 3: Governance, Title IX, and Gender Equity, 1970-1997

This series consists of 3 subseries: 3.1, AIAW & NCAA Conflict; 3.2, Title IX; and 3.3, Research

Subseries 3.1: AIAW & NCAA Conflict, 1975-1982

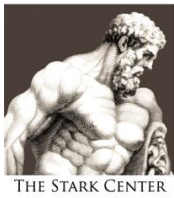
Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
NCAA proposal, 1975	3	1
AIAW & UT response to NCAA proposal, 1975-1982	3	2
AIAW assembly minutes, 1980-1982	3	3
AIAW & CoSIDA memos, 1980-1981	3	4
Media coverage, 1980-1983	3	5

Subseries 3.2: Title IX, 1975-1997

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
Implementation & compliance, 1975-1997 (2 folders)	3	6-7
Lawsuits, 1992-1997	3	8
CFA challenge & OCR clarification, 1995-1997	3	9

Subseries 3.3: Gender Equity Research, 1970-1998

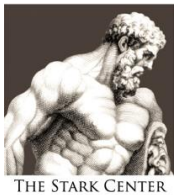
Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
NCAA Gender Equity Study, 1992	3	10
NCAA Gender Equity Study, 1997	3	11



Coverage of women's athletics in media, 1970-1998 (2 folders)	3	12-13
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Series 4: *Sidelines*, 1984-1994

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
<i>Sidelines</i> , Issue 2-5, 1984	4	1
<i>Sidelines</i> , Volume 2, 1984-1985	4	2
<i>Sidelines</i> , Volume 3, 1985-1986	4	3
<i>Sidelines</i> , Volume 4, 1986-1987	4	4
<i>Sidelines</i> , Volume 5, 1987-1988	4	5
<i>Sidelines</i> , Volume 6, 1988-1989	4	6
<i>Sidelines</i> , Volume 7, 1989-1990 (2 folders)	4	7-8
<i>Sidelines</i> , Volume 8, 1990-1991 (3 folders)	4	9-11
<i>Sidelines</i> , Volume 9, 1991-1992 (3 folders)	4	12-14
<i>Sidelines</i> , Volume 10, 1992-1993 (3 folders)	4	15-17
<i>Sidelines</i> , Volume 11, 1993-1994 (3 folders)	4	18-20



SUBJECT HEADINGS

People

Conradt, Jody
Lopiano, Donna A.
Plonsky, Chris
McCombs, Red

Organizations

Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW)
College Football Association (CFA)
College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA)
National College Athletic Association (NCAA)
U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR)
University of Texas at Austin, Intercollegiate Athletics for Women

Subjects

College sports for women--United States.
Intercollegiate Athletics for Women.
Sex discrimination in sports--Law and legislation--United States.
Sports for women--Law and legislation.
Sports for women--Periodicals.
United States. Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX.

Events

Second Century Celebration

Publications

Longhorn Magazine
Sidelines
Sports Girl

Sports

Archery
Basketball
Bowling
Diving
Fencing
Golf
Riding



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Riflery

Swimming

Tee-Wah-Hiss

Tennis

Track and field

Tumbling

Volleyball