



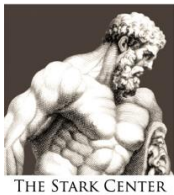
THE STARK CENTER

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The University of Texas at Austin

Anna Hiss Collection
1922-2005, undated
Bulk 1931-1970

Abstract

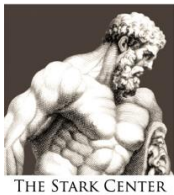
The Anna Hiss Collection is comprised of papers, photographs, and scrapbooks documenting the work of Anna Hiss and the history of women's athletics at the University of Texas at Austin, primarily between the 1920s and 1960s. Hiss revolutionized the role of women's athletics in Texas through her leadership in the Women's Athletic Association and the University of Texas Sports Association, intramural and club sports for women, the completion of a groundbreaking women's athletic facility, and her overall attitude towards female athletics. The collection also includes records related to the Physical Education Majors Club, the Campus League of Women Voters, and Rosemary "Rosie" Slacks who pushed to save the Anna Hiss Gym from demolition in the 1990s.



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SUMMARY INFORMATION

Size of Collection:	12 boxes and 3 volumes [12.75 linear feet]
Creator:	Hiss, Anna. Slacks, Rosemary.
Acquisition Info:	Donated by faculty and staff of the Physical Education department, dates unknown.
Accruals:	No accruals are expected.
Language(s):	English.
Processed By:	Kristin Bongiovanni, Emily McDonald, and Caitlin Smith, supervised by Brent Sipes, 2013. Additional materials processed and rehoued, and finding aid revised by Caroline De La Cerda, March-April 2025.
Conservation Notes:	Scrapbooks were removed from binding as necessary. Select newspapers mended with document repair tape. Select newspaper clippings photocopied onto acid free paper.



RIGHTS AND ACCESS

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research, but the Stark Center retains the right to limit the use of the Anna Hiss Collection under certain conditions. For any questions about the collection, you can contact The Stark Center by email at info@starkcenter.org or call (512) 471-4890.

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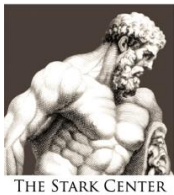
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INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Preferred Citation

Anna Hiss Collection, The H.J. Lutcher Stark Center for Physical Culture and Sports, The University of Texas at Austin.



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Separated Material

Books were separated from the collection and cataloged separately. You can search for books through The University of Texas at Austin Library catalog at lib.utexas.edu.

Other Finding Aids

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

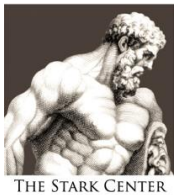
UT Physical Training for Women Records, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Anna Hiss, daughter of Charles Alger and Mary Lavinia (Hughes) Hiss, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on May 11, 1893. From 1912-1913, she attended Hollins College in Virginia and in 1917 she graduated from the Sargent School for Physical Education, now Boston University. After graduating, she taught for a year at the Friends' School in Baltimore before accepting the position as Instructor of Physical Training for Women at The University of Texas at Austin (UT) in 1918.

Hiss was a key advocate for adding a physical education curriculum at the School of Education and establishing women's intramurals and sports clubs. In 1921 she became the Director of Physical Training for Women at UT. The Women's Activities Building, which opened in 1931, was a product of Hiss' research of other similar facilities and her intent to create a state-of-the-art facility for women. The building was later renamed Anna Hiss Gym in her honor. She was also responsible for adding a girl's athletic field, tennis courts and archer-golf areas to the campus. Anna Hiss was sponsor of the University of Texas Sports Association (U.T.S.A.), formerly the Women's Athletic Association (W.A.A). The W.A.A. had been founded at UT in 1908 by Hiss' predecessor Eunice Aden. The W.A.A. was a student organization that governed extracurricular athletic activities for college women. In 1933 it became U.T.S.A. when sports clubs split from intramurals.

Hiss was involved in the promotion of women's athletics beyond the university. In 1924 she formed the Texas Athletic Conference for American College Women (UT had been affiliated with the National branch of A.C.A.C.W. since 1920) and directed the state headquarters for four years. She also formed the Texas chapter of the Women's Division of the National Amateur Athletic Federation in 1928. In 1936 she served on the President's Committee of Fifty in the



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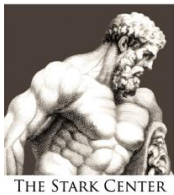
Second National Conference on College Hygiene, and from 1941 to 1947 she chaired the Inter-American Relations Committee of the National Association of Physical Education for College Women. In 1949 she cochaired the International Congress on the Physical Education of Girls and Women.

While working to raise the standards for women's physical education, Hiss also continued her own education by earning a B.S. degree from Columbia University in 1936 and graduate studies at the universities of Colorado and Wisconsin. In 1949, she received an Honorary Doctorate from Boston University and in 1955 she received an Honor Award from the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation for her involvement in state and national Physical Education groups.

Hiss was also very involved in other aspects of campus life, such as the Campus League of Women Voters and the Delta Kappa Gamma (D.K.G.), now called the Delta Kappa Gamma International Society. Hiss served as a faculty sponsor for the Campus League of Women Voters, which was organized on March 7, 1941. The focus of the organization was to promote political education amongst female students so they may better participate in government on the campus, city, state, and national levels. The D.K.G., an honors society for female teachers, was founded on May 11, 1929, at UT amongst twelve women educators of Texas, including Hiss. She served on a wide range of committees in the society, including serving as chairman of the national committee to choose a headquarters.

After thirty-six years of dedicating her career to improving women's physical education, Hiss retired from UT in 1957. She was named professor emeritus in 1969. She moved back to Baltimore in the late 1960s and passed away on January 28, 1972, at the age of 79.

Rosemary "Rosie" Slacks continued Anna Hiss' legacy at UT. Slacks was born on August 17, 1937, to Melvin and Ruth Slacks in Coal City, Illinois. She started at UT in 1962, shortly after graduating from Florida State University, as an Instructor of Physical Training for Women, teaching dance, swimming, bowling, golf, badminton and Basic Physical Education (B.P.E.) courses. She was the last sponsor of the Turtle Club (synchronized swimming) and supported the club when the students wanted to become a competitive collegiate swim team. In 1969 she became the first women's swim team coach and, the same year, the team won the Southwestern Conference Championship at the University of Texas at Arlington. In the 1970s Slacks began managing the summer camp classes available to kids. She was especially dedicated to teaching adult beginner swim classes and parent/toddler swim classes in the pool in Anna Hiss Gym. Around 1980 Slacks started a Ballroom Dance class which she taught until she retired. In the early 1990s she and other UT staff campaigned to save the pool in the gym from demolition, hosting "Save Anna Hiss Pool" parties and distributing flyers to make people aware of its historical significance. Despite these efforts, the pool was demolished in the mid 1990s to make



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way for a molecular biology building. Slacks retired from UT in May 2008 and passed away on December 4, 2015, in Austin.

Sources, in addition to the records themselves:

Delta Kappa Gamma International Society. "Dr. Anna Hiss." Founders. Accessed April 11, 2025. https://www.dkg.org/DKGSI/About_Us/Founders_pages/Anna_Hiss.aspx.

Delta Kappa Gamma International Society. "History of DKG." History. Accessed April 11, 2025. https://www.dkg.org/DKGSI/DKGSI/About_Us/History.aspx?hkey=76561b2c-0294-4b89-a5c3-416568264edb.

Dignity Memorial. "Rosemary Slacks." *Dignity Memorial*. Accessed April 11, 2025. <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/austin-tx/rosemary-slacks-6707419>.

McArthur, Judith N. "Hiss, Anna." *Handbook of Texas Online*, January 1, 1995. <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/hiss-anna>.

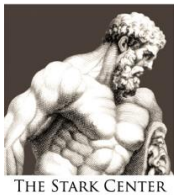
Nichols, Tessa M. "Organizational Values and Women's Sport at the University of Texas, 1918-1992." PhD diss., University of Texas at Austin, 2007. <http://hdl.handle.net/2152/47429>.

Recreational Sports, The University of Texas at Austin. "Anna Hiss." Friends of RecSports. Accessed April 11, 2025. <https://www.utrecsports.org/friends/our-stories/anna-hiss>.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection primarily concerns the careers of Anna Hiss and Rosemary Slacks, women's athletics, physical education, sports, and activities on campus at the University of Texas at Austin from the 1920s to the 1990s. The collection is organized into four series. The first and largest series, **Women's Athletic Association/University of Texas Sports Association**, is organized into three subseries: **Papers**, **Photographs**, and **Scrapbooks and artifacts**. This series documents women's intramurals, sports clubs' histories and activities, and the organizational structure and activities of the W.A.A. and U.T.S.A. Materials include meeting agenda and minutes, correspondence, clippings, photographs, and scrapbooks. Activities covered include archery, badminton, basketball, bowling, dance, deck tennis, fencing, football, golf, horse riding, posture, racquetball, shuffleboard, softball, swimming, table tennis, tennis, and volleyball.

The second series, **Physical Education Majors (P.E.M.) Club**, mainly consists of scrapbooks and newsletters created by the P.E.M. Club. These materials concern both men and women physical education majors doing club activities on campus and around Austin as well as clippings about UT sports teams. There is likely overlap between the first and second series of



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this collection as many students and faculty involved in the W.A.A. and U.T.S.A. were also involved with the P.E.M. Club. The third series, **Campus League of Women Voters**, includes meeting agenda and notes, constitutions, correspondence, and newsletters of the UT League of Women Voters. Documents also show the groups connection with the Austin League of Women Voters and the League of Women Voters of Texas. The fourth and final series, **Rosemary Slacks and Save the Anna Hiss Gym Campaign**, includes research regarding the life and career of Anna Hiss, the construction and historical significance of the Anna Hiss Gym, and Slacks career at UT. Records include correspondence, newspapers, and photographs documenting the use of the gym and the efforts of Slacks to save the gym, especially the pool, from demolition. Information about Slacks career includes a “memoir” of her time at UT detailing campus life as well as notable events like the UT Tower shooting in 1966.

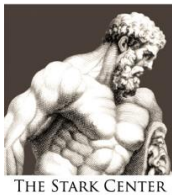
COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series 1: Women’s Athletic Association/University of Texas Sports Association, 1922-1974, undated

This series consists of three subseries: 1.1, Papers; 1.2, Photographs; and 1.3, Scrapbooks and artifacts.

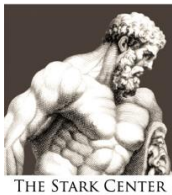
Subseries 1.1: Papers, 1922-1952, undated

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U.T.S.A. Constitutions 1926-1938, 1940-1943, 1945	1	1
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U.T.S.A. Constitutions and Executive Material, 1929-1930	1	2A
U.T.S.A. Constitutions, 1931-1932	1	3
U.T.S.A. Constitutions, 1932-1933	1	4
“History”, 1922, 1936-1938, undated	1	5
“History”, 1922, 1926-1927, undated	1	6



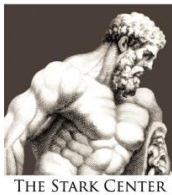
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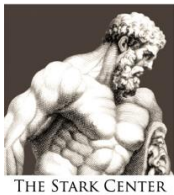
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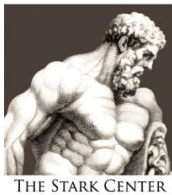
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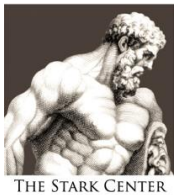
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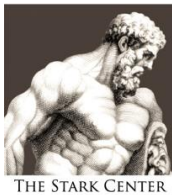
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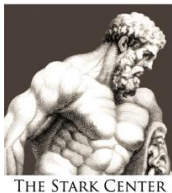
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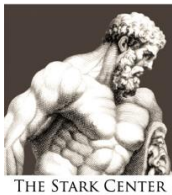
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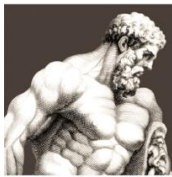
Subseries 1.2: Photographs, 1927-1974, undated

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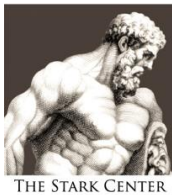
Group Photos 1939, 1943-1944, 1955-1963, 1972, 1974, undated	3	2 thru 3
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Shuffleboard, 1957, 1960-1962, undated	3	12
Snow pictures, 1964	3	13
Soccer, 1969	3	14
Softball, 1943-1944, 1951, 1957, 1959-1962, 1968, 1970-1971, 1974, undated	3	15
Swimming, 1943, 1951-1952, 1956-1959, 1962, 1967-1968, 1970, 1972, undated	3	16
T-Night, 1945-1969	3	17
T-Night, 1970-1974	3	18
T-Night, undated	3	19



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Table Tennis, 1956-1962, 1967, 1970, 1972, 1974	3	20
Table Tennis, undated	3	21
Tennis, 1936, 1940-1943, 1952-1968, 1970-1974	3	22
Tennis, undated	3	23
Track, 1968, 1974	3	24
Turtle Club, 1956, undated	3	25
Unidentified Indoor Sports, 1956, 1959, undated	3	26
Unidentified Outdoor Sports, 1958, 1970, undated	3	27
Volleyball, 1944, 1957-1962, 1967-1971, 1974, undated	3	28
Negatives, Women's Intramurals and U.T.S.A., 1930s	3	29
Negatives, Prints, and Film, Women's Intramurals and U.T.S.A., 1950s	4	1 thru 3
Negatives and Slides, Women's Intramurals and U.T.S.A., 1960s	4	4 thru 6
Negatives and Film, Women's Intramurals and U.T.S.A., 1970s	4	7
Negatives and Prints, Women's Intramurals and U.T.S.A., undated	4	8
Slides, Women's Intramurals and U.T.S.A., undated	4	9 thru 11
Film strips, Women's Intramurals and U.T.S.A., undated	4	12

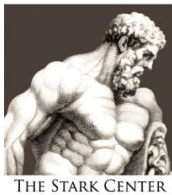


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Weight lifting demonstration photos, undated	4	13
Documents with photos, 1974, undated	4	14
Women's Intramurals pamphlet and pictures, undated	4	15

Subseries 1.3: Scrapbooks and artifacts, 1939-1967, undated

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
U.T.S.A. Scrapbook (Book 1), 1947-1948	4	16 thru 38
U.T.S.A. Scrapbook, (Book 1), 1947-1948, continued	5	1 thru 5
Scrapbook of Women's Sports (Book 2), 1939-40, undated	5	6 thru 30
U.T.S.A. 1947-1948 to unknown, Club pictures, (Book 3), 1947-1948	5	31 thru 54
Untitled Scrapbook (Book 4), undated	5	55 thru 93
Sports Day Scrapbook, Department of Physical Training for Women, 1947-1950	5	94 thru 140
Sports Day I Scrapbook, 1944-1947	5	141 thru 181
Sports Day II Scrapbook, 1950-1953	5	182 thru 202
U.T.S.A. Poona Club Scrapbook, 1940-1952	Volume	
Loose material from U.T.S.A. Poona Club Scrapbook, 1940-1952	6	1

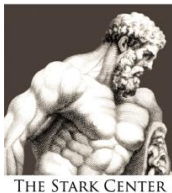


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Loose oversized material from U.T.S.A. Poona Club Scrapbook, 1940-1952	Oversize Box 9	11
U.T.S.A. Canter Club Scrapbook, 1943-1948	Oversize Box 7	1 thru 14
Loose material between pages 1 and 2, U.T.S.A. Canter Club Scrapbook, 1943-1948	6	2
U.T.S.A. Orchesis Club Scrapbook, 1945-1963	Oversize Box 8	1 thru 18
U.T.S.A. Turtle Club Scrapbook, 1964-1965	Oversize Box 10	1 thru 38
Light meter, undated	Oversize Box 9	

Series 2: Physical Education Majors (P.E.M.) Club, 1939-1970, undated

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
P.E.M. Club newsletters, 1944-1970	6	3
Physical Education Majors Club operating code, 1969	6	4
P.E.M. Club clippings and member lists, 1952, undated	6	5
P.E.M. Club seniors, 1966-1969, undated	6	6
P.E.M. Club Scrapbook, 1939-1940	Volume	
Loose material from P.E.M. Club Scrapbook, 1939-1940	6	7
P.E.M. Club Scrapbook, 1940-1941	Oversize Box 9	1 thru 8
P.E.M. Club Scrapbook, 1944	Volume	

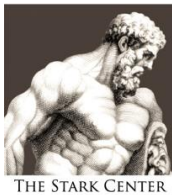


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Loose material from P.E.M. Club Scrapbook, 1944	6	8
P.E.M. Club Scrapbook, 1944-1946, undated	Oversize box 7	15 thru 17
Loose material from P.E.M. Club Scrapbook, 1944-1946, undated	6	9
P.E.M. Club arm bands, undated	Oversize Box 9	

Series 3: Campus League of Women Voters, 1937-1949, undated

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
Campus League loose materials, 1946-1949, undated	6	10
Campus League (Alumnae), undated	6	11
Campus League, 1946	6	12
Campus League program and committees, 1943-1945	6	13
Outside resources, 1946	6	14
Stump Speakin', 1943, 1946-1947	6	15
State, National, Austin Leagues, 1944-1947	6	16
Constitutions and research, 1943-1946, undated	6	17
Parents addresses, 1944-1945	6	18
Program Com., 1945-1946, undated	6	19
Newsletters, 1937, 1946-1947	6	20

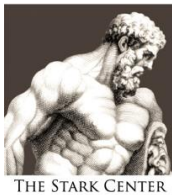


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Membership (Rolls), 1944-1947, undated	6	21
Susanne Catlett, 1946-1947, undated	6	22
National League of Women Voters, 1945-1947	6	23
Correspondence re: Campus League meetings, 1947	6	24
Secret Ballot, 1946	6	25
Radio transcription, undated	6	26
Presidents' letters and Annual Report, undated	6	27
Committees, 1946, undated	6	28
Austin League (Senate Party), 1946- 1947, undated	6	29
Mrs. Rowe, 1946-1947	6	30
Letters and 'B9' (Betty Gibbons), 1946-1947, undated	6	31
Workshop, undated	6	32
Board and Elections, 1941-1948	6	33
Treasurer!, undated	6	34
General materials, 1943-1948	6	35

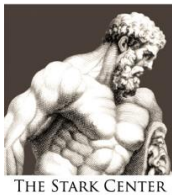
**Series 4: Rosemary Slacks and Save the Anna Hiss Gym Campaign, 1931-2005,
undated**

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
Correspondence, 1989-1993, undated	6	36



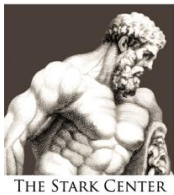
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The Delta Kappa Gamma Society, 1960-1989	6	37
Outreach Information, 1989-1991, undated	6	38
Anna Hiss Gym floor plans, 1931, 1990, undated	6	39
Pool schedules statistics and maintenance, 1989-1990, undated	6	40
Directories, 1989-1993, undated	6	41
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Save the Gym flyers and pamphlets, 1990, undated	6	43
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Express mail to Rosemary Slacks, 1963-1993, undated	6	45
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Rosemary Slacks' Memoir, undated	6	49
Rosemary Slacks' photos and documents, undated	6	50
Rosemary Slacks' group swimming, 1981-1990, undated	6	51
Rosemary Slacks film strips, undated	6	52
Glass slides, undated	6	53



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Notes from lantern slides, undated	6	54
Research materials, 1960, 1999, 2005, undated	6	55
Anna Hiss Memoriam, 1972, undated	6	56
<i>Intramural Sports for Men Handbook</i> , 1965-1966	6	57
<i>An Approach to Teaching Gymnastics</i> , 1966	6	58
Daily desk calendar, 1939, 1963, undated	6	59
Newspapers, 1972-1993, undated	Oversize Box 9	9
Swimming lessons index print, undated	Oversize Box 9	10
Oversized photocopy of Anna Hiss Gym photograph, undated	Oversize Box 9	11
Lantern slides, undated	Boxes 11 and 12	



SUBJECT HEADINGS

Organizations

Campus League for Women Voters
University of Texas Sports Association
Women's Athletic Association

People

Hiss, Anna
Slacks, Rosemary

Subjects

Archery
Badminton (Game)
Basketball
Billiards
Bowling
Deck tennis
Fencing
Field hockey

Firearms training

Football

Golf

Horsemanship

Posture

Racquetball

Shuffleboard

Soccer

Softball

Swimming

Table tennis

Tennis

Volleyball