

Did You Know?

Women and Sports

Women have been participating in sports throughout history, but it was not always as accepted as it is today. Every year more and more women are participating in sports and breaking records, paving the way for the women athletes of the future. Amazing women athletes and amendments passed in Congress have allowed for the continuation of Women's sports today.

Some interesting facts:

- The first known women's golf tournament was held in Scotland between the local fishwives in 1811.
- Twelve women form the first Intercollegiate Women's Tennis club at Smith College in 1881.
- 19 women participated for the first time in the Olympic games in Paris, France. Charlotte Cooper becomes the first woman to win a gold medal there in 1900.
- In 1910 Annette Kellerman was arrested for exposing her legs while swimming in the Boston Harbor.
- In 1912 women gained the right to swim in the Olympic games and Australian Fanny Durack won the 100m freestyle with the same time as the men's winner.
- In 1921, Jeux Feminins, the first all-women Olympics, was held in Monaco and was so successful that it was held again for the following 2 years.
- Alice Coachman became the first African-American woman to win a gold medal in 1948.
- Billie Jean King defied international tennis tradition at Wimbledon when she demanded that the under-the-table payment method come to an end in 1968.

Title IX:

- In 1972, as part of the Education Amendments, schools that received federal funds were for the first time required to provide girls and women with equal opportunity to compete in sports. It prohibited gender discrimination in schools and colleges across the country. Today Title IX is in danger. On March 17th, 2005 the Department of Education issued new regulations on the amendment that would severely weaken its purpose. It stated that schools would be allowed to use an email survey that women would have to respond to if they were interested in playing sports. If not enough responded then they would not be forced to provide the funding for such a program. Don't let this happen! Call or write your local representative today to voice your concern and learn more. Go to www.congress.org for contact information.

This was brought to you by the Resource/Referral program at EWC as part of a bi-weekly awareness project. R/R is located in the basement of Wilder Hall or you can reach us at 545-0883.