

You've come a long way, baby...

Women's athletic program makes rapid advancement

By NORMAN CANNADA
Staff Writer

When Laura Dupont won the national singles title for the North Carolina Tennis Club in 1970, there were no big-money budgets or scholarships available for female athletes. In fact, women's sports were still considered part of the physical education department.

How times change. Ten years later, 13 female sports are supported by the UNC Athletic Department—with an approximate budget of \$700,000. The number of scholarship athletes in the women's program has gone from zero in 1970 to 103 this year.

"We have been working toward equity and I think we have made a lot of progress," UNC Athletic Director John Swofford said last week. "This year the budget for our women's sports and the budget for our non-revenue men's sports are about the same—and the women may be a little bit ahead."

One of the biggest reasons for the changes in the past 10 years was Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act passed in 1972. Title IX requires that women's sports receive the same proportion of scholarships and money as men's athletic teams receive.

"We've had a great many changes in the past few years and Title IX has helped to bring this about," said Francis Hogan, associate athletic director. "But I think that we were on the right track before Title IX."

Hogan, whose title until this past summer was Director of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women, knows what she is talking about. When she took that position in 1946, women could only come to

UNC as junior transfers. Consequently, the women's athletic program then resembled today's intramural program.

"Every girl on campus was a member of the athletic council, and we had separate competitions for dorms and sororities," Hogan said. "The whole idea was mass participation. We had a slogan that we had a sport for every girl and a girl for every sport."

For the more highly skilled athletes, there were club sports. Most physical education officials, however, tried to keep interscholastic competition at a minimum.

"Competition was frowned upon because it wasn't considered ladylike," Hogan said. "When a national women's golf tournament was started in Ohio in 1940, it was considered OK because golf was a ladylike sport."

As time went on, the schedules increased and the women's club teams were competing as if they were in the athletic department.

Even though women's sports were under the auspices of physical education, the UNC Athletic Department did help the women athletes when needed.

"When Laura Dupont was a junior, we were trying to figure out how to send her to the nationals," Hogan said. "I went to Homer Rice (then UNC athletic director) and asked if he could help. The only thing he asked was 'Is she any good?' I told him I thought she could win."

Dupont won the title that year and came close to defending it a year later before illness forced her to drop out of the tournament.

Even after women's sports

became an official part of the UNC Athletic Department in 1974, problems still existed. In 1971, Carolina became a charter member of the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for women. Early restrictions by the North Carolina AIAW chapter kept women athletes from making much progress.

"We had some funny rules," Hogan said. "They limited the number of games we could play and we weren't even allowed to give scholarships until 1974."

Scholarships have been on the rise for women since tennis player Casey Timberlake received the first grant-in-aid. According to Swofford, 103 female athletes will receive full or partial scholarships this fall. Restrictions still exist that make coaches very selective about the players they recruit.

"AIAW rules count any kind of financial aid as a full scholarship," Hogan said. "We have to be mighty careful and go after the blue-chippers."

The athletic budget is another place where the women are making advancement. Volleyball coach Beth Miller, who is also the athletic department's business manager, said the budgets and coaches' salaries for women's sports and the men's non-revenue sports are comparable.

"I think things are becoming pretty equal," Miller said. "In fact if things keep going the way they are now, women are going to be ahead of men in the next few years."

These improvements have led to increased competition in women's sports on a nationwide level. This is certainly true at UNC, where almost every women's sport is strong—at least on a regional level.

"I think our women's teams are right on the verge of gaining the kind of national prominence the men have here," Hogan said. "We have excellent coaching and the staff works hard at what they're doing."

For some schools across the country, efforts to comply with Title IX have resulted in the elimination of certain men's programs. Wake Forest, for example, dropped its men's swimming team. Colorado was forced to eliminate seven sports.

"That could happen here, but we will make every effort to try to avoid it," Swofford said. "It all comes down to a financial situation."

For the women, publicity and fan support appear to be the areas that need the most improvement. The athletic department has recently

hired an additional assistant in the sports information office, whose primary duty will be with women's sports.

"Publicity is one of our biggest problems," basketball coach Jennifer Alley said. "We need the media to tell the people that we do have women's sports and you can come out to see them. Of course, we're so ACC crazy around here that many people would rather sit home and watch the men's (basketball) team on television than to come see us live."



DTH/Photo



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Varsity women's sports such as softball and field hockey are relatively new at Carolina. The women's athletic program now receives a budget comparable to the men's, and officials say the figures are likely to rise.

Referendum swells sports clubs' coffers

By GEOFFREY MOCK
Staff Writer

After years of making do with tight budgets and antiquated equipment, the Sports Club Council now has money to spend thanks to a referendum passed last semester guaranteeing the council a certain share of student fees.

The referendum established a new student fee of \$3.75 per semester for an expanded sports program of the Sports Club Council, the intramural program and recreational sports. The SCC, formerly affiliated with the Campus Governing Council, is now an independent organization.

Council president Chuck Gardiner said the new system will allow the clubs to enhance the opportunities for participation in sports. "It affects us a lot," Gardiner said. "It assures us a budget of \$25,000. This means we don't have to go through the normal budget process, which was not consistent. Now we have twice as much money and can get clubs to a basic subsistence level."

Gardiner said the SCC's first priority was to furnish clubs with the equipment necessary to compete in their sports. "A lot of clubs are short on equipment," Gardiner said. "The people who are really

interested in the sport will always come out, but some beginners will be frustrated because they hear that there's not a lot of equipment and there's not much of a chance for them to use it."

Scuba Club president Tim Brown said the quality of the equipment in his club needed upgrading. "We can fix six pieces now, but it's not good equipment," he said. "We hope to be able to totally fit 12 people soon with better quality."

The referendum was not the end of the money problems for club sports, Gardiner said. The Council does not pay for the lodging and tournament dues for the clubs that

travel. All clubs must engage in some fund raising. "We encourage the clubs to raise money on their own," Gardiner said. "Fundraising varies from club to club. At the crew club we raise 90 percent of our budget, but the pressure will be eased, and hopefully we can spend more time rowing and less on fund raising."

Finding time in Carolina facilities has been another obstacle facing club sports, and Gardiner said this will not be eased until the completion of the new Fetzer Gymnasium. "We hope to get a better agreement with Physical Education to get playing time," Gardiner said. "Perhaps then water polo won't have to practice at 4 a.m."

Clubs using Woolen Gym have a major problem gaining access to facilities. "We have a little more priority on playing time than the normal student, but not much more," said Stephen Hurst, president of the Volleyball Club. "When anyone wants to have a party in the gym they can get it. We'd like to have a major tournament, and we've been sort of promised that when the new gym opens we can get one."

The Sports Club Council has expanded since its inception, and this year will offer 22 clubs ranging from crew and football to men's and women's soccer. Every club except ice hockey will be active in the fall. Gardiner is optimistic that the new funding will keep club sports strong at Carolina. "Things are off to a pretty good year," he



DTH/Photo

Ice Hockey (left) and Rugby are two of club sports affiliated with the Sports Club Council.

said. "Now we have something to build on and to get the clubs active."

Anyone desiring to participate in club sports or wishing a full list of clubs should visit the Sports Club Council offices in Suite A of the Student Union or call 933-1013.

There will be an important

meeting of the presidents and treasurers of the sports clubs at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Room 209 of the Student Union.

At the meeting, club officers will catch up on changes made in the procedures and status of the clubs over the summer and discuss policies and the new disbursement system. Presidents and treasurers must be present in order for clubs to begin operation with new funds.



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