



**HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA
INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
CIF-SOUTHERN SECTION**



94th historical “tidbit.”
Dr. John S. Dahlem

EARLY CIF-SS HEROINES

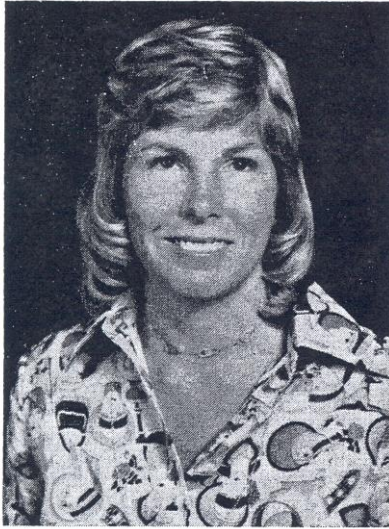
Margaret Davis and Barbara Wilson

In the late 1960’s, prior to the national Title IX movement, there was a concerted effort to bring girls sports into the CIF-SS. There were many visionary leaders who felt that girls should have the same athletic experiences as the boys. Early leaders included Phyllis Blatz (first part time administrator for girl’s athletics in the CIF-SS office), Bobbie Diehl, Eloise Longwell and Betty Stately. **Two early heroines who had the greatest impact were Margaret Davis, first full time Administrative Assistant in the CIF-SS (1974) and Barbara Wilson, the first Women’s Athletic Director representative to the Executive Committee (1975).** The courage, tenacity and proactive attitudes of these two women were responsible for a smooth paradigm shift from G.A.A. (Girls Athletic Association) to female interscholastic sports. They both had to battle the “good-ole-boys club” and many women who felt they wanted to retain control of female sports and not the CIF-SS. Their collective success has led to equal opportunity for girls to play sports and prepare themselves to practice ethical behavior with fair play, integrity and obedience to rules.

Margaret Davis in her formative years at Poway High School in San Diego circa 1970-1975:



MARGARET DAVIS — NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



MARGARET DAVIS

The Southern Section has its first full-time woman Administrative Assistant: Margaret Davis, 30, of Poway HS. The first section in the California Interscholastic Association to elect representatives from the superintendent and athletic director ranks to its Executive (administrative) Committee, the CIF-SS continues to demonstrate leadership by appointing a woman with the full-time responsibility for the Girl's Interscholastic Athletic Program.

Ms. Davis comes to the CIF-SS Office from the San Diego Section where she was a leader in girls' athletics. A life-long resident of that area, she was graduated from Rosary HS in San Diego and from San Diego University with a major in Physical Education. Graduate study found her continuing at San Diego State and later at the University of California at San Diego.

Margaret's most recent professional experience has been at Poway HS where she has taught physical education and coached the last four years. In addition to teaching and coaching she has handled department chairman duties for two years. Prior to that she held several positions in the San Diego Department of Recreation.

Ms. Davis' primary sports as a competitor and coach were basketball, softball, and volleyball. In softball she competed at the AA Division as an amateur. Her basketball team at Poway HS last season fashioned a perfect 23-0 record.

Achievement is but one measure of a person, but in Margaret's case, it is indicative of her leadership ability. When she began at Poway HS in 1970, gymnastics offered the only interscholastic competition available to girls. The other sports were confined to play-day activity. After she became Physical Education Department Chairman, the number of truly interscholastic

sports for girls at the school increased eventually to eight. The recent girls' interscholastic athletic program at Poway has been extremely successful and has become the beneficiary of growing community awareness and support due, in no small measure, to Ms. Davis.

Recognition by her peers is another indicator of leadership. Margaret Davis has been elected President of the Avocado League Women Coaches Association, Chairman of the Board of Officials for San Diego, and Chairman of the Girls' Interscholastic Athletic Advisory Council to the CIF-San Diego Section. In addition she has been appointed to the State DGWS Competition Committee and the State CIF Advisory Committee.

Two accomplishments make Margaret justly proud. First, she was instrumental in the attainment of coaching pay for women in the Poway Unified School District equal to that of the male coaches. Secondly, she was at the forefront of the successful effort to expand the San Diego Section's athletic program to 9 sanctioned sports for girls, complete with championships. Special mention of the latter was made in a letter of commendation to her from the San Diego unit of the California Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation.

Ms. Davis, a new resident of Fountain Valley, looks forward to the challenge in her new position. "The Southern Section has earned the highest respect throughout the State," she says, "and I am very pleased to have been offered the opportunity to become a part of it. Obviously I have much to learn, but if the caliber of people I've already met in the schools here are any gauge, I will have a great deal of help as I begin. There is no doubt that the coming school year will be the most successful in CIF-SS history for girls in terms of both participation and accomplishment, and I am glad to be able to contribute."

Looking ahead to 1974-75, it is quite possible that Margaret Davis will not have as much time as she has had in the past for snow skiing, gardening, and relaxing on the beach.



PERFECT SEASON FOR LOUISVILLE: Coach Marla O'Connell (R) and her undefeated volleyball squad pose with CIF-SS trophy presented by Administrative Assistant Margaret Davis (L).



Margaret Davis of CIF-SS presents All-Around gymnast award to Leanne Karasick of Huntington Beach H.S.



Margaret Davis, CIF-SS Administrative Assistant, presents top trophy to Barb Millar of Agoura—the 1975 all-around gymnastics winner.

MARGARET DAVIS NAMED TO NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Southern Section Administrative Assistant Margaret Davis has been selected by the National Federation Executive Committee to serve as a member of the National Field Hockey Rules Committee. Other members of the committee are Evelyn Biggs of Pennsylvania; Sally Watkins, New York; Nancy Oliver, New Jersey; Karen Emery, Ohio; and Mary Jarvis of Missouri.

The function of the committee will be to formulate the field hockey rules for all interscholastic competition played on the interscholastic level in those states adopting National Federation rules for this sport.

Ms. Davis, who came to the CIF-SS in 1974 is a native of the San Diego area where she was a leader in girls' athletics. A graduate of Rosary HS, Ms. Davis attended San Diego University with a major in Physical Education. Her primary duties with the CIF-SS Office are the administration of the girls' athletic program which is growing by leaps and bounds.



Representative to National Field Hockey Rules Committee

Speaking Out . . .

SEPARATISM OR PROGRESS?

I am deeply concerned about a new movement in girls' athletics in California which emphasizes the concept of separatism. For every new cause, there are extremists. Girls' sports is no exception. Extremist agitations are sometimes beneficial and sometimes very harmful. Our state has its own band of women malcontents. Some of these women, using "women's rights" as a calling card, are now seriously impeding the orderly progress of girls' athletics within the California Interscholastic Federation, an organization actively gearing up to provide equal support and leadership to the girls' interscholastic athletic program.

This small circle of activists are demanding a "new model" or new organizational structure for high school girls' athletics. This demand implies that the C.I.F. will not allow for orderly change within its structure or its regulations in order to accommodate the fledgling girls' program. This is a falsehood. What is really meant by a "new model" is not another answer or direction for girl's athletics but another, **separate governing body** at the state level, providing an opportunity for the same old leadership to return to the helm.

I have listened too often to the weary tune of the "new model." Those who espouse its qualities and those who choose to follow are developing a philosophy of negativism towards athletics. They tell all who will listen that high level competitive experience will bring only ill effects. To illustrate their point, the boy's athletic program is severely criticized. Examples are given only of negative aspects that can be found in any activity or organization. The total picture, including the overwhelming predominance of positive values, is never portrayed. One wonders if these women have ever had a delightful or rewarding experience as a coach or athlete.

I believe that women **can** and **should** be directly involved in leadership positions in our high school sports programs. We are in a new era, and athletics has become more complex. Women can learn new roles in athletics, and we must be given the opportunity to learn. This statement is rapidly becoming a reality in the Southern Section; our constitution is now being re-examined in light of the need to include women in decision making positions. But change will never be fast enough for the separatist element in this state. Growth within the C.I.F. structure is neither their goal nor their desire.

I would urge those of you who have deep sentiment with the past not to let it override your good common sense. The doors have opened for girls' sports. The opportunity to be a part of this growth and change is yours. The channels of communication, organized for you throughout the C.I.F., are there to keep you informed and to assist you in informing others.

Separatism is not the answer. Only **together** can men and women come to a common understanding of the value of sports in the lives of both boys and girls.

Margaret Davis
CIF-SS Administrative Assistant



DAVIS MOVES TO STATE CIF POSITION

Margaret Davis, who became the first full-time woman administrator with the Southern Section Office seven years back, has duplicated that effort at yet another level of the California Interscholastic Federation.

Davis has accepted a similar position in the State CIF Office and assumed her new duties earlier this month — the initial woman to hold such a position at the State level.

The native of San Diego and graduate of Rosary High School and San Diego State University, was largely responsible for the organizational phase of girls' interscholastic athletics within the CIF-SS during its formative years and served under three different commissioners.

"Margaret's professional growth in this instance is the Southern Section's loss," said Commissioner Ray Plutko.

"She's a unique and talented individual in her profession and a positive influence on what many of us consider to be the other half of education. Fortunately, Margaret will be in a position to continue her skills with the CIF throughout the State. Thus, in one respect, it's only a partial loss."

Davis has also been instrumental in her work with Senate Bill 19 and was selected to serve on the National Federation Field Hockey Rules Committee. Her experience with the Southern Section has ranged from various boys' and girls' sport responsibilities, sanctioned events, public relations and publicity, publications including the Blue Book, Directory, CIF-SS "Bulletin", Sport and Playoff Calendar to eligibility.

Prior to her position with the Southern Section, Davis was a highly successful basketball coach and athletic director at Poway High School in the San Diego Section.

CIF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD - MARGARET DAVIS

Many individuals have made their mark on the CIF over the organizations long history. People like Kenny Fagins, Tom Byrnes, Seth Van Patten and Jim Cheffers just to name a few.

When talking about trailblazers like these and the impact they have had on the CIF, the name of Margaret Davis should be included.

Davis was a notable champion in the organizations fight for gender equity throughout her 28 year career as a teacher and athletic administrator.

Davis was at the forefront in helping to resolve many difficult gender equity issues and was a founding member of the National Federation Equity Committee.

Davis was directly responsible for the inclusion of girls in the pole vault event in track and helped to initiate and edit new State CIF Pole Vault safety regulations.

Besides being an advocate for girls sports, Davis advocated and supported a model plan for statewide coaching programs. She also assisted in the development and administered a million dollar corporate support program benefitting school sports. She also helped to design and administer the State Scholar-Athlete Program.

While as an administrator she advocated for a CIF legislative presence in the state capitol.

Davis was directly responsible for helping to create the present State CIF Championship system and was the author of a significant CIF policy on communicable disease

in sports.

Davis, who began her career in 1970 as a P.E. instructor at Poway High School, was the recipient of the Jim Echols Award for outstanding leadership by the California State Athletic Directors Association. She also received a Special Service Award for Leadership given by the State CIF Sports Advisory Committees for basketball, wrestling and track and field. Davis has also been honored with a Meritorious Service Award by the United States Volleyball Association; a Distinguished Service Award from the Orange County Athletic Directors Association as well as having the O.C.A.D.A. Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year award renamed in her honor.

Davis, who served as an Administrator for the CIF Southern Section from 1975-82 before moving on to become Associate Executive Director for the State CIF from 1982 until her retirement in 1998, has also received numerous awards from the CIF including a Lifetime Pass Award and a CIF-SS Recognition Award.



Barbara Wilson in her formative years at Beverly Hills High School 1960's and 1970's:



VARSITY BASKETBALL—Front row: Deena Newman, Iona Morris; Back row: Coach Barbara Wilson, Anne Shutan, Eva Stresemann, Carol Levitt, Laura Wood, Liz Miller, Gay Jackson, Nancy Kohn, Diane McCray, Jan Schreiber, (manager).

GAA PRESENTS the Varsity Basketball team, a newly formed sport that should, after more experience become one of the top sports in GAA.

Top Row: Lynn Grosslight, Leslee Lenhoff, Carol Schaaf, Charlotte Speizer, Rocky Shiel. Bottom Row: Mrs. Wilson, Pam Kelly, Gail Katz, Elisa Cirieco, Debbie Kendall, Susan Kates, Mrs. Zovac.



1975

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ADDS NEW REPRESENTATION
WOMEN ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**



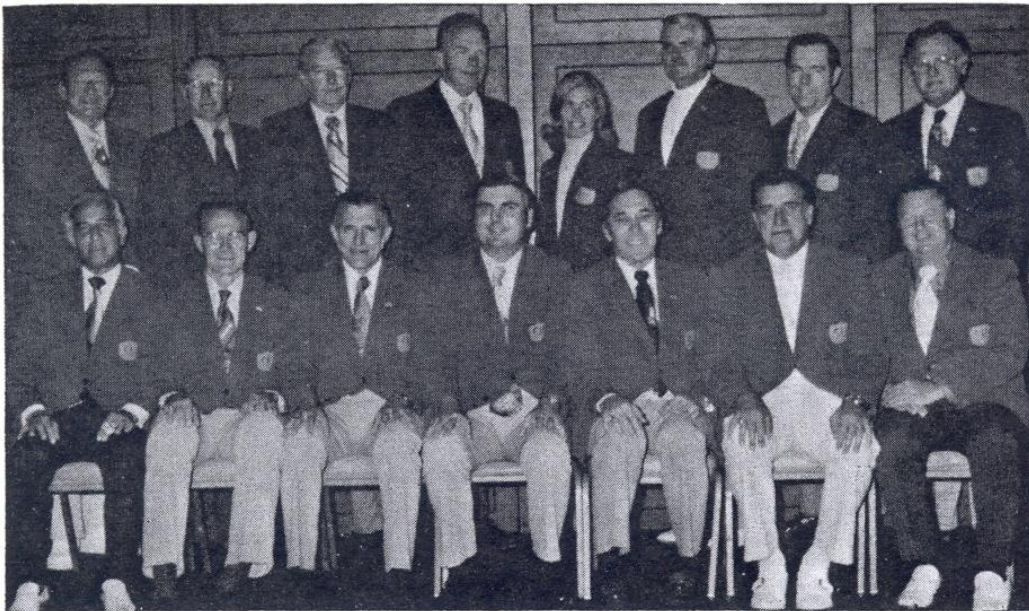
**BARBARA WILSON FILLS
NEW POST**

Representation has been one of the key concepts in the area of growth for the CIF Southern Section and another "first" has been entered in the archives with the appointment of a Women's Athletic Director representative to the Executive Committee.

Barbara Wilson of Beverly Hills H.S. is the newest member to the Executive Committee, a versatile and talented individual who draws on 20 years of educational experience.

Graduate of UCLA, she is currently the CIF-SS member on the State CIF Girls' Advisory Committee and vice-president of the State Athletic Director's Association.

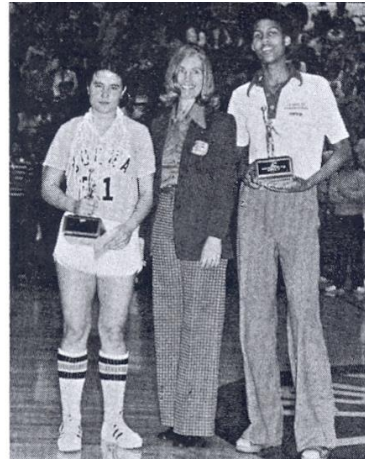
Welcome aboard!



Members of this year's CIF-SS Executive Committee are Steve Miletich (front, left), Dr. Hanford Rants, Lou Joseph, Commissioner Thomas Byrnes, Dr. Richard Cordano, Tony Balsamo and Ferren Christensen. Back row of Ted Gossard (left), Clare Van Hoorebeke, Joseph Deal, Gene Hartley, Barbara Wilson, Gene Knott, Bruce Keuning and Tedford Andrews.



All Tournament honors for the 1978 CIF-SS Girls' Basketball Finals went to Nan Fowler (second from left) of Alta Loma who was selected as the Most Outstanding Player of the afternoon session, and Kendee Eulart (third from left) of Righetti, Most Outstanding Player of the evening session. Also pictured from left to right are Margaret Davis of the CIF-SS, Fowler, Eulart, Karen Smolley of Righetti, Kim Kupferer of Upland, Cheryl Cady and Debra Burrows of Huntington Beach, Janet Davis of Alta Loma, Phoebe Nikolakakis of Buena, Jo Gabbart of Santa Clara, and Barbara Wilson of the CIF-SS Executive Committee. Not available for the picture was Diane Sebastian of Bishop Diego and Joney Webster of Buena.



Pictured with Barbara Wilson of the CIF-SS Executive Committee are: Mary Voigtsberger of Buena (4A) and Cheryl Miller of Riverside Poly (3A) named as the Most Outstanding Players in the finals held at Cal Poly Pomona.

STATE CIF GIRLS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Left to Right — Barbara Prato; San Francisco City Section, Kathy Haines; Northern Section, Jan Jessop; San Diego Section, Mary Reed; Oakland City Section, Rena Durbahn; Central Section, Bill Russell; Commissioner, State CIF, Barbara Heisler substituting for Judy Steele; North Coast Section, Betty Melton; San Joaquin Section, Barbara Wilson; Southern Section and Steve Miletich; President of State Federated Council.

FIRST WOMAN SECTION REP TO STATE

WILSON PLAYS MAJORS FOR MORE THAN POINTS

— A twelve year old semi-pro softball player to a woman in the “major leagues” as an adult. Pretty impressive? Sure, but even more so because she now plays for more than score board points.

Barbara Wilson is this competitor; a woman who fights for the rights of all athletes to be proud of their sports participation. She is the new representative from the CIF Southern Section to the 22 member CIF State Federated Council. This is definitely the “majors” — Wilson is the first woman in the CIF's 64 year history to hold such a representative position at the state level.

WILSON SEES SPORTS ADVANTAGES

“I tasted real competition during those early softball days and liked it,” said Wilson, “but it was as a coach at Beverly Hills High that I really saw the benefits athletics has for everyone.” Barbara is presently Athletic Director and Assistant Principal at Beverly Hills High School. It is here she had her first coaching job after graduation from UCLA.

The administrator said she has always personally enjoyed sports, but her coaching of others convinced her participating could really benefit all individuals. This is one reason why she continues with athletic involvement on different levels through the years, she said.

“I wanted freedom for girls, for anyone, to compete in the open, to have the opportunity to develop any ability and satisfy any interest in sports without being ashamed or teased.”

Wilson said, most importantly, “I represent all students in the CIF Southern Section, not just the girls.”

The new section representative realizes her non-attack stance will ruffle the feathers of some female coaches who thought they now had someone who was going to do battle with the male representatives. “The top CIF officials are all educators first,” she said, “they are exceptionally good at what they do as athletic executives and



appreciate what women in sports are accomplishing.” She pointed out that so many of those who criticize have not had the opportunity to work with these men.

“I'm so proud to be a part of this entire 64 year organization — not just the years of girls' sanctioned competition,” she said. “The men are doing a great job. They have not kept women's sports separate but have shared CIF instead.”

The athletic director went on to point out that the CIF-SS girls' program has never, to her knowledge, been turned down on any reasonable request. “In fact,” she said, “the Southern Section Executive Committee has often extended itself in certain situations for the girls' competitions.”

PROPOSITION 13 EFFECTS CONCERN WILSON

Wilson will begin her representative duties at the October 7-8 meeting in Santa Barbara. When dealing with specific goals at these meetings, she said she hopes to focus members on what Proposition 13 will really prep sports in this state.

“We're just going to have to more emphasis on fund raising and keeping expenses down as much as possible,” Wilson said, “while retaining competition quality. It's purchasing less expensive trophies. 18 games can still be played instead of having to cut to 15 or 16.”

As the first woman on the council to represent a section, Barbara regards her sex as just another bias, similar to the ones already there. She admits a certain sensitivity to women in sports, and she'll watch for undetected or potential discriminatory situations, but it is not a “witch hunt” cause with her.

“We all come in with different slants on the subject of sports,” she said of council members, “some members are ex-football players, others are tennis fanatics — the fact that I'm a woman should be helpful in adding another perspective for making a more balanced administration.”



TONY BALSAMO



BARBARA WILSON

BALSAMO AND WILSON NAMED TO NEW POSTS

Congratulations are in order for Southern Section State CIF representatives, Tony Balsamo and Barbara Wilson.

Balsamo, principal of Apple Valley and past president of the Southern Section, has been elected to the position of President-Elect of the State Federated Council.

Wilson, assistant principal at Beverly Hills and CIF-SS Executive Committee member, is the first woman to be elected to the State CIF Administrative Committee.

Both Balsamo and Wilson have strong backgrounds in athletics and administration and know well the problems which exist in governing high school athletics and will make a valuable addition to their respective state posts.



Barbara Wilson

Barbara Wilson, a teacher at Beverly Hills High School, served the CIF Southern Section and the State CIF as a member of the State CIF Federated Council for 15 years in the period after CIF approved girls sports activities. Mrs. Wilson stated that in 1955 she coached girls swimming and tennis teams at Beverly Hills High School and they competed against other neighboring high school girls teams. The competition was not officially approved by the high schools, but the school administration was aware of the activity. She said that Beverly Hills High School had a girls swimming team and that they went to Santa

Barbara High School in 1955 and had a meet there with Ventura High School girls also participating in a triangular swimming meet. She said the meet "included all the races and the diving and then we would have lunch and get on our bus and go back home. We also invited them to our school. I have the results of those meets in my files at my home. In tennis we did the same thing, but we were involved mostly with private schools including Marlborough, Westlake, and La Jolla. We would have group tennis meets, and would declare the winners."

Barbara said that some time later, she and other women teachers at high schools of the Bay League of which Beverly Hills HS was member for boys athletic competition under CIF, "met at my home and we put together our own set of rules copied after the CIF boys rules to govern our activities. We all knew we were doing something new, and that although the school administrators were aware of our activities, they were not involved in putting it together". Barbara recalled the first uniforms she put together for her girls. "The team uniforms were the girls' all white physical education class outfits on which I sewed the numbers of the players on the backs, for basketball or softball". Barbara stated that she was not aware of this competitive sports activity for girls being provided elsewhere in southern California at that time, and if she was aware of it, she would have contacted them to see if they could arrange mutual competitions.

Mrs. Wilson said that since the girls sports teams were patterned after the CIF boys rules, and the coaches of the teams were faculty members of the schools, there were few problems.

**A HISTORY
OF THE
CALIFORNIA
INTERSCHOLASTIC
FEDERATION**

**BOYS AND GIRLS
SPORTS TEAMS
IN CALIFORNIA
HIGH SCHOOLS**

**BY
WILLIAM W.
RUSSELL**

BHHS Assistant Principal Wins

Two Top Awards

Barbara Wilson not only is the first woman to receive either the top award of the California Coaches Assn. or the top honor from the California State Athletic Directors' Assn., she also is the only person ever to receive both honors.

Wilson, assistant principal at Beverly Hills High School, recently received the William S. Rockwell Distinguished Service Award from the California Coaches Assn.

In presenting the award to Wilson, **Thomas Byrens**, state commissioner of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), commented that she "has given unselfishly of her time and talents over many years of service to athletics in this state. Barbara's contributions have made a critical difference in major policy decisions at league, section, and state levels."

Last year, Wilson was the first woman to receive the prestigious **Jim Echols Award** from the California State Athletic Director's Assn. "in recognition of and appreciation for outstanding service to the cause of high school athletics."

The recent Rockwell Award from the coaches association now



makes her the first person to receive the top honors from the two associations.

Since beginning her career at Beverly Hills High School in 1955, Wilson has been a successful coach, physical education teacher, chairperson of the Physical Education Department, athletic director, dean, and currently assistant principal.

Since 1960, Wilson has been involved in nearly every phase of CIF activities. Currently, she is a member of the CIF Executive Committee and the State Federated Council.



Barbara Wilson

CSADA Special Award

The California State Athletic Director's Association (CSADA) has named Mrs. Barbara Wilson, vice-principal of Beverly Hills High School, as the 1981-82 recipient of the Jim Echols Award. According to Mr. Dutch Rohrer, former president of the CSADA, the prestigious award is given in recognition of and appreciation for outstanding service to the cause of high-school athletics. The award was established to honor Mr. Jim Echols, a former CSADA president from Oakland who passed away following a heart attack in 1972.

Wilson, who is the first woman to receive the award, commented, "The CSADA is a fine organization with outstanding leadership. I was tremendously proud to receive this award." Wilson began her involvement in high-school athletics as a coach in 1955 and says that she was "teethed on athletics."

In the early 1960's, Wilson joined a CIF advisory panel that was established to set guidelines for the enhancement and upgrading of sports programs for young women. Since that time, her devotion to the philosophies and principles of the CIF have involved her in nearly every phase of CIF activity. Her most notable contribution to the CIF, according to Associate Commissioner Margaret Davis, was "her diligent work, research and lobbying efforts which resulted in the passing of Senate Bill 19. Barbara's concern for establishing and maintaining equality in providing athletic programs for all students, plus her insight into CIF issues have been of tremendous help to the CIF over the years, and we join the CSADA in honoring her for her unselfish work on behalf of the young people of California."

GIRLS ATHLETICS

REMEMBER WHEN?

Editors Note: This story is a reprint from a Connecticut Interscholastic Bulletin — October 1940.

Girls from six towns joined together for a day of friendliness and fun October 5, 1940, at New Milford High School. Danbury, Woodbury, Washington, Ridgefield, Litchfield and New Milford were represented by from ten to eighteen girls each. There were eighty girls on the teams, but another twenty or so helped referee, score, serve refreshments, entertain and greet the guests. Miss Crane of Danbury was a great help in giving us ideas to start the enterprise.

Walt Disney provided the theme for the Day: on registering each girl was assigned to a team such as Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Pluto, Minnie Mouse, Clarabelle Cow, Horace Horsecollar, Porky Pig or Goofy. Two icebreakers, Ham and Eggs and a Paul Jones, made the girls acquainted.

Out into the beautiful October sun ran the girls for their games of volleyball, softball, and tennis. Every half-hour the teams changed games and opponents and by noon everyone was famished and glad to sit down. The girls had brought their own lunches, but many bought ice cream for dessert from our committee. While they ate, each team made up a song extolling its own prowess and thanking New Milford for the fun it provided.

After lunch there was group singing of popular songs following a pageant of *God Bless America*. Some comic tableaux taxed the guessing powers of the teams; then an impromptu amateur show excited such enthusiasm that it finally had to be stopped by announcement of the winner for the day. Members of the Clarabelle Cow team unwrapped the funny papers to find ten-cent Mickey pins and toys.

The "Surprise" of the indoor program was the introduction of that grand new game, Goal-Hi, which may someday replace basketball in popularity. The teachers present were as interested as the girls to see its possibilities.

The girls who could, stayed for another half hour of dancing with their new friends. Really, the weather was marvelous and all our girls had planned the details so carefully beforehand that everything went off very well.