

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2012

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1B

Sports shorts

San Diego bests Seattle for 4th time

SAN DIEGO — Starting pitcher Clayton Richard settled down after a rough start and drove in three runs to lift the San Diego Padres to a 9-5 victory over the Seattle Mariners on Friday night.

Richard (5-7) gave up four runs — including two home runs — over the first three innings before he allowed only an unearned run the rest of the way as he pitched into the seventh.

A two-run double by Richard keyed the Padres' five-run, fourth inning when they took a 7-4 lead.

Chase Headley also drove in three runs, two on sacrifice flies, for San Diego.

Franklin Gutierrez and Miguel Olivo homered for Seattle, which has allowed 39 runs on the first four games of its road trip.

Richard gave up five runs, three earned, and six hits in 6 2-3 innings. Richard struck out six and walked three as he won his third straight start, all in interleague play.

Huston Street got the final out with two runners on for his ninth save in as many chances.



Oilers tag Yakupov with top draft pick

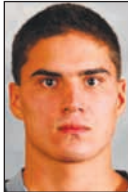
PITTSBURGH — Nail Yakupov is ready to live with the spotlight that comes with being a No. 1 pick.

Yakupov, who spent the last two seasons with the Sarnia Sting of the Ontario Hockey League and scored 31 goals in 42 games last season, is eager for the next step following weeks of speculation.

"It's not over, it's just starting," he said.

Born in the Republic of Tatarstan in Russia, Yakupov has consistently shot down speculation he is going to return to his homeland and play in the Kontinental Hockey League. He stressed repeatedly in the days leading up to the draft that the NHL is "the best league in the world."

FACES



Yakupov

"That fight sucked. I don't know how to expand on it any more."

— Dana White
UFC President on slow pace of match between Gray Maynard and Clay Guida on Friday

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1911 — John McDermott becomes the first American-born winner of the U.S. Open when he beats Michael Brady and George Simpson in a playoff. McDermott finishes two strokes better than Brady and five ahead of Simpson.

1991 — The NHL's Board of Governors adopts instant replay.

Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity...

Title IX at 40



Kathie Nooy (left) played for coach Colleen Hunt (right) on the first Pendleton varsity volleyball team in 1975. The high school added volleyball as part of the Title IX women's equality movement.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Legislation gave women equal opportunities in education and sports

By AJ MAZZOLINI
East Oregonian

The uniforms weren't meant for volleyball and the net sagged in the middle. The game fundamentals were there, but little skill existed beyond that. When the ball hit the air, the play itself resembled more a glorified physical education class than true competition.

Not that any of the players minded, remembered Kathie Nooy, a senior at Pendleton High during the fall of 1975.

"Anything sports related, I was going to be involved," said Nooy, formerly Schubert. "That first volleyball year, that was huge for us."

Six girls from Pendleton and six girls from Hermiston gazed at each other from opposite sides of the court during the teams' first volleyball match ever. They weren't rivals, not like today. The high schoolers had hardly ever competed against each other, save maybe a track meet the spring before. Though technically opponents during their game on Sept. 16, 1975, the girls

Kathie Schubert jumps up to spike a ball for Pendleton in the league title volleyball game against Bend on Nov. 6, 1975. Bend would come out on top 15-6, 15-5 to end the Bucks' maiden season.

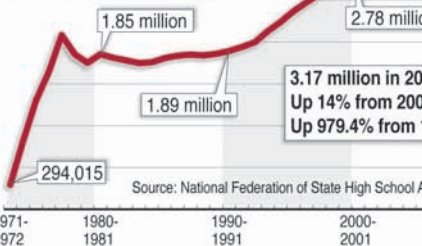
Bend Bulletin file photo



National girls participation

After Title IX passed in the summer of 1972, participation numbers for girls in high school athletics has increased by nearly 1,000 percent.

(Millions of participants)



Source: National Federation of State High School Associations

AJ Mazzolini and Alan Kenaga/East Oregonian Publishing Co.

See TITLE IX/2B

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HERMISTON

Athletics paved road to principal’s office for Jones

By AJ MAZZOLINI
East Oregonian

Long before Jocelyn Jones graduated from Clackamas High in 1974, she knew physical education was what she wanted to pursue professionally. Physical education classes captured her attention and imagination during high school.

Each day was about fun and staying active, always different from the ones before and after. How could she pass up that sort of career knowing it was out there, Jones thought.

But with girls’ basketball and volleyball cropping up in high schools around Oregon — some, like her own Clackamas, adding those to the steady diet of tennis and track — teaching P.E. would come with the extra duties of coaching these teams. She’d never played volleyball or basketball, but Jones decided she needed an early jump if she was going to have to instruct others on the game.

At Clackamas Community College and then later at Eastern Oregon College, she went out for the teams.

“I found that I really, really enjoy coaching,” she said. “Coaching is teaching.”

Today Jones, 56, credits Title IX for her career metamorphosis in education. An assistant principal at Hermiston High, Jones will take over as principal in the fall for the departing Buzz Brazeau.

Jones landed in Hermiston in 1991, and after teaching P.E. and coaching for 15 years in other small towns in

Oregon, used the traits she picked up in athletics to move into administration work. She took on the department chair role first, then climbed up the ladder again to assistant principal.

“Being forced into coaching because of the field I chose, all that team building and leadership carried over,” Jones said. “I don’t know if I’d have ended up in this situation had I not been thrust into that arena.

“It gave me an opportunity to just flat out do something I wouldn’t have done. And I think that goes for a lot of young women.”

Jones counts herself lucky that her environment was shifting at the perfect time.

She and her classmates went from being restricted to skirts and dresses as their school-day attire to having competitive sports options in the four years she attended high school.

The young women that she’s watched pass through the halls of Hermiston High everyday for the last 22 years rarely budget a moment’s thought to the rights and opportunities they are afforded. Not that that’s necessarily a bad thing, Jones said. They live in a world where the genders are sliding closer and closer to equality.

“Girls today are exposed to that without even questioning it,” Jones said. “They’re exposed to the leadership skills, to build work ethic through teamwork, to provide a grounds to build all this confidence.”

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PENDLETON

Years later, Buckaroos softball team had to fight for inclusion

By AJ MAZZOLINI
East Oregonian

Pendleton residents know the Round-Up Indian Village as the setting for a sea of teepees each September during the town’s historic rodeo. But in the spring of 1987 the expanse, nestled between the Round-Up grounds and the Umatilla River, played home to Pendleton High School’s first softball team.

Home plate was no more than a chalk circle scribbled in the dirt. A shaky backstop was the only section of fence surrounding the field as the outfield continued beyond any girls’ bat power. The team played in T-shirts and shorts without real uniforms. Coach Terry Prouse would stitch on numbers before every game, having to remove them because the shirts were shared with the same-season track program.

“But at that time we didn’t really care,” said Prouse, who helped establish the team after her hire as a physical education teacher in Pendleton in 1986. “We were playing. We got to be part of a team.”

Fifteen years after the pas-

sage of Title IX during the summer of 1972, women’s athletics were still struggling to catch up with their male counterparts. Though the gap had closed in high school participation numbers — boys were playing varsity sports at a 2:1 ratio compared to the 12.5:1 ratio during the 1971-72 school year — the facilities and equipment for many girls’ activities were far short of equal.

The boys had a baseball field while the girls were left with quite literally a field. The pens

for the rodeo stock lined the side of the “diamond” and what was worse than allowing an opponent’s hit was allowing a slicing foul ball.

“We had a foul ball go off into the bull cage a couple times,” said Prouse, 55, who led the school’s softball program until 2002 and has since become the girls’ golf coach. “Nobody wanted to try and stick their hands in there to get it.”

Prouse came to Pendleton from Beaverton, where she graduated in 1975. Volleyball and basketball were fresh on the scene for high schoolers there, but not softball. She didn’t cross paths with the game until college at Portland State University.



TITLE IX: Volleyball team shared jerseys, pads with other sports during 1st year

Continued From 1B

felt more like allies in working together for one goal.

They carried chairs together, each setting up four seats along the baseline for the athletes’ bench or the few parents in attendance. They shared this moment, overlooked by their communities at the time, but one that would signify the coming women’s athletic revolution.

Federal legislators were implementing the Education Amendments of 1972, and a portion labeled Title IX would change the opportunities for young women forever. Competitive volleyball, and quickly thereafter basketball, became available to girls in Eastern Oregon because of 33 words and a reader’s interpretation:

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity...”

Title IX, a 1972 civil rights law that required boys and girls receive equal educational opportunities in institutions that receive federal funding, was the brain child of U.S. Rep. Patsy T. Mink, D-Hawaii, and Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind. Mink was the principal author of the amendment’s simple language. Bayh brought the legislation before Congress as its chief sponsor.

Forty years ago today, on June 23, 1972, President Richard Nixon signed the bill into law.

Though intended to rid the education world of sex-based discrimination and allow women the same access to schools and classes as their male counterparts, athletics have become a prominent peg in the discussion. As school-sponsored sports fall under the umbrella of educational activity, women began to see more doors open in the sporting world.

Prior to Title IX, participation numbers at the high school level skewed heavily in the boys’ favor — males were 12.5 times more likely to go out for varsity sports. For the 1971-72 school year, only one in 27 girls was involved in athletics, just 294,015 nationally compared to 3,666,917 of their male classmates.

As more and more schools around the country began adding women’s sports, those numbers drew closer. Though the law allowed educational institutions a three-year grace period to comply with the new regulations, many acted more quickly.

For the 1972-73 school year, female participation nationally jumped to 817,073. The next year, participation rocketed to 1,300,169. By the time schools like Pendleton jumped on board with its volleyball program in September 1975, a whopping 1,645,039 girls were involved in athletics in the U.S., a 560 percent markup from four years earlier.

The number of young women in sports has ballooned to more than 3 million just at the high



EO file photo

Pendleton’s Vikci Edwards (16) blocks a shot from Theresa Hilsenkopf of Hermiston while Kelli McClendon (27) guards the net in the Buckaroos’ first varsity volleyball game ever. The Bucks beat the Bulldogs 15-8, 9-15, 15-10 on Sept. 16, 1975 in Pendleton.

school level as of the 2010-11 school year. While boys are still turning out in higher numbers, just less than 5 million for last year, the kind of growth that young women have created is still outstanding, said John Gillis, associate director of publications and communications at the National Federation of State High School Associations.

“I would contend and argue that that’s pretty amazing,” Gillis said of the 22 consecutive years of participation growth. “To have any kind of (national) participation numbers increase like that over that kind of time span, it’s pretty amazing.”

For Oregon in the 2010-11 school year, girls made up 41 percent of the 100,885 high school varsity athletes, just fractions of a percent below the national average.

Youth sports builds character, said Colleen Hunt, Pendleton’s volleyball coach during the 1975 season. The games are important, male or female, because of the life skills involved: work ethic, teamwork, leadership and perseverance — among others.

With all that on the line, and maybe aided by a little curiosity, the girls flocked to the new activity that Hunt was in charge of that fall. Enough turned out that the school filled a varsity and JV squad without trouble, 27 girls in all.

But there were bumps in store for Pendleton’s newest female sport — the school previously offered gymnastics in the fall and track and tennis in the spring as well as a brief intramural-type volleyball team decades before. The school added volleyball without funding for supplies and on the first day of practice, the players showed up to just two volleyballs and no uniforms.

“Finances are already limited,” Pendleton Principal Don Peterson told the *East Oregonian* between sets at the first Buckaroos volleyball game in 1975. “To really implement Title IX, we’re going to have to go to the legislature or somewhere if we’re going to reach further down the road from where we are now.”

Hunt, who was in her first year as a coach and P.E. teacher in Pendleton, scrambled to fill

“I don’t think that anybody had done the little things intentionally. They just didn’t think about it. But that’s the thing. They didn’t think about us.”

— Colleen Hunt
Pendleton volleyball coach

the gaps herself. She borrowed PHS shirts and shorts that the track team wore each spring and bought gold polyester numbers to fashion jerseys. The numbers would need to be removed at the end of the season.

Practices in what PHS today calls “Gold Gym” crammed the volleyball team in shoulder-to-shoulder with the gymnastics girls. The runway for the vault sprawled out adjacent to the back of the practice court and the spikers would pause their action each time a gymnast started a run.

Girls on the balance beam had to show particular care during volleyball service practice. It wasn’t uncommon that rogue volleyballs would disrupt even the most vigilant balancers.

“It was definitely a shared environment,” Hunt said with a laugh.

Despite the smiles now as a 59-year old retired teacher, Hunt didn’t always find the humor in her team’s predicaments back then. With the boys’ basketball team playing all its games at the Pendleton Convention Center, P.E. classes and gymnastics events were the main tenants of the gym.

The surface, a “floating” or sprung floor, was designed to better absorb shock, but left the volleyball team no place to anchor its net poles without tearing holes in the floor. Hunt would string the net up with cables drilled into the walls, creating a non-regulation sag near the center of the court.

Even when the school could be convinced to work on the floor, maintenance crews wouldn’t bother to tip-toe around the volleyball schedule, causing a visiting team to once show up for a game only to see the playing surface being torn apart. Hunt had no prior knowledge of the repairs.

“I don’t think that anybody had done the little things intentionally,” said Hunt, who coached volleyball to varying age groups until 2008 and retired from teaching in 2010. “They just didn’t think about it. But that’s the thing. They didn’t think about us.”

Activities Director Don Requa did his best to help the first volleyball team gain traction despite the fundings crunch. When Hunt approached Requa about getting kneepads for her girls, he took her to the wrestling supply room. The wrestling pads completed the volleyball girls’ borrowed attire.

“We believe in sharing around here,” Requa said to Hunt.

Forty years since the landmark Title IX passage the landscape for women, particularly in athletics, is still

Had softball entered her mind-frame earlier, Prouse said she would have become a player. She wanted to make sure the next generation of female athletes had the option.

“They didn’t have an opportunity and I thought they should,” she said. “They had all that going on in the (Willamette) Valley already. We needed to do that.”

Prouse raised \$1,000 that first year to start the program. The team scheduled only 15 games and Hermiston was its only league opponent. Knowing that the Indian Village was no home for a competitive program, Pendleton began sharing facilities with the town’s Little Leaguers.

In 1994, the program broke ground on the Buckaroos’ current softball home near Sunridge Middle School.

First came a fence. Then dugouts. Batting cages next.

“Each team and each coach left a mark,” Prouse said.

And each year was like a stepping stone leading to Pendleton softball’s current peak. The Bucks won the Class 5A State Championship on June 2, the team and school’s first state title.

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numbers are up for both boys and girls in high schools, but the interpretation of Title IX has led to other issues.

The three-prong test of providing athletic opportunities to each sex in proportion to their enrollment, demonstrating continual expansion for opportunities of the underrepresented sex or accommodating the interest and ability of that sex may have led to fewer opportunities for young men.

Even as Pendleton was adding girls’ volleyball and basketball, the boys’ sports programs were starting to sweat, noted EO Sports Editor Don Chapman in an editorial that ran in the Sept. 17, 1975, edition of the paper. With budgets remaining static, activities departments were left with a hard choice: siphon funds away from boys’ football and basketball teams or search for more money elsewhere.

“It could be easily done if boys’ programs were sliced,” Chapman wrote. “But Peterson doesn’t want to see that happen, nor does anyone on the (Special Study Committee on Girls’ Athletics),” a state-wide committee at the time to which Peterson belonged.

At the college level, the same issues have led to the discontinuation of programs at several schools. According to a study by College Sports Scholarships, more than 170 schools each dropped men’s cross country, golf or tennis in the United States from 1987 to 2002 to comply with the law. Hundreds more had to dump rowing, track, swimming or wrestling teams for men.

And though the debate over equality proceeds, high school-aged girls today are thankful for the opportunities, Pendleton’s Joy Spencer said. The right to play now feels commonplace, but that doesn’t mean it’s not appreciated.

“I can’t imagine life without sports,” said Spencer, a recent PHS graduate who played varsity volleyball, basketball and softball during her senior year. “It’s really taught me so many life lessons. It kind of gives you a sense of power, knowing that you’re strong and you can succeed.”

Kathie Nooy and her Pendleton teammates, those in on the ground floor for the shift, are glad to see the latest generation taking advantage of that.

“I go back to how we fought to say, ‘Wait a minute, we belong here,’” said Nooy, 54, now a U.S. Bank branch manager in Pendleton. “We didn’t always have this and it’s such a great thing.”

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