

40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX



"We just got some T-shirts and put numbers on them, did our thing and had fun doing it."



"I remember Ruth Jones saying to me, 'If we give up playing in Mackey Arena, we will never get it back.'"



Law's impact life changing





A track and field athlete once asked Benton Central standout Jan Conner, "Does your school have a basketball team?" • Conner grudgingly admitted, "No, we don't have a basketball team." • Imagine that heartbreak for a superior athlete in basketball-crazed Indiana. Conner set 14 state track and field records with the Bison and went on to become the best basketball player on Indiana State University's team before becoming a hall of fame coach. • "It was hard. We wanted to have a basketball team but they wouldn't let us," said Conner, who recently retired as a teacher at Lafayette Jeff. "They said it was a contact sport and girls shouldn't be playing basketball, yet in northern Indiana they'd been playing basketball for years." • Conner, a 1970 graduate of Benton Central, was ahead of her time. She was, however, more fortunate than some. Her high school had a select few girls sports, and her dominance allowed her to become the first Indiana high school girl to earn an athletic scholarship when she committed to ISU's track program. • Forty years ago today, Title IX made it possible for females everywhere to get that exposure. • The law, passed on June 23, 1972, afforded women opportunities not before seen in education, employment and — what it will mostly be remembered for — athletics.



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Miller plans active retirement after five decades of service to Purdue athletes

Trainer helped change view of profession

By **MIKE CARMIN**
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Maybe there's more time for ballroom dancing, despite knee replacement surgery in March. Yes, Denny Miller and his wife, Linda, are perfecting the steps.

A trip to Tennessee's Neyland Stadium to sit among 100,000 fans and gaze down at the orange and white checkerboard colored end zones is on Miller's to-do list. He's attended two Army-Navy football games

when he worked at West Point more than 40 years ago and wants to see a third. His desire to participate in RAGBRAI, a week-long bicycle ride across the roads of Iowa, remains high.

Since arriving on Purdue's campus in July 1973, as an assistant athletic trainer to the legendary William "Pinky" Newell, Miller's time has been devoted to Boilermaker athletes. His Saturday afternoons in the fall have been spent on the sidelines at Ross-Ade Stadium or another



Purdue athletic trainer **Denny Miller** and his wife, **Linda**.

PURDUE ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Big Ten Conference school.

Now, those moments belong to him.

"I've never tailgated," said Miller, who retires later this

DENNY MILLER

Hometown: Ireton, Iowa.

Education: Iowa State (B.A. Physical Education, 1968); Syracuse (M.S. Physical Education, 1972); University of Pennsylvania (Physical Therapy, 1973).

Family: Wife, Linda. Daughters, Nicole and Natalie, both Purdue graduates.

week. "I want to see what it's like."

He's taped countless ankles, taken late-night phone calls, treated athletes with torn liga-

ments, sprains, strains, concussions, broken bones and bruised egos. He's experienced the thrill of stepping on the turf at the Rose Bowl, worked with Bob Knight at Army, never missed a Purdue football game in 38 seasons and was sitting on the bench when the Boilermaker basketball team played in the 1980 Final Four in Indianapolis.

It's been a rewarding and satisfying journey for Miller, who stepped into a training room at Iowa State as a freshman distance runner in 1964 and the in-

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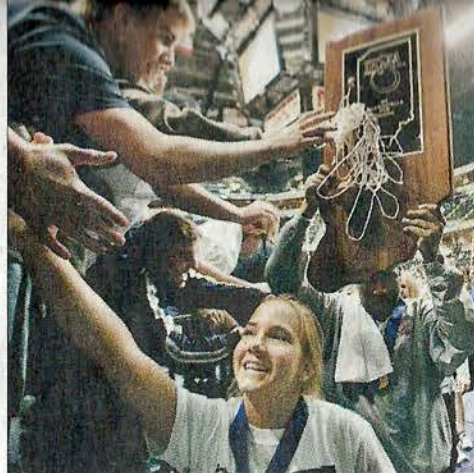
Girls competing for their high schools was still a fairly new concept in 1974 when coach Betty Bolyard's Harrison squad edged runners-up Indianapolis Washington and West Lafayette at the IHSAA state track meet to become the area's first girls sports state champion.

A year later, Anita Rugar's 1975 Crawfordsville team finished in a three-way tie for the first IHSAA girls tennis state championship. In 1975, Lafayette Jeff became the first IHSAA-recognized girls state swimming champion when Marjie Smith's squad outscored South Bend Clay.

In 1979 coach Jean Hilkert's Lafayette Jeff Bronchos golf squad scored a 353 to beat LaPorte by 11 strokes at Elks Country Club in Muncie.

Hilkert's Jeff team was runner-up the following year and won state titles again in 1983 and '84.

Other girls team state champions from the area: 1997-98 West Lafayette basketball (3A); 1998-99 Clinton Prairie basketball (A); 2005-06 Central Catholic basketball (A); 1989 Twin Lakes softball; 2002 and 2005 Clinton Prairie softball (A); 2008 McCutcheon softball (4A); 1984, 1998 (A) and 1999 (A) Clinton Prairie volleyball; 2010 Central Catholic volleyball (A).



Moore

the team. She did that and more. Moore won her third-place match at the Sagamore Conference meet, which assisted the Mounties in winning the team title by 5½ points.

She won 7-13 in the 2005-06 season, but earned recognition across the state when she placed at sectionals and earned a trip to the regional tournament as an individual.

"I just wanted to help the team because we didn't have anybody in that spot," Moore said prior to the individual regional tournament.

TITLE IX

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Before Title IX

Connie Garrett admits she's jealous. As an athletic female growing up in Marion, she competed with the boys on the playground. They eventually stopped including her.

At Marion High School, girls were members of the pep block at basketball games.

"That's what girls did and nobody thought anything of it," said Garrett, who coached Clinton Prairie to three state volleyball championships and a state girls basketball title. She is a member of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

After college, Garrett became the GAA sponsor in Huntington. The Girls Athletic Association gave females limited opportunities to showcase their athletic talents.

"We would meet once a week and play whatever. It might be six weeks of volleyball, six weeks of basketball," Garrett said. "Because I was just that

way, I would call somebody in the area and say, 'Hey, do you want to get together and play?'"

"There was no athletic department in charge of it. Nobody had uniforms. We just got some T-shirts and put numbers on them, did our thing and had fun doing it."

Though Conner didn't get a chance to play high school basketball, her skills in the sport didn't go unnoticed once she arrived in Terre Haute.

Conner was spotted in intramurals at ISU and was asked to join the basketball team. She became the team MVP. Indiana State was ahead of the game in women's sports, which Conner cited as a reason for choosing to go to Terre Haute for college. Purdue wanted to start a track program and needed an athlete of Conner's caliber. Conner wanted to go somewhere that already had established women's sports.

But there were setbacks too.

Before a trip to Butler University, Conner was excited to play in historic Hinkle Fieldhouse, where the Indiana boys high school basketball championships were held. Hinkle was

held in the highest regard by basketball fans.

"It was a sacred shrine," Conner said.

Conner and the other starters were allowed to warm up prior to the game, but did not play. At Purdue, she played against the Boilermakers — not in Mackey Arena, but in the Co-Rec.

Early years

Cathy Wright-Eger was a freshman at Lafayette Jeff during the first year the Indiana High School Athletic Association recognized girls swimming as a sport.

The Bronchos had a strong team that year and won the first girls swimming team state championship in 1975. The venue? Warren Central High School, not an ideal place for a state championship meet.

"It was little compared to now. Now they go to IUPUI and they have that gigantic pool," said Wright-Eger, the former Purdue women's swimming coach and current leadership adviser for the John Wooden Leadership Institute. "... It was

at a high school, really crowded on deck. I remember us winning and throwing our coach in, and in my mind, it was just a little high school pool, not where you have big meets now."

For Nancy Cross, girls basketball games were much different in Indiana than in her home state of Massachusetts. As a player in the outskirts of Boston, Cross was used to equal practice time. The girls would practice immediately after school; that privilege alternated with the boys each year.

As a Purdue women's basketball assistant under Ruth Jones, she would recruit players who were competing in empty gyms. Every shoe squeak echoed throughout, and every conversation from the few in attendance could be heard by all.

When the Intercollegiate Athletic Facility was built on campus, the women's basketball team was encouraged to play games there because of the smaller crowds. Jones refused.

"I remember Ruth Jones saying to me, 'If we give up playing in Mackey Arena, we will never get it back,'" Cross recalls. "She said, 'How can I ever bring a

recruit here and show them what a phenomenal facility this is, but tell them you don't get to play here? Our goal should be to get more people who support women's basketball and come to games instead of admitting defeat and going to a smaller venue.'"

That began to happen when the Boilermakers were allowed to supply full athletic scholarships. The main recruiting target who helped that happen was current women's basketball coach Sharon Versyp, a talented guard who was Miss Basketball at Mishawaka High School.

The Boilermakers now have three Final Four banners hanging in Mackey Arena, including one for their 1999 NCAA championship.

Equality?

By the law, things were equal.

In the eyes of many, however, men were far superior to women and should be treated as such.

In the early years at Clinton

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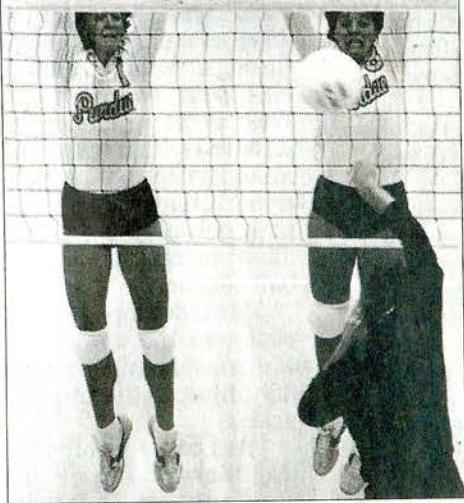
Mike Carmin shares former Purdue foot-

Sports Editor Jim D. Stafford

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SPORTS



ban when she went to Purdue. She, right, is one of just four players in Purdue history with more than 1,000 career kills and 1,000 career digs.

Marianne Smith, Clinton Prairie

Smith was also known as one of the area's best basketball players in the early 1980s, but she made her name as a volleyball player with the Gophers. At Purdue, she became the Big Ten Conference's first volleyball first-team All-American. She still owns numerous records for the Boilermakers and was twice the Big Ten Player of the Year.

Christy Smith, Benton Central

In 1993, Smith's speed earned her a state championship in the state track finals in the 800 meters. On the basketball court, her speed, savvy and skill made opponents look foolish at times. After leaving Benton County, Smith ran the point at Arkansas, where she was the Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Year and a three-time All-SEC selection. The Razorbacks advanced to the Final Four with her at the point. She also helped Team USA win a gold medal at the World University Games and played two years in the WNBA.

Year after her senior year.



LAW

Continued from Page C2

Prairie, where Garrett began coaching in 1972, she did not receive equal use of the gym. Same for Conner when she began coaching at Warren Central in 1975 and then after she returned to her alma mater, Benton Central, in 1977.

Gail Gripe, who resigned last year as Lafayette Jeff's volleyball coach, saw just how sexist things still were while coaching at Creston High in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Gripe's team won the state championship in 1980 over Wayne Memorial. Fans made the long drive to Dearborn, but there were two who noticeably didn't: the school's principal and athletic director.

"We needed to go down the night before and stay and (the athletic director) was so opposed to that. He gave me the hardest time," Gripe said. "We would've had to leave at 2 or 3 in the morning. He didn't give us any warm-ups. We played in old uniforms. It was so chauvin-

istic it wasn't even funny."

Gripe used her own money to purchase a photo of the state championship team, which hangs in the school recognizing the 1980 Creston volleyball team.

Gripe cites the Lafayette Jeff athletic department's enthusiasm about female athletics as a reason for her move to Indiana.

Roberta Honegger was the first gymnastics coach at Lafayette Jeff in 1972 and also started the Bronchos' girls track and field program, which she coached for 39 years. She was not afforded competitive opportunities growing up in Chicago.

Honegger concurs with Gripe that Jeff was more accepting of female athletes. Former athletic directors Sam Lyboubt and Joe Heath had daughters, aiding the cause.

Jim Bates said opportunities also were equal when he began coaching softball at McCutcheon in the mid 1980s. Bates said when he started coaching the Mavericks, baseball coach and then-athletic director Jake Burton allowed access to baseball

cages and facilities.

"Back in the early days before we had batting cages, he used to let us come to the baseball field and take batting practice," Bates said. "There aren't many baseball coaches that would do that kind of thing."

"I think there's a lot of places that needed something like that. I am fortunate to be in a place where it didn't matter."

Turning the corner

According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, there were 294,015 girl participants in high school sports during the 1971-72 school year.

By 1977-78, that number had increased to more than 2 million before a rapid decline. In six of the next seven years, the number of girl participants dropped from the previous school year.

Female participation in high schools is at an all-time high, according to the 2010-11 athletics participation survey by the NFHS. Beginning with 1989-90, there has been an increase each school year. During that time,

the number of girls playing high school sports has jumped from 1.85 million to 3,173,549 in 2010-11.

"In that time it was girls were having problems with self-identity, whether they should be athletes or not," Honegger said. "It was really cool. One of the athletes was prom queen around that time and it was like, 'See, you can do both.'"

In 2003, Honegger was among more than 300 former female athletes at Illinois State University who participated in athletics prior to Title IX to receive a collegiate varsity letter. Honegger competed in track and field and gymnastics as part of her physical education major.

Today's athlete

Purdue softball player Ashley Courtney spent many days of her childhood shooting baskets with her brother. The former Harrison three-sport standout got beat up in the driveway playing against Brett Courtney and his friends, but she knew no different.

Today's athletes may not totally understand the hardships females before them went through, but the might be appreciative.

"I was fortunate to be able to play three sports," said Courtney, who competed in soccer, basketball and softball in high school. "Not a lot of people did. I've never known anything else."

Garrett openly admits she would trade places with today's young athletes. She recently had a former player inquire about getting into coaching. She showed her résumé to Garrett, who never had to put one together to coach because so few were involved in female athletics.

If not for those pioneers, those today might not be on a level playing field.

"I was very fortunate," said Central Catholic graduate Lauren Hruskovich, who will be a freshman on the IUPUI golf team this fall. "My whole life has revolved around sports. I could not imagine life without it. Sports help build character, and it's really shaped me to be who I am."

TOP MOMENTS

Since Title IX was implemented, high school and collegiate females in the area have had stages on which to shine. Here are some of the most memorable moments provided by female athletes in and around Tippecanoe County.

Not a league of their own

There were those against it, but in February 2009, by an 18-9 vote, the Indiana High School Athletic Association agreed to let girls compete in baseball.

The controversy was sparked when a lawsuit was filed on behalf of a Bloomington South freshman who was denied a chance to try out for the team.

The IHSAA ruled that softball and baseball are separate sports with different sets of rules.

"If someone is good enough to play, they should be allowed to play," Central Catholic coach Tim Bordenet told the Journal & Courier after the ruling.

Four months later, Bordenet's Knights would see a female opponent in the Class A state championship game. Emily Montgomery of Vincennes Rivet started in left field, the first female to play in the IHSAA state baseball finals.

The IHSAA allows girls to participate in baseball, boys basketball, football, boys soccer and wrestling if a comparable sport does not exist at the school.

Recent Carroll graduate Kate Hickner was a four-year starter for the boys soccer team. In 2006, Megan Mummert was the Crawfordsville football team's placekicker. Mummert was wearing her football uniform when she was voted homecoming queen.



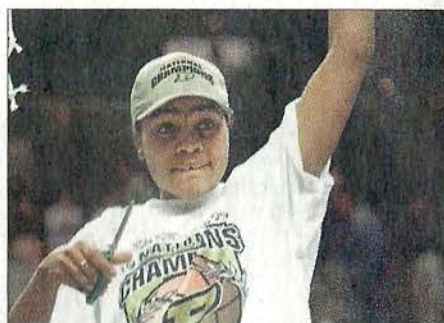
Record performances

Harrison's swimming program knew it had a special talent in Jenny Connolly.

Connolly would go on to win five state championships, including three straight in the 100-yard backstroke, a feat matched by four others in the event.

But in the final meet of her high school career, the 2008 IHSAA state finals, she left no doubt who was the best of all. Connolly touched the wall in 53.53 seconds during the preliminaries, obliterating the previous best IHSAA state finals mark of 55.47. A day later, Connolly broke the state 100-yard breaststroke record with a 53.91-second swim. Both of her swims are the only sub-54s in IHSAA state finals history in those events.

"I'm just so happy with how I finished out my high school career. It's been a lot of fun," Connolly said after her fifth state title.



National champs

Under head coach Carolyn Peck, the Purdue women's basketball team had a magical season in 1998-99, but doubters still remained once the Boilermakers took the No. 1 seed into the NCAA tournament.

Sixty-two teams were eliminated, leaving Purdue, led by national player of the year Stephanie White, and Duke remaining in the 1999 NCAA championship game.

White exited with an injury, but Ukari Figgs, above, scored a game-high 18 points and Katie Douglas earned all-tournament team honors in a 62-45 Purdue victory over the Blue Devils at San Jose, Calif.

"There is a picture frame and we put in it 'reserved for Purdue's first national championship.' A picture of these young women will go in that picture frame. You made history, ladies," Peck said after the game.



Jersey No. 1

Seeger's Stephanie White became nationally known as a high school All-American. Her career with the Patriots was unlike anything seen in Indiana high school girls basketball.

White scored 2,869 points, a state record that stood from 1995 until 2002 when Wawasee's Shanna Zolman broke the mark. White's 66 points against Attica on Jan. 9, 1995 is still the most in a single game for a female. She would finish her high school career as Miss Basketball.

Four years earlier, Rossville's Jennifer Jacoby earned the same recognition for the tiny Clinton County school, and in 2008, Attica's Brittany Rayburn was selected Miss Basketball.

"I'm so relieved that after everything I've worked for my entire basketball life ... my lifetime dream finally came true," Rayburn said after being informed of the honor.

All three went on to play collegiately at Purdue.

In 2008, McCutcheon senior Tori Collins led the Mavericks to the state title and was declared Miss Softball. Collins played at Louisville.



Defying the odds

Northern-based golf programs do not win the women's NCAA championship.

That was until 2010, when a collection of international students comprised coach Devon Brouse's Purdue roster.

Purdue shot a 1-over-par 1,153 at the NCAA Championships at Wilmington, N.C.'s Country Club of Landfall

TOP TEN ATHLETES

Since South Bend St. Joseph's defeated Ben Davis in Indiana's 1972 volleyball state championship, the first state title recognized for females by the Indiana High School Athletic Association, the Lafayette area has produced some of the best athletes the state has seen. Here are 10 of the all-time greats to come from the area.



Allison Bock, Lafayette Jeff

Before competing at Auburn, Bock dominated the high school swimming scene, winning 10 state championships in four different events, including four straight 100-yard freestyle titles. Bock also won three 50 freestyle titles, a 200 free championship and was a member of the state's top 400 freestyle relay team in 1988 and '91.

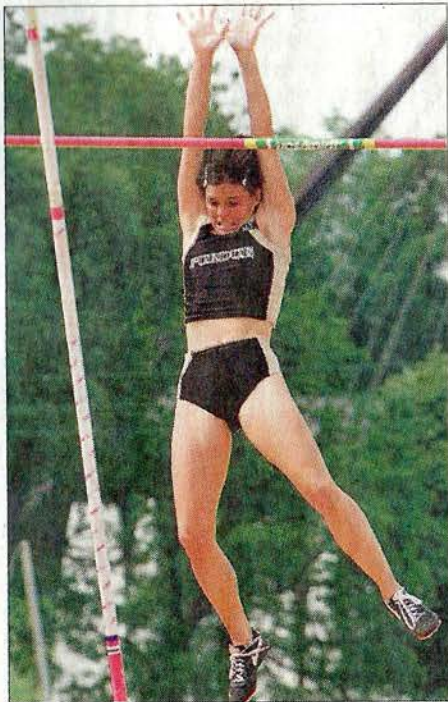
Sherry Cartwright, Harrison

Cartwright won the 1979 and 1980 200-yard individual medley state championships at Ben Davis. Cartwright came to Harrison and won the event again in 1981 and 1982, giving her a four-year sweep of the event. She also won the 100-yard butterfly titles in 1981 and '82 with the Raiders, capping a three-year run that included the 1980 title while at Ben Davis, giving her a total of seven state titles.



Kierstin Doyle, Benton Central

Doyle helped Purdue win a Big Ten track and field championship, but before that she won seven state championships with the Bison. Two of those titles came in the long jump, but she enjoyed more success as a hurdler. Doyle won the 100-meter hurdles state title from 1992-94 and the 300 hurdles in 1993 and '94 and also was the state's mental attitude award winner in 1994.



Jenny Connolly, Harrison

The third swimmer on the list, Connolly won five state championships and owns two state records. She went on to earn 22 All-American honors at Tennessee. In her final meet, Connolly set state championship meet records in the 100-yard backstroke (53.53 seconds) and 100-yard butterfly (53.91).



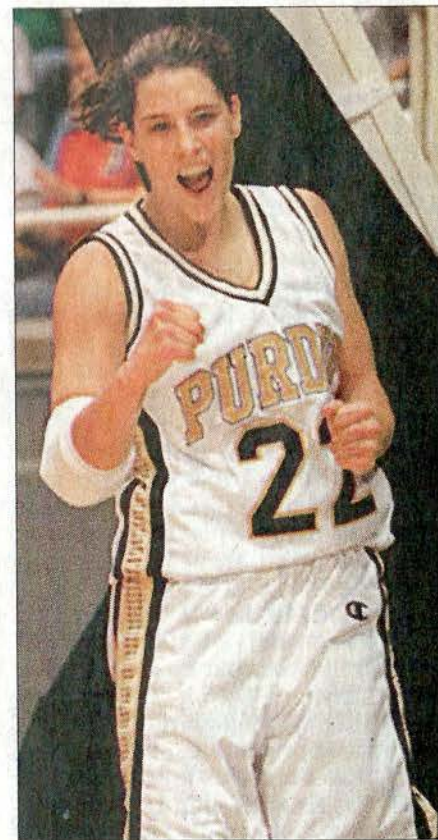
Jessica Gall, West Lafayette

When it came to long-distance running, no one in the area was ever better than Gall. The 2001 state cross country champion also won the 3,200 meter title in track at the 2002 state finals and was a member of a state championship relay team in 2000. At Indiana, she earned four All-American honors, three of those in cross country. She was a four-time All-Big Ten runner and in 2006 won the Big Ten Conference meet.



Stephanie White, Seeger

White ranks second in state history with 2,869 career points and was women's basketball national player of the year, winning the Wade Trophy, after starring for Purdue's 1998-99 NCAA championship team. She coupled that with her 1995 Gatorade National Player of the Year award she earned at Seeger. Her 66 points scored against Attica on Jan. 9, 1995, still is the most in a single game in state history. White went on to play five seasons in the WNBA.



Cara Smith, Harrison

Smith racked up 1,330 kills, 572 blocks and hit .367 during a volleyball career at Penn State, where she was an All-American in 2002 and '03. Be-