

Athletic dept. absorbs YSU women's sports

President John J. Coffelt announced yesterday that the Women's Extramural Program at YSU will be transferred from the department of health and physical education to the Department of Athletics effective July 1, in accordance with a 1972 federal ruling.

In making the announcement Coffelt stated that "Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, which prohibits discriminatory practices in all educational program and activities including competitive athletics, has made it clear that all institutions of higher education are now expected more than ever to provide equal opportunity for female-athletes in their efforts to compete in intercollegiate athletics."

Coffelt believes the position of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare will see that Title IX is implemented equally by all colleges. Coffelt added, "I feel that it can be best accomplished at YSU by the merger of the two athletic programs into one department."

Dr. Lawrence Looby, special assistant to Coffelt, further noted that "Title IX is involved and this is an effort on the part of YSU to comply with it. If there is a demand of scholarships for both men and women the director of intercollegiate athletics will look at all of these requests."

The realignment of administrative responsibilities for the Women's Extramural Athletics will result in a number of major benefits. These include the development of a unified effort by both men and women

coaches for the advancement of intercollegiate athletics, closer coordination for equal use of the athletic facilities, and greater input by the women coaches into

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Sports

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the allocation of the funds available to the department of athletics.

Other advantages cited for the woman's program are greater access to the training room personnel and facilities, added secretarial help and the promotion of their programs by the Sports Information Office.

Looby approved of the merger, claiming "I believe that the results of the move will mean greater coordination for the travelling and scheduling for women's sports. I believe the athletic business office will provide greater financial accounting for the women's program."

Betina Laborde, women's field hockey coach, does not share the same enthusiasm as Coffelt and Looby do. Laborde maintained, "We can do a better job of developing the women's sports program if we keep it in Health and Physical Education, or establish a separate capacity of women's intercollegiate sports."

Jerry Diana Wilkerson,

women's gymnastic coach, refuted the advantages mentioned in merging women's sports with the department of athletics since "We don't know of the advantages or disadvantages. No one said how it is going to work. The only thing mentioned was that it would be part of athletics but no one knows how it will be handled or the effect upon the coaches and athletes."

It was recommended soon after the Coffelt announcement that a Captain's Council for women's sports be established which would consist of representatives from each of the women's teams. The council would serve in an advisory capacity to the athletic director, Paul Amodio, in a manner similar to the present Committee on Women's Sports.

The Women's Extramural Program currently participates in seven sports: Field hockey, basketball, softball, swimming, synchronized swimming, gymnastics and volleyball.

Both Laborde and Wilderson cited "philosophical" reasons for their opposition of the merger. Noted Laborde, "We don't want to be pushed in to a type of program where it is

win-at-all-costs. If we merged with the men there might be a certain amount of pressure."

Overemphasis on winning was the major flaw Laborde and Wilderson noted in men's approach to sports. "Men's athletics in recent years has been geared to one thing and that is winning," remarked Laborde.

According to Wilkerson, "Women's sports programs want to win but there are other factors beside winning that are as valuable."

Laborde termed men's sports "pressure athletics" in comparison with women's sports, which, she claims, advocate "competing and doing as well as you can, and not being concerned with who wins and loses."