

Augustana Endowment Society

Historical Reflections from February 2019

by Janet Moline

An Abbreviated Augustana College Women's Sports History

- **1894** – The college board decreed that a “(women's) gym class should be started” -- the first question to be addressed was the appropriate dress for that class
- **1900-1910** – Basketball, tennis, and cycling sports were started. “Even women students played basketball, engaging Macomb, Normal and Monmouth”
- **1904** – Newly organized tennis club distributed awards – nine women and four men
- **1908** – The Athletic Society, organized in 1899, now included both genders
- **1909** – The oldest women's sorority (Sigma Phi Delta) began as a tennis club
- **1919** – Northwestern Univ. graduate Alice McNulty joined the faculty to “have charge of young ladies Gymnastics; by 1921 she was listed as the Director of Women's Athletics; departed that year
- **1921-22** – “The beginning of a movement toward a Girls' Physical Education Program in which every girl will be a part.”
- **1922-23** – The first official catalog listing of a Department of Physical Education, which consisted of two men (with full academic credentials) and one woman (a student). The Board of Control of Athletics consisted of 11 men and one woman (a student)
- **1923** Yearbook – 85 women in the Phys. Ed. Department, 125 out for sports (hockey teams, rhythmic gymnastics, Swedish gymnastics, swimming, basketball). Competition from the classes and with community organizations
- **1923** – Organized the Augustana Girls Athletic Association
- **1924** – Initiated inter-collegiate competition (Augie tennis players went to Millikin Univ. for an inter-scholastic tournament)
- **1923-34** – Period of real growth. Anne Catherine Greve was a strong advocate; her goal was “Every girl an athlete participating in at least one sport.”
- **1926** – Stated goal: putting girl's athletics on a practical par with the boys. First year of letter sweaters for women
- **1929** yearbook – Two girls varsity basketball teams, baseball, volleyball, tennis
- **1936** – Jane Brissman came, carried forward the cause of women's sports and was inducted into the Tribe of Vikings Hall of Fame in 2002.
- **1974** – Track and Field, Volleyball and basketball were added.
- **1975** – Cross Country
- **1976** – Softball
- **1976-77** – Tennis and swimming
- **1993** – Soccer
- **1996-97** – Golf
- **2012** – Lacrosse
- **2017-18** – Bowling