



Reflections on girls sports from a trailblazer

McIntyre started as a coach, then became an icon

By **JOHN SHERMAN**
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When Title IX sports came to Minnesota in 1972, Eden Prairie High teacher Dorothy McIntyre was not merely part of the movement, she had already laid the foundation.

Her dream from the start was to build a state-wide interscholastic sports program for Minnesota girls. Looking at the programs that exist today, McIntyre was successful beyond her wildest dreams. Still, along the way, there were huge challenges.

In an interview last week, McIntyre said, "I don't gloss over the difficult times. It was never easy for those of us who were in the trenches. But there aren't many of us who wouldn't do it again in a heartbeat."

McIntyre's first ex-



Dorothy McIntyre

perience in high school sports came in her days as a student in the 1950s in Hawkeye, Iowa. She lived on a farm and some of her classmates lived in town. When McIntyre enrolled in high school, she felt she would not be as experienced at basketball as the girls who grew up in town, but she wanted to be involved and signed up to be team manager.

It was an eye-opening experience to watch Iowa girls play six-on-six basketball, and when McIntyre enrolled at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, her goal was to become a

teacher and a coach. She graduated with a teaching degree and the credentials to teach physical education, health and social studies.

Her first teaching job in Ellendale, Minn. lasted two years. Then the new superintendent in Eden Prairie summoned her to the Twin Cities in the fall of 1959.

"When I was teaching at Eden Prairie and organizing girls sports activities," McIntyre said. "My students came to me and asked, 'Why can't we compete against other schools, like the boys teams do?'"

Good question, McIntyre thought, and she went to her principal "with about 60 things on my list."

Driving the bus

The main favor McIntyre sought was a bus to take her athletes off campus for competition against other schools. She was told by the principal that each department



(girls physical education being one of them) was allowed one off-campus bus trip per school year, and that the main cost was hiring a bus driver.

As the meeting broke up, the principal told McIntyre that if she was willing to drive the bus, she could have one. After a week of practice during her prep hour at school, she passed the licensing test, and the bus to a new era hit the road.

"I was responsible for all of the girls at the school," McIntyre said. With that in mind, she worked to include as many girls as possible in the off-campus

meets and games. Some girls wanted sports mainly for activity and fun. Others had a burning desire to compete. There was room for all in Eden Prairie's program.

"Pretty soon, we were having track meets and gymnastics meets, and the girls made the ribbons," McIntyre said. "Once I got my hands on that bus, we went all over the state."

Not all of the trips were for competition. Some of them were to share the secrets of building a comprehensive girls sports program.

It didn't take long for other coaches around the state to see McIntyre's leadership qualities and value as an innovator and motivator.

"Though most of the 1960s, I was still teaching, still driving my bus," McIntyre said.

High school girls sports competition between schools was offered in Minnesota from 1900 to the late 1930s, but then interscholastic competi-

tion was replaced by less competitive intramural programs, commonly referred to as Girls Athletic Association or, for short, GAA. There were Amateur Athletic Union programs in a few sports, such as swimming and figure skating, but for the most part, girls never competed against anyone outside their own community.

Olympic impetus

McIntyre said attitudes toward girls sports began to change when a young woman from Tennessee, Wilma Rudolph, won three track gold medals at the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome.

"I believe that was the first time the Olympics were televised," McIntyre said. "People asked, where are the other athletes who could do this? They were either sitting in the bleachers or cheer leading. In the 1960s and 1970s, there

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Legals

CITY OF WAYZATA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SITE ALTERATION PERMIT 738 LAKE ST E (SECTION FOREMAN HOUSE)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Wayzata Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider an application for a Site Alteration Permit to rehabilitate and reuse the Section Foreman House at 738 Lake St E. A Site Alteration Permit is required for changes to properties locally designated as Heritage Preservation Sites.

The Planning Commission public hearing is scheduled for Monday, April 18, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., or as soon as possible thereafter in the Wayzata Community Room, 600 Rice Street East, Wayzata, Minnesota. The Planning Commission meeting will be conducted in a hybrid manner that will allow for the public to attend remotely. Your public comments for a specific agenda item may be sent via email to PublicComment@wayzata.org. You may also send your comments in the mail to City Hall or call in your comments to City staff. Follow the more detailed instructions posted at <https://www.wayzata.org/632/Virtual-City-Hall> if you would like to call in to the remote meeting to provide public comment.

Pertinent information on this application, including building plans can be found at <https://www.wayzata.org/746/Section-Foreman-House-Rehabilitation>. The Planning Commission meeting

agenda and packet will also include this information and will be made available on the City's website the Friday before the meeting at <https://www.wayzata.org/AgendaCenter>.

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CITY OF WAYZATA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ZONING MAP AND TEXT AMENDMENTS - PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Wayzata Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider an application for Zoning Map and Text Amendments to establish a new zoning district for Parks and Open Space and rezone all city-owned parks and open space to the new Parks and Open Space zoning district. Currently, all subject properties are zoned for residential use, commercial use, or Planned Unit Development. The properties proposed to be rezoned, including parcel identification numbers, legal descriptions, and a proposed Official Zoning Map are available on the City website at: <https://www.wayzata.org/771/Parks-and-Open-Space-Rezoning>.

The Planning Commission public hearing is scheduled for Monday, April 18, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., or as soon as possible thereafter in

the Wayzata Community Room, 600 Rice Street East, Wayzata, Minnesota. The Planning Commission meeting will be conducted in a hybrid manner that will allow for the public to attend remotely. Your public comments for a specific agenda item may be sent via email to PublicComment@wayzata.org. You may also send your comments in the mail to City Hall or call in your comments to City staff. Follow the more detailed instructions posted at <https://www.wayzata.org/632/Virtual-City-Hall> if you would like to call in to the remote meeting to provide public comment.

Pertinent information on this application, including parcel identification numbers and legal descriptions, can be found online at <https://www.wayzata.org/771/Parks-and-Open-Space-Rezoning>. The Planning Commission meeting agenda and packet will also include this information and will be made available on the City's website the Friday before the meeting at <https://www.wayzata.org/AgendaCenter>.

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CITY OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BY THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

NOTICE is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the City of Plymouth will meet in the Council Chambers of Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Boulevard, on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. to consider the following:

Request by JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A., under File No. 2021055, for a planned unit development (PUD) amendment to allow construction of a drive-up ATM and associated site modifications for Chase Bank located at 16895 County Road 24.

The property is more specifically described as follows:

A portion of Tract A, Registered Land Survey No. 1799, files of the Registrar of Titles, Hennepin County, Minnesota

SUCH PERSONS as desire to express their opinion with reference to this proposal will be heard at this meeting. This NOTICE is given pursuant to the zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations of the City of Plymouth.

INFORMATION relating to this request will be provided by the community and economic development department. Please email any such request to planning@plymouthmn.gov or call

763-509-5450.

Chloe McGuire
Planning and Development
Manager

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NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND INFORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COURT
PROBATE/MENTAL HEALTH
DIVISION
COURT FILE NO.
27-PA-PR-21-1752
In Re: Estate of
Patricia Louise Amano,
formerly known as
Patricia Louise Swain,
Decedent.

Notice is given that an Application for Informal Probate of Will and Informal Appointment of Personal Representative was filed with the Registrar, along with a Will dated April 19, 1988, a Codicil dated September 11, 1996, a Codicil dated March 13, 2002, a Codicil dated July 23, 2008 and a Codicil dated December 23, 2009. The Registrar accepted the application and appointed Susan E. Walsler, to serve as the personal representative of the decedent's estate.

Any heir, devisee or other in-

terested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Any objection to the appointment of the personal representative must be filed with the Court, and any properly filed objection will be heard by the Court after notice is provided to interested persons of the date of hearing on the objection.

Unless objections are filed, and unless the Court orders otherwise, the personal representative has the full power to administer the estate, including, after thirty (30) days from the issuance of letters testamentary, the power to sell, encumber, lease, or distribute any interest in real estate owned by the decedent.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: March 17, 2022
Alonna J. Warns
Registrar
Sarah Lindahl-Pfiefer
Court Administrator
David C. Olson (MN# 0169055)
Lanners and Olson. P.A.
12805 Highway 55, Suite 102
Plymouth, Minnesota 55441
Telephone: (763) 550-9892
Facsimile: (763) 550-9630

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Tonka's Cassano leads rise of female coaches

She is the state's longest-tenured girls puck coach

By **JOHN SHERMAN**
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When girls hockey became a Minnesota State High School League sport 27 years ago, almost all of the head coaches were men, who had previously coached boys hockey.

Slowly, that began to change, and young female head coaches such as Tracy Cassano began to emerge.

Cassano, who grew up in Willmar, never had the chance to skate for a high school team because Willmar didn't have girls hockey at the time. But she would not be denied. She joined the Twin Cities-based Minnesota Thoroughbreds, a team that thrived nationally with Minnesota's premier players.

Luckily for Cassano and the other Thoroughbreds, the University of Minnesota fielded one of the nation's first college teams. Cassano was awarded a scholarship and eventually became captain of the Gophers.

Ever since, she has been going to the rink almost every day each winter. She was an assistant coach for three seasons before head

coaching jobs with Rosemount, Chaska/Chanhasen, Burnsville and finally Minnetonka. When the 2022-23 season opens, it will be Cassano's 20th overall and 17th as a head coach.

"I take pride in being the longest-tenured female girls hockey coach in the state," Cassano said last week. "It is great to see how the sport has evolved, and now there are a lot of women coaches."

Cassano was the first woman head coach to reach the 200-win mark in girls hockey. This past season, she coached Minnetonka to runner-up honors in the State Class AA Tournament at Xcel Energy Center.

"I wasn't even aware of it [the 200th win]," Cassano said. "That's not the reason I do this. When I was a sophomore in high school, the University of Minnesota announced it would have a women's hockey team. I was the biggest Gophers fan, and my dream was to play for the University."

When head coach Laura Halldorson offered Cassano a scholarship to join the Gophers, her first thought was: "Where do I sign?"

Cassano remembers the first few years of Minnesota high school girls hockey - prior to the time she became a coach.



"In the early days, one or two players could carry a team," she said.

Winnie Brodt from Roseville, Krissy Wendell from Park Center and Natalie Darwitz from Eagan were prime examples of dominant players.

"We still have high-end players, but almost every roster has depth and talent," Cassano said. "The speed of the game is faster all the time. Players are stronger, and you can't believe how hard they shoot the puck."

Fan appeal for girls hockey has grown along with the speed of the game.

In the early years of girls hockey, the State Tournament was played at Ridder Arena on the University of Minnesota campus. Now, all of the championship round is played at Xcel Energy Center, home rink of the NHL's Minnesota Wild.

In this year's State Class AA Tournament, thou-

sands of fans filled the lower stands to watch the semifinals and the championship game between Minnetonka and Andover.

"The Minnesota State High School League has done a good job of making the boys and girls state tournaments fair and equitable," Cassano said. "The girls will tell you they would rather play at Xcel [instead of Ridder Arena] any day. It's every girls dream to play at the X. Attendance has grown right along with interest and excitement. At our championship game this year, I saw a sea of Minnetonka youth hockey players in the crowd. I always tell my girls that they are role models for the younger kids."

While she is coaching the Minnetonka varsity squad, Cassano uses her spare time in the winter to coach two youth hockey teams. She and her husband have two sons and a daughter. And of course, they love hockey.

"As a mom, I am happy that I can have a full-time job, spend a lot of time with my family and do what I love [coaching]," Cassano said. She teaches in Rosemount.

Looking to the future, Cassano expects Minnesota girls high school hockey will make more strides.



(SUN PHOTO BY JOHN SHERMAN)
Tracy Cassano, head coach of the Minnetonka High girls hockey team, encourages senior forward Alex Alvarez (3) during a game last season.

"Minnesota girls hockey has come so far [under Title IX]," Cassano said.

Even so, there are still areas to address.

"One thing I noticed on the girls side [several years ago] was that we weren't getting the best officiating crews," Cassano said. "Now, we are seeing more of the top-end officials."

And that includes former girls hockey players, who have traded their sticks for whistles.

Cassano noted that she has always had good relationships with the boys

head coaches everywhere she has been. She now works with Minnetonka boys coach Sean Goldsworthy, whose daughter Lauren is a regular on defense for the Skipper girls team.

"From my standpoint, working with the boys coaches to divide the ice time has never been an issue," Cassano said.

As she advances toward the 300-win mark in her career, Cassano has found a home coaching Minnetonka. "This is my dream job," she said.

Title IX

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was a shift. Many of us got on the surf board and rode the wave."

McIntyre would have been content to stay at Eden Prairie High as a teacher and coach, but by there was a higher calling. She served as a Minnesota State High School League associate director from 1969 through 2002 before retiring.

Executive director BH Hill of the state high school league agreed with McIntyre and other coaches that girls should have interscholastic sports opportunities.

"The high school league formed a committee and wrote the bylaws for girls athletics," McIntyre said. "I was waiting to make a proposal to the high

school league's representative assembly at the Curtis Hotel in downtown Minneapolis. Before I spoke, a man by the door said, 'I'll bet you a quarter this won't pass.' When the vote came in, it was 32-0 in favor of girls sports. I never saw the man again, and he probably still has that quarter."

A new challenge

BH Hill didn't have to look far to find the woman, who would be in charge of implementing Minnesota's high school girls sports programs.

"He told me to get my application in by Tuesday," McIntyre recalled. "At the time, I thought, 'I'm a teacher, not an administrator.'" I was more afraid of saying no to my friends, than saying no to Mr. Hill, and I accepted the job."

In 1969, Minnesota

State High School League offices were located in downtown Minneapolis. The other directors on staff were all men - Hill, plus associate directors Kermit Anderson, Orv Bies, Murray Freng and Marv Helling.

"Orv and I joined the league at the same time, and they put desks for us right in the middle of the room," McIntyre said.

McIntyre began working with a girls sports advisory committee, comprised of representatives from Minnesota's eight regions.

"We decided we needed a state meet," she said. "Every school had a place to run, whether it was a track or a gravel road, so we decided to start with track and field."

It took a while to put the logistics in place, and the first State Girls Track and Field Meet was held

in early June of 1972. "The co-champions, International Falls and White Bear Lake, were contrasting programs. International Falls trained on gravel roads, White Bear Lake had a nice track. When we had the first track meet, the ink was barely dry on the Title IX legislation."

Riding the success of the track and field meet, the High School League added state tournaments for tennis, gymnastics, basketball and volleyball in 1974-75. State tournaments for other sports, such as softball, hockey, golf, soccer and lacrosse, were added later.

Basketball quandary

Basketball was initially divided into a fall state tourney and a winter state tourney.

"The schools in the western half of the state

played in the fall, and most of the eastern half played in the winter," McIntyre said. "We were at a crossroads for equity for the 1975-76 season. A proposal for fall volleyball and winter basketball went before the High School League's board of directors. Fred Marsden, who was from Breckenridge in Region 6, said, 'I have to decide whether I am a politician or a statesman.' He voted in favor of winter basketball [which passed], and they roasted him back home."

Sentiment against McIntyre was also expressed over the decision to make basketball a winter sport.

"One letter I received told me to go back to Iowa and ruin their boys sports program," McIntyre said. Many boys basketball coaches were critical because they didn't want to share facilities with girls

basketball team.

"There was no reason they couldn't practice an hour and a-half a day instead of three hours," McIntyre reasoned.

But some were inflexible. One athletic director at a school in the western suburbs said of the girls team: "They'll get on the court when the boys are done, not before."

In the modern era, of course, it is share and share alike between boys and girls teams.

Looking back on the struggles and triumphs during the first 50 years of Title IX, McIntyre said, "Title IX opened our eyes to changes that needed to be made. As I reflect, I might have done a few things differently. But I am proud that so many of us stayed true to our mission."

Next Week: Great athletes of the Title IX era.