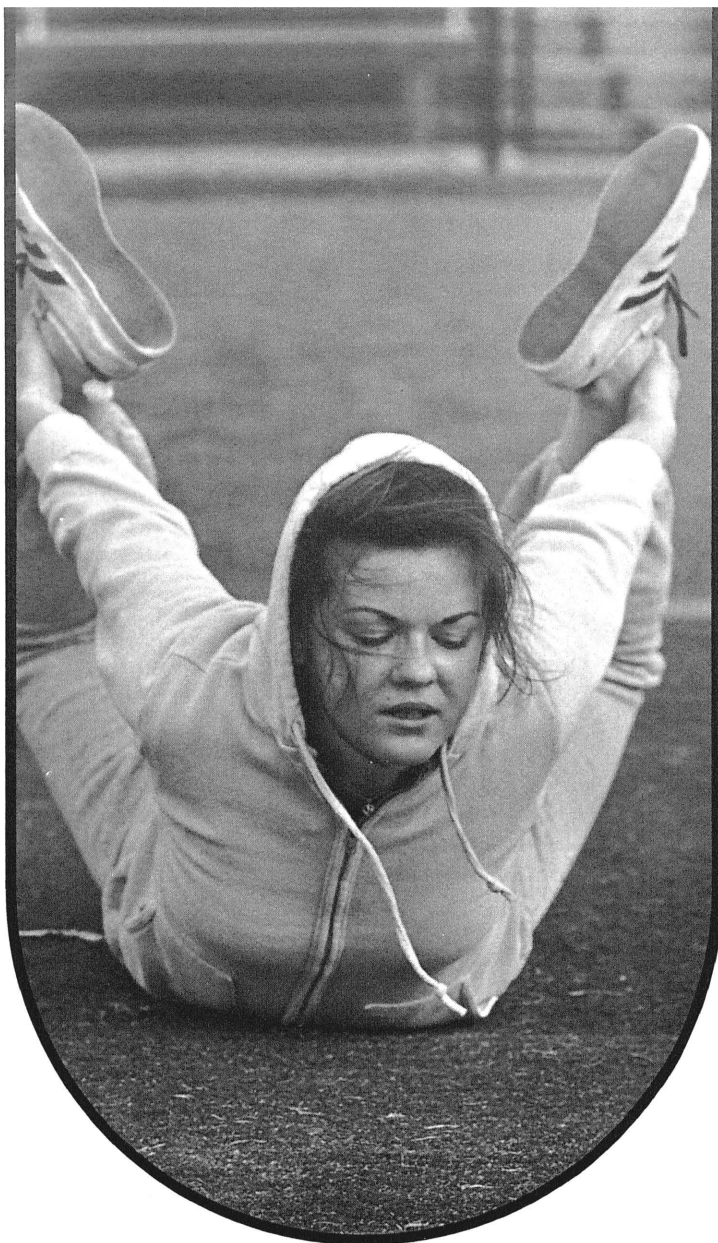




Running the bleachers in cold and empty Faurot Field keeps Elaine Dudenhoeffer fit.



If you want to win, you have to work, as Dee Ann Reagan does during track practice. About 300 women signed up for eight sports.

Publicly, everybody supports women's athletics.

They have to. Although enforcement regulations are still being worked out, federal law (Title IX of the 1972 Education Act) prohibits sex discrimination in educational programs receiving federal funds.

Mel Sheehan, the director of men's intercollegiate athletics, heartily approves of the recent upsurge in women's sports at Mizzou. He just doesn't want the men's \$3-million program to have to pay for them.

Men's athletics are essentially self supporting, thanks to football and the huge crowds the Tigers draw. But, like other big-time athletic plants, Missouri is caught in the inflationary spiral. "We're having a hard time supporting ourselves," says Sheehan. "To me, equal opportunity would be for the women to finance their programs, just as the men finance theirs."

That, of course, is a tall order. Strong spectator and alumni support takes years to build. In fact, Jill Wehmer, captain of the girl's basketball team, doesn't think "people in Missouri will pay to see a girl's basketball game right now.

"But we've made a big jump from last year. Last season, the team was jostled around between Brewer and the women's gym. Now we have a set place to practice, at Hearnes. This has been at least a psychological help."

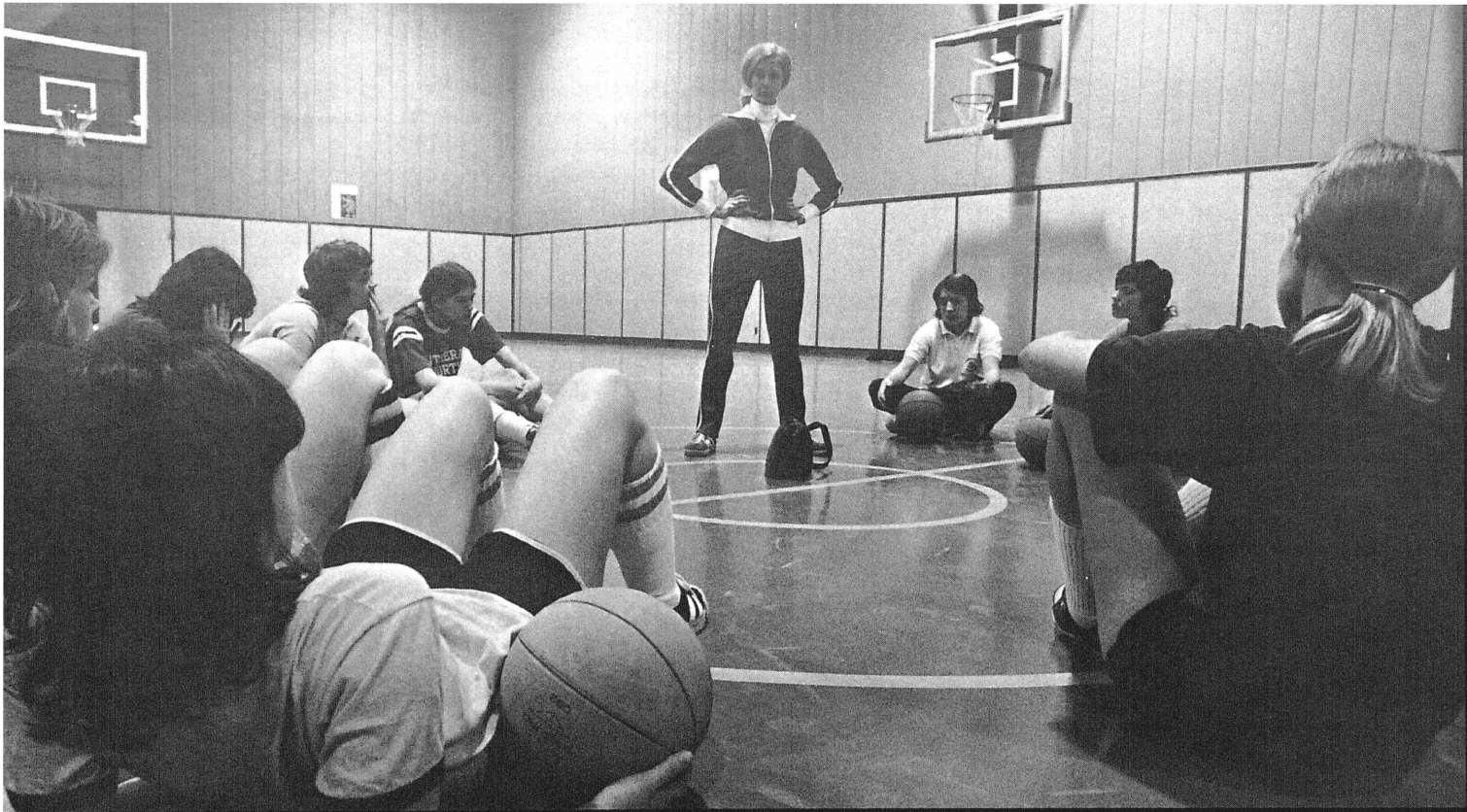
"Title IX has been a big impetus," says Marilyn Markel, women's intercollegiate athletic director. "All schools, including Mizzou, are trying to become legal before we're illegal."

In 1973-74, women's intercollegiate athletics received University funds for the first time—\$15,000. The athletes still carried sandwiches and car-pooled to away games. Before that, the students paid all expenses themselves.

But this year, women's athletics got \$48,800. Women athletes ride buses to games, can buy their dinners, and, best of all, have six new coaches working with eight varsity sports.

Next year will be even better. Women athletes will

THE By Cindy Felts LADY IS A TIGER



Coach Alexis Jarrett instructs her basketball team in the Hearnese practice gym. The women played on the main auditorium floor in Hearnese.

receive some form of financial assistance. Six basketball players and 21 other women will get scholarships for athletic ability. The money will probably cover half of their \$540 in-state incidental fees. Then, if an athlete also establishes financial need, she will get the same consideration as other students to make up the rest of her fees.

The Development Fund will ask alumni and friends, but not the same ones who support men's athletics, for the scholarship money. G. H. Entsminger, vice-chancellor for alumni relations and development, says he does not want double sollicita-

male and female members. But since the women's program is still in the developing stages, Schooling wants consideration of a joint board put off until next year.

The male coaches and athletes take women's sports seriously and help wherever they can. All the women coaches have nice things to say about their male counterparts' attitude and assistance in practice and training. They single out track coach Bob Teel, tennis coach Bill Price, assistant basketball coach Gene Jones, and trainer Freddie Wappel.

Although women's athletics are becoming more competitive, women don't necessarily want their programs to be just like the men's. They want to avoid problems often associated with big-time collegiate athletics.

Even so, basketball coach and assistant athletic director Alexis Jarrett already has encountered problems of the big-time—criticism of her coaching and the 'win at all costs' attitude on the part of one opposing school.

The female Tigers had an up-and-down (11-8) season, playing mostly other Missouri college teams. Jarrett benched three star players for one game after they failed to show up in the locker room after a loss. The players cried "unfair."

Some of the players are not self-disciplined, she says. "If I don't drive them in practice, they don't work. It's part of the problem in the crossover to more competitive athletics."

But Jarrett does not believe in a "win at all costs" attitude. Win or lose, she wants her players to be "ladies," to be good sports on the court, to congratulate the other team for playing a better game, to be

**Women's
athletics—
the problem
is money.**

tion because it might result in a loss of income to men's sports.

Chancellor Herbert W. Schooling favors the women's scholarship program and approved the women's \$48,800 current operating budget as recommended by the Committee on Women's Athletics. He appointed the committee two years ago to advise him and make recommendations on women's sports. One recommendation they made was to combine men's and women's programs under one governing board of

polite and to dress neatly on road trips, “because they are representing the University,” she says.

“If women want to be highly competitive, they have to be prepared for consequences of big-time athletics,” says Mel Sheehan. And that means scholarships—and recruiting.

“With today’s cost of education, if you have a marketable skill, wouldn’t you go where you could get a scholarship?” asks golf coach Dianne Lyon.

Swim coach Dave Howell says, “Just being in a meet every once in a while is not all that rewarding for all the conditioning swimmers have to do. There has to be something in it for them.”

But coaches are prohibited from contacting athletes except on their own time. “We cannot get paid for recruiting, and we cannot get time off from other duties,” Markel says. The rules are made by AIAW, the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women. The AIAW holds state, regional and national competitions in all sports. Women’s teams are not organized into conferences.

Theoretically, since large amounts of money won’t be involved in recruiting, all colleges will have an equal chance at the high school women athletes. Markel says brochures on scholarships will be sent to Missouri high schools. She hopes athletes will write to the women’s athletic department.

But high school seniors attracted to Mizzou should be prepared to rate second to men when it comes to facilities. McKee Gym houses women’s physical education offices, classrooms and locker facilities, and has a small pool and a gym with a low ceiling.

The women’s intercollegiate athletic office operates from one small room there. All it takes to fill the room are desks for Jarrett and a secretary, some shelves and filing cabinets, and two or three extra chairs.

The volleyball team plays in McKee Gym. “We have to replay every ball that hits the ceiling. It drags out the game,” says coach Debbie Duren. The field hockey team plays on an intramurals field that gets torn up from soccer and football. The softball team will use city facilities. Even though women swimmers don’t get prime practice time (they practice at 5:30 p.m. after the men are finished), they do get to use the University pool.

Part of the problem is money. If the women’s basketball team wants to play on the big court at Hearnese, they have to pay for opening up the building (just as the men do). If they charged admission

(so far, games have been free), it would cost even more to pay ticket-takers and additional security guards. The big court is available, but the women don’t have enough money to use it as often as they would like.

The track team has a different problem, but it, too, might be solved with more money. “Instruction from coaches is minimal,” says team co-captain Mimi Williams. Track coach Jarrett also coaches basketball and softball. Her assistant, graduate student Linda Ditto, volunteered to help without being paid.

The golf team has no problem in scheduling play on the University Golf Course.

As for tennis, the team has no regular place to play



**Next year
women athletes
will get
scholarships.**

until the varsity courts near Hearnese are completed. Coach Ellen Scheer expects to get equal scheduling with the men. The Hearnese management told Scheer the indoor courts in Hearnese are “too much trouble” to uncover, so they aren’t used by either men or women.

The women do not have access to the weight room or the training room in Hearnese.

“Locker rooms don’t make or break a team,” Jarrett says. “On the other hand, better facilities would alleviate some of the problems.”

And, both the volleyball and field hockey coaches say their teams “appreciated more than anything else” the money made available for travel this year, “but. . . .”

Despite facilities, about 300 women expressed an interest in intercollegiate athletics this year, either by signing up to try out or acting as managers.

“It’s unfair for women to expect right away what it took men 80 to 100 years to develop,” Sheehan says.

Jarrett agrees. “We’re undergoing a lot of changes, and we’ve got growing pains. Everything is going to take time.” □