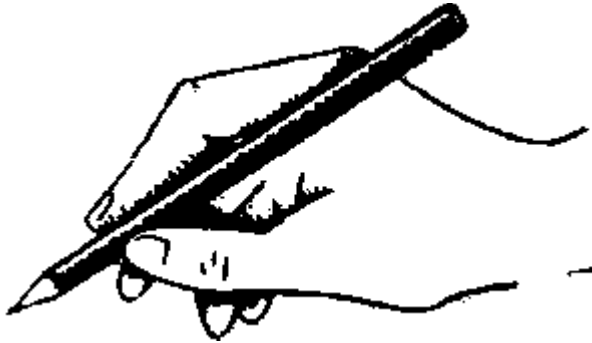


The Starting Line

The *WomenSport International* Newsletter
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(NOTE: This is not the entire newsletter, but most of its contents)



From the President, Carole

Oglesby

It was a great feeling, last July, to contemplate the opportunity for leadership within **WSI**. My professional career began with a physical education teaching position in 1961 and for most of the 35+ years of advocacy on behalf of women in sport, I have been side by side with women from around the world. The friendships thus formed have been anchors for me in this, sometimes stormy, work. I know working together now can speed progress on behalf of girls and women's sport.

WSI is a young organization and still evolving. We need active members AND members who are ACTIVE. Initiatives are underway to maximize global involvement and their success rests with you.

● *Core national women's sport advocacy groups*

Around the world, countries making good progress in sport opportunities for girls and women usually have one, or more, women's sport advocacy groups. If your country has such a group, make sure it is connected to global efforts. One really good way to assure this is through associate membership with **WSI**. Group associate membership is low cost, features some of the benefits of individual membership, and offers **WSI** associate membership automatically to all your groups' national members. If your locality has no such group, let us aid you to form one. Let the work begin with you. If this possibility interests you, contact **WSI** President [Carole Oglesby](#) or **WSI Secretary-General** [Elizabeth Darlison](#). The forming of a strong network for global women's sport advocacy is a major goal of **WSI 2000**.

● *WSI Committee infrastructure*

WSI has numerous committees to carry out its functions and there are many open

assignments to fill. We have a proposed policy requiring that five global regions be represented on each committee. The committees are listed below. If you have an interest in serving on a committee, please send to me ([Carole Oglesby](#)) your name, address, and a brief biography or resume. You will receive a description of specific duties associated with an assignment and an invitation to serve if the committee is still open for membership. If we are not able to appoint you at this time, your name will be kept current in a **WSI** "talent bank" listing.

COMMITTEES - Bylaws, Budget, Constitution, Education, Ethics, Membership, Public Relations and Information, Nominating, Research.

In achieving advance for women in sport globally, **WSI** success is greatly impacted by involvement. Join in now. Encourage friends and colleagues to join as members. Together we can accomplish our dreams.



WSI Elects Carole Oglesby President

Carole Oglesby (USA), a sports psychologist, has been President of the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport, a Trustee of the Women's Sport Foundation, and a member of the Board of Directors of the USOC.

Newly elected Vice-President, **Kari Fasting** (Norway) is a former track athlete, the first president of the Norwegian Society for Sport Research, a member of the Executive Board of the Norwegian Amateur Track and Field Association, and a Past-President of the International Sociology of Sport Association.

Celia Brackenridge (England), elected as Secretary, is a former international lacrosse athlete, coach, and official. Celia also chairs the WSI Task Force on Sexual Harassment.

Barbara Drinkwater (USA) was elected Treasurer. An exercise physiologist, Barbara is a past-president of the American College of Sports Medicine and works and lectures in the area of physical activity, sport, and women's health.

Biographic sketches for the following new Board members will appear in the next issue of *The Starting Line*: **Deborah Cubagee** (Ghana), **Shahizah Tan Sri Hj Daiman** (Malaysia), **Yvonne Harahousou** (Greece), **Sandra Kirby** (Canada), **Bruce Kidd** (Canada), **Ntamba Ravele** (South Africa), **Patricia Sangenis** (Argentina), and **Grete Waitz** (Norway).

Namibia International World Conference Women in Sport

The 2nd International World Conference on Women in Sport will be held in Windhoek, Namibia, May 19-22, 1998. The Conference follows the 1994 Brighton Conference which produced the [Brighton Declaration](#), a statement encouraging full and equal participation for girls and women in sport.

The [program](#), "Reaching out for Change" will feature an international group of speakers including **WSI** President Carole Oglesby (USA), Vice-President Kari Fasting (Norway), Secretary-General Libby Darlison (Australia), and **WSI** members Karen DePauw (USA), Judy Kent (Canada), and Bruce Kidd (Canada). Click for a look at the program.

The primary aim of the Conference is "to continue the momentum from Brighton in advancing opportunities for girls and women in sport and physical activity". The organisers also hope to highlight the contribution that sport can make to women's development, leadership, and decision making and in contributing solutions to the many problems facing women around the world in areas other than sport.

Participants at the Conference will work toward the following objectives:

- Advance sport as a strategy for addressing global issues affecting women;
- Exchange good practice and lessons learned since Brighton
- Strengthen international, regional and national networks;
- Build action plans for effecting change.

If you would like to attend, please contact the Conference Organiser:

Ms Carol Garoes,

Ministry of Youth and Sport, Namibia

Tel: 264 61 220 066 Fax 264 61 221 304

Sexual Harassment Task Force Report

Good progress is being made by the Task Force. Specific work in progress, either stimulated by or in partnership with Task Force leadership, includes projects in The Netherlands, Norway, England and Australia.

The Netherlands - The Dutch Olympic Committee and National Sport Federations have commissioned a study of sexual harassment. It is currently being published under the title "Red card or carte blanche: risk factors for sexual harassment and abuse in sport". The

principal researcher is Marianne Cense. For details contact Transact, Postbus 1413, 3500 BK Utrecht, Vinkenburgstraat, Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Norway - The Norwegian Olympic Committee has also funded a study of sexual harassment and abuse in sport. This study is a prevalence study among 600 elite female athletes. Surveys will be followed by qualitative interviews. This project is being lead by Jorun Sundgot Borgen and Kari Fasting. **WSI** Task Force Chair Celia Brackenridge is also assisting in the project.

England - Spearheaded by Celia Brackenridge, two studies are also underway in England. One study focuses on good practice in coaching style as a form of prevention. The second study catalogues coach abuser profiles.

Australia The Australian Sports Commission is committed to the hiring of a professional consultant to work with all units in the areas of prevention and protection issues in regard to sexual harassment.

The Task Force has also completed preparation and publication of a [brochure](#) which sets out the objectives of the Task Force and, most importantly, offers simple guidance to sports organizations on good practice in preventing sexual harassment in sport.

Additional copies at \$25 (US) per 100 may be ordered from **WomenSport International**, P.O. Box 743, Vashon, WA 98070, USA

Any **WSI** member interested in offering assistance to the work of the Sexual Harassment Task Force should contact the Chair, [Celia Brackenridge](#).



From Around the Globe

Women's Sport Development in South Africa:

Role of WSI in Promoting International Collaborations

by Ketra L. Armstrong, PhD

The Ohio State University, Sport Management Department

I recently took a two-week tour throughout various parts of the Republic of South Africa with a United States delegation under the auspices of the People to People Citizen Ambassador Program. The two-week stint included visits to a number of primary schools, universities, and local and national sport organizations to examine the status of sport and physical education in the country and to meet with sport and physical education professionals and officials to share information and exchange ideas on sport and physical education development.

Although the length of the trip was only two weeks, it left an impression that will last a lifetime for all involved. The beneficiaries of such an international exchange are many. First one thinks of the children and the students who had the opportunity to meet their American "brothers and sisters" who were there to offer support and words of encouragement. Many of the students were left with a stronger hope that their world would soon offer some of the amenities that apartheid previously prevented. They had met with a diverse group of Americans who cared about them and, for a moment, shared in their search for a better life. Other beneficiaries were the sport and physical education professionals in South Africa. They were also embraced by their American counterparts and offered support, and some resources to further develop what they are already doing with limited facilities, funding, and training. Of course, the American delegation benefited greatly from the exchange. It made us realize that although America is highly blessed with resources, in many respects we have much in common with South Africa. Most of all, the need to engage in global sport education and development was emphasized. The U.S. delegation of 27 people participated in a person to person fashion; reaching one heart and mind at a time.

After being exposed to the status of sport and physical education in South Africa, it was evident that the "rules of the game" had been very different for select groups of people in this country. South Africans realize the dire need for a comprehensive sport development initiative that unites the masses (particularly the majority of blacks who were previously denied sport opportunities under the apartheid regime), and specifically as it pertains to females. South African females need female sport role models; they need programs that will socialize them into sport participation at an early age; they need funding; and they need media and marketing campaigns that will educate the public on the benefits of sport involvement, motivate women to get involved in sports, and encourage women's overall sport development. Consequently, females in South Africa are still very much "on the sidelines." Because of the system of apartheid, there has been much discrimination and social deprivation. A great number of women in South Africa have not been allowed to be a part of the "game." What is more, the black women were not even allowed in the "arena" due to the intersection of the racial and gender pressures they have had to endure.

Research has revealed that sport involvement provides mental, physical, social, and psychological benefits. These are benefits that will dramatically enhance the lives for all of South Africa's citizens, especially its women. The transition of the new South Africa may take a lifetime of redress. Sport development initiatives may positively influence the redress measures, but it will be an enormous task. So how can this situation be changed? Well, South Africa has devised a women's sports agenda that will greatly improve the current condition for women's sport aspirations. Also, some countries (i.e., Australia) have offered assistance to South Africa regarding its sports initiatives. However, given the lack of existing funds and resources, there is a grave need for more international collaboration between South Africa and the more developed countries that have established women's sport agendas. Hence, sport and physical educational professionals throughout the world should explore means by which they can internationalize their programs and extend their expertise to the global arena.

In light of the international collaborations that are needed to improve the status of women in sport in South Africa and to enable their female citizens to receive the benefits that sport has afforded women throughout the world, **WomenSport International** can play a pivotal role in the facilitation of such exchanges. Not limited to South Africa, however, **WSI** could serve as a "hub" or "clearinghouse" for international women's sport development throughout the world (and particularly for developing countries) via the assistance of sport academicians and sport practitioners. Some notable efforts that **WSI** could facilitate include:

1. The compiling of a data bank or pool of people in each country who are interested in international collaborations - noting their countries of interest and their topic/area of interest. In so doing, **WSI** becomes the central place for information dissemination regarding international women's sport initiatives.
2. Via the **WSI** newsletter and/or other publications, serve as an advocate for women's sport development bringing attention to the latest research, trends, causes, and events that are affecting women's sport on the global level.
3. Invite, encourage, and help to facilitate international partnerships with academic and practical sport entities worldwide (i.e., fostering research collaborations that have global implications).
4. Offering forums and conferences to allow persons interested in international sport to assemble on a regular basis to address women's issues.

Women's sports in South Africa needs a "wheel" to advance the progress that the country's officials are beginning to make with new program development and implementation. The "spokes" of the wheel could be the sport academicians and sport practitioners throughout the world who have a vested interest in international sport. **WSI** could be the center "cog" where the spokes meet and serve as the mechanical device whereby the spokes are supported and the wheel is turned.

Norway's Strategy to Stop Gender Testing in Sport

by Berit Skirstad, Associate Professor

Norwegian University of Sport and Physical Education

According to Norwegian law it is prohibited to do gender tests for other than medical purposes since January 1st 1998. The law prohibits that one directly asks, receives or uses information about another person which stems from biotechnology except for medical purposes. The respect for human dignity, human rights and protection against spread and use of sensitive information have been the view of the Norwegian government in this case. It is the aim of Norwegian sport to abolish gender tests in Olympic Games by Sidney in year 2000. The last two years the Norwegian Olympic Committee and Confederation of Sports have made a strategic plan in order to stop the testing. In November 1996 the General Assembly of Olympic Committees (ANOC, altogether 197 countries) decided to send a letter through their medical committee to IOC's medical

committee, where this question was raised. The proposal was made by the president of the NOC. He has also contacted the 5 Norwegian federations that still have gender testing on their program to approach their international federations and try to stop it. The European Judo Association has abolished the test. The Nordic countries have both from the sport organizations and the Olympic committees sent letter to IOC as has the Athletes Committee in Norway sent a letter to the IOC Athletes' Committee, and they will discuss this at the meeting of the new Athletes Commission in Lisbon May 30-31st.