

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
NATIONAL WOMEN'S SPORTS FOUNDATION AWARDS PRESENTATION  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
FEBRUARY 2, 1996

TALKING POINTS

[Acknowledgements: The Women's Sports Foundation, Girl Scouts, YWCA of America, Girls, Inc., National Association of Girls and Women in Sports, and JC Penney.]

- I am delighted to be here today to celebrate the tenth annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day. This event is especially significant, for it acknowledges the outstanding achievements of women in sports, as well as the importance of sports and fitness in our lives.
- Every year more and more women are being recognized for their outstanding athletic achievements. In this past year alone, Americans everywhere followed Rebecca Lobo as she led the UCONN women's basketball team to their first national championship. And people around the world witnessed a milestone in sports history as the first all-female America's Cup team in 144 years set sail. (Finally, women are showing up in major sports magazines for their athletic accomplishments, and not just for what they look like in a bathing suit.)
- I want to thank all of you who are here today for paving the way for many of our greatest young athletes. I also want to thank you for working so hard to acknowledge the enormous pressures facing young women pursuing their dreams in sports.
- The Flo Hyman Award, which I have the honor of presenting today, is given to an athlete who represents the spirit, dedication and commitment to excellence of the 1984 Olympic volleyball captain who died of Marfan's Syndrome in 1986. In the past years, this award has been given to such outstanding athletes and citizens as Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Evelyn Ashford, Lynette Woodard, and Mary Lou Retton.
- I am honored to present this year's award to a woman who, at age 13, competed as the youngest member of the 1960 United States Olympic swimming team. A woman who, by age 17, had broken 18 world records in swimming, winning two gold medals at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo. A woman who, in 1965, became the first female sportscaster on network television. She is the co-founder of the Women's Sports Foundation. Today, in recognition of her long and outstanding career in support of women's athletics, I am delighted to present the Flo Hyman award to **Donna de Varona**.

###

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 1, 1996

PRESENTATION OF THE 1996 FLO HYMAN AWARD AND PHOTO WITH  
ATHLETES IN HONOR OF NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

DATE: February 2, 1995  
LOCATION: Indian Treaty Room  
TIME: 10:00 am  
FROM: Danny Wexler

I. PURPOSE

To recognize female athletes participating in National Girls and Women in Sports Day and present the 1996 Flo Hyman Award to former Olympic Swimmer, Donna de Varona.

II. BACKGROUND

National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NGWSD) was established in 1986 by a joint resolution of Congress to acknowledge the significant achievements of women in sports and to highlight the importance of sports and fitness for girls and women of all ages. The day is celebrated in all 50 states. The Women's Sports Foundation organized the first National Girls and Women in Sports Day to remember and honor Flo Hyman. The Flo Hyman Award is given to an athlete who represents the spirit dedication and commitment of Flo Hyman, the 1984 Olympic volleyball captain who died of Marfan's Syndrome in 1986.

This years Flo Hyman Award winner is Donna de Varona. At the age of 13, Donna was the youngest member of the U.S. Olympic swimming team at the 1960 Olympics in Rome. By age 17, she had broken 18 world records in swimming and won two gold medals at the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo. That year she was voted Most Outstanding Female Athlete in the World by both Associated Press and United Press International. Donna served on President Fords's Commission on Olympic Sports and President Carter's Women's Advisory Commission. She served five terms on the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. She was also instrumental in the passage of the 1978 Amateur Sports Act and title IX legislation. She is currently a sports broadcaster on ABC.

The Flo Hyman Award winner and other athletes selected to participate in the National Celebration of NGWSD have been received at the White House each year since 1987.

NGWSD is the first Thursday in February and all of the traditional activities for this day took place on February 1. All three networks, CNN, Fox News and many newspapers covered events to commemorate this day. However, due to the visit of French President Chirac we were unable to host this group at the White House on that day.

Past recipients include: Mary Lou Rettan (1995), Patty Sheehan (1994), Lynette Woodard (1993), Nancy Lopez (1992); Diana Golden (1991); Chris Evert (1990); Evelyn Ashford (1989); Jackie Joyner-Kersey (1988); and Martina Navratilova (1987).

In addition to the National Women's Sports Foundation, representatives from the other sponsors will be present. They include; Girl Scouts of America, YWCA, Girls Inc. and the National Association of Girls and Women in Sports. JC Penney, this years corporate sponsor will also be present.

This is the tenth anniversary of this event.

### III. PARTICIPANTS

List of athletes and sponsors attached

### IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press

### V. SEQUENCE

- o You proceed to room 476. You will be meet briefly with Wendy Hilliard, President of the Women's Sports Foundation and Donna de Varona..
- o You, Wendy Hilliard and Donna de Varona proceed to the Indian Treaty Room. Wendy Hilliard will make brief remarks and introduce you.
- o You present the Flo Hyman Award to Donna de Varona and make brief remarks.
- o Donna de Varona will accept the award and make brief remarks.
- o Wendy Hilliard will introduce you to the other athletes and sponsors.
- o You greet the participants and depart.

### VI. REMARKS

Talking points to be provided by speechwriters.

## **PARTICIPANTS IN THE 1996 PRESENTATION OF THE FLO HYMAN AWARD**

**Robin Campbell, Washington, D.C.**

Two-time Olympian in track and field in 1980 and 1984.

**Camille Duvall-Hero, New York, New York**

Five time World Professional Slalom Champion, and five-time U.S. Overall Champion and the winner of 13 U.S. national waterski titles.

**Benita Fitzgerald, Atlanta, Georgia**

Member of the U.S. Olympic Track Team in 1980, 1984 and 1988. Won a gold medal in the 100m hurdles in the 1984 Olympics.

**Brenda Gilmore, Washington, D.C.**

First African-American female to play on the wheelchair tennis circuit and maintain a national ranking in the top ten for five years.

**Tammie Green, Zanesville, Ohio**

Professional golfer.

**Lillian Greene-Chamberlain, Silver Spring, Maryland**

First African-American female to represent the United States in international middle distance running.

**Tamieka Grizzle**

National Scholastic Indoor 800-Meter champion and Junior Olympic record holder. She is an honor student who ranks ninth in a class of 456 and will attend Villanova next fall on a full athletic scholarship.

**Wendy Hilliard, New York, New York**

First African-American Rhythmic Gymnastics National Team member. Currently the President-elect of the Women's Sports Foundation. Now President of the Women's Sports Foundation and Director of Amateur Sports for the New York City Sports Commission.

**Nancy Hogshead, New York, New York**

Won more medals than any other swimmer at the 1984 Olympics: three golds and one silver. At age fourteen, she was the only American woman to be ranked number one in the world. Currently President of the Women's Sports Foundation.

**Rusty Kanokogi, Brooklyn, New York**

Holds a fifth degree black belt in Judo and is the highest ranked women.

**Angie Marzetta, Norfolk, Virginia**

The only switchhitter on the Colorado Silver Bullets, the all-female professional baseball team.

**Liz Masakayan, Phillipines**

1993 Women's Professional Volleyball World Champion and gold medal winner in beach volleyball and the 1994 Goodwill games.

**Blythe Miller, Abington, Pennsylvania**

The first female jockey to win a national steeplechase championship in 1994. Also the first and only female jockey to win a Breeders' Cup race.

**Angela Moscarelli, Vallejo, California**

The youngest archer to compete on a U.S. world team. She won the gold medal at the World Archery Championship.

**Phil Niekro, Blaine, Ohio**

Former Atlanta Brave and New York Yankee; one of the winningest pitchers in baseball. He is now coach of the Colorado Silver Bullets all-female baseball team.

**Diane Nyad, New York, New York**

Diane holds the world's record for the longest swim by a man or woman, 102.5 miles from the Bahamas to Florida./

**Kathy Smith, Los Angeles, California**

Sold more than two million videocassettes in her fitness and exercise series.

**Lyn St. James, Daytona Beach, Florida**

Only the second woman to qualify for the Indianapolis 500, placing 11th in the 1992 race to be named Rookie of the Year.

## **SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS**

**Donna Lopiano, Executive Director, Women's Sports Foundation**

**Linda Hayes, Girls Inc.**

**Alpha Alexander, YWCA**

**LaVerne Alexander, Girl Scouts of America**

**Susan Durrant, National Association of Girls and Women in Sports**

**Cathy Mills, Vice President, Communications, JC Penny**

**Anne Seymour, Vice President, JC Penny**

**Diana Holman, Holman Communications**

**Carrie Schum, Holman Communications**

**Kristen Carr, Holman Communications**

## **FAMILY OF DONNA de VARONA**

**John H. Pinto, husband**

**John D. Pinto, son**

**Joanna Pinto, daughter**

**Celeste Pinto, mother-in-law**

① Name of event - *understand*

62467

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
NATIONAL WOMEN'S SPORTS FOUNDATION AWARDS PRESENTATION  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
FEBRUARY 2, 1996**

**TALKING POINTS**

- Only year <sup>now</sup> we are recognized for outstanding achievement -- Just like last year.*
- I am delighted to be here today to celebrate the tenth annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day. [Although I cannot place myself among the elite female athletes of our nation, I am a huge fan of women's sports.]
  - Women's sports have come a long way since the first National Girls and Women in Sports Day in 1986. This year, alone, there were numerous exceptional performances by women: Monica Seles' courageous return to professional tennis after a more than two-year absence; Rebecca Lobo's outstanding play as she led the UCONN women's basketball team to their first national championship; the first all-female America's Cup team in the 144-year history of the America's Cup.
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  - With the joys of record-breaking performances and the attainment of higher goals, however, comes a new set of hurdles facing today's female athletes. The pressures placed on women athletes today, starting as young as ages twelve and thirteen, can have dangerous health effects on women, both physically and emotionally. While competition is both exhilarating and fun, we as a community must work hard to keep sports in perspective.
  - I am here today to present the Flo Hyman Award. This award is given to an athlete who represents the spirit, dedication and commitment to excellence of Flo Hyman, the 1984 Olympic volleyball captain who died of Marfan's Syndrome in 1986. I am honored to present this year's award to **Donna de Varona**.
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All Sponsors

[Acknowledgements: The Women's Sports Foundation  
Girl Scouts

YWCA of America

Girls, Inc.

National Assoc. of Girls & Women in Sports

JC Penney



January 2, 1996

The President  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

My dear Mr. President:



**GIRL SCOUTS™**

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420 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10018-2798  
(212) 852-8000

**girls  
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New York, NY 10016  
(212) 689-3700



National Association for  
Girls & Women in Sport  
1900 Association Drive  
Reston, VA 22091  
(703) 476-3450



Women's Sports Foundation  
Eisenhower Park  
East Meadow, NY 11554  
(516) 542-4700  
(516) 542-4716 fax



YWCA of the USA  
726 Broadway  
New York, NY 10003  
(212) 614-2700

Thursday, February 1, 1996, will mark the **tenth celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NGWSD)**. We would be greatly honored if you would host the group of outstanding female athletes who will be in Washington, D.C., for NGWSD on February 1 and **present the Flo Hyman Award to this year's winner.**

This year's NGWSD celebration will be particularly meaningful, as **Martina Navratilova, the first recipient of the Flo Hyman Award, will be in Washington to participate in the Day. She will be joined by Billie Jean King and Donna de Varona, the co-founders of the Women's Sports Foundation. Donna de Varona is also the recipient of this year's Flo Hyman Award in recognition of her long career in support of women's athletics, although this information is confidential and will not be released to the public until February 1.**

**NGWSD was established in 1986 by a joint resolution of Congress to acknowledge the significant achievements of women in sports and to highlight the importance of sports and fitness for girls and women of all ages.** The Day is celebrated in all 50 states, and the national celebration is held in Washington, D.C.

**This year's NGWSD theme is "Meet the Challenge!"** An group of champion women athletes, including former Flo Hyman Award winners Martina Navratilova (1987) and Lynnette Woodard (1993), will be in Washington for the NGWSD celebrations. The list of athletes who will be in Washington for the Day includes:

- **Nicole Bobek**, 1995 National Champion in figure skating;
- **Donna de Varona**, 1964 double Olympic gold medalist in swimming;
- **Nancy Hogshead**, 1984 triple Olympic gold medalist in swimming;
- **Billie Jean King**, former #1 WTA Tour tennis player and holder of 20 Wimbledon and 13 U.S. Open titles;
- **Dominique Moceanu**, 1995 National Champion in gymnastics and the winner of a silver and a bronze medal at the 1995 World Championships;
- **Martina Navratilova**, former #1 WTA Tour tennis player and holder of 18 Grand Slam singles titles, including a record nine Wimbledon titles;

- **Pam Shriver**, winner of 21 singles and 92 doubles titles on the WTA Tour and winner of the gold medal in doubles at the 1988 Olympics;
- **Kathy Smith**, fitness expert;
- **Lyn St. James**, race car driver and 1992 Indianapolis 500 rookie of the year;
- **Debi Thomas**, 1986 World Figure Skating Champion and 1988 Olympic bronze medalist in figure skating;
- **Cathy Turner**, Double Olympic gold medalist in short-track speed skating;
- **Lynette Woodard**, the first-ever female member of the Harlem Globetrotters, four-time All-American in basketball at the University of Kansas and member of the gold medal-winning 1984 Olympic basketball team.

President Reagan, President Bush and you have all honored the athletes by hosting them at the White House. Last year, Mrs. Clinton hosted a tea for the athletes, who included Flo Hyman Award winner Mary Lou Retton, Olympic gold medalist Summer Sanders and tennis star Venus Williams. In 1994, Mrs. Gore presented the Flo Hyman Award to golfer Patty Sheehan. During the 1993 NGWSD Celebration, you met with athletes including Janet Evans, Nancy Hogshead and Donna de Varona on the White House basketball court, and made a successful "back-to-the-basket" shot after presenting the Flo Hyman Award to basketball star Lynette Woodard. NGWSD receives excellent national and local print and electronic media coverage. Since this is the tenth anniversary of NGWSD, we expect this year's coverage to be more extensive than ever before.

The Flo Hyman Award is given to an athlete who represents the spirit, dedication and commitment to excellence of Flo Hyman, the 1984 Olympic volleyball captain who died of Marfan's Syndrome in 1986. Past award recipients include: Mary Lou Retton (1995); Patty Sheehan (1994); Lynette Woodard (1993); Nancy Lopez (1992); Diana Golden (1991); Chris Evert (1990); Evelyn Ashford (1989); Jackie Joyner-Kersey (1988); and Martina Navratilova (1987).

As background, the Women's Sports Foundation is a national educational organization headquartered in New York and dedicated to promoting health and fitness for girls and women. Founded in 1974 by Billie Jean King, Donna de Varona and other leading female athletes, the Foundation has 155,000 members nationwide and is widely recognized for its efforts to promote health and fitness for females through education, grant and advocacy programs. NGWSD is sponsored by the Foundation and four other prominent national organizations: Girl Scouts of the USA (3.4 million members); YWCA of the USA (2 million members); Girls Inc. (250,000 members); and the National Association of Girls and Women in Sport (9,000 members).

**NATIONAL GIRLS & WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY**

**TENTH ANNUAL  
NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY  
FEBRUARY 1, 1996  
Presented by JCPenney**



**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**



**GIRL SCOUTS™**

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420 Fifth Avenue  
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**girls  
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Girls Incorporated  
30 East 33rd Street  
New York, NY 10016  
(212) 689-3700

**Participating athletes:**

Nicole Bobek, figure skating  
Donna de Varona, swimming  
Camille Duvall-Hero, waterskiing  
Benita Fitzgerald, track & field  
Brenda Gilmore, tennis  
Lillian Greene-Chamberlain, track & field  
Wendy Hilliard, rhythmic gymnastics  
Nancy Hogshead, swimming  
Rusty Kanokogi, judo  
Billie Jean King, tennis

Nancy Lieberman-Cline, basketball  
Elizabeth McIntyre, skiing  
Martina Navratilova, tennis  
Pam Shriver, tennis  
Kathy Smith, fitness  
Lyn St. James, auto racing  
Debi Thomas, figure skating  
Cathy Turner, speedskating  
Lynette Woodard, basketball

**I. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1996**

Athletes arrive in D.C.

**1996 JCPENNEY WOMEN'S SPORTS FOUNDATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C., AWARDS CELEBRATION**

(Tickets are available through the Women's Sports Foundation. Call 516-542-4700 for more information.)

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Salon I  
JW Marriott Hotel  
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

A JCPenney representative will announce the 1996 JCPenney Scholar Sportswoman of the Year. The winner will be chosen from a group of 11 finalists selected from Washington, D.C., public high schools.

Top champion female athletes, scholar sportswomen finalists, school officials, area coaches and metropolitan area women's sports and fitness supporters will attend.



National Association for  
Girls & Women in Sport  
1900 Association Drive  
Reston, VA 22091  
(703) 476-3450



Women's Sports Foundation  
Eisenhower Park  
East Meadow, NY 11554  
(516) 542-4700  
(516) 542-4716 fax



YWCA of the USA  
726 Broadway  
New York, NY 10003  
(212) 614-2700

## II. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1996

### 1. **1996 JCPenney Women's Sports Day Fitness Walk** (open to the public)

HONORARY CO-SPONSORS: Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)  
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX)  
Senator Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL)  
Representative Cardiss Collins (D-7-IL)  
Representative Connie Morella (R-8-MD)  
Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-18-FL)  
Representative Pat Schroeder (D-1-CO)  
Representative Barbara Vucanovich (R-2-NV)

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:30 a.m.              | Registration<br>East side of the Mall on 4th Street between Madison<br>and Jefferson Drives.                                                                                                              |
| 7:40 a.m.              | Pre-walk stretch with fitness expert Kathy Smith                                                                                                                                                          |
| 7:55 a.m.              | Welcome and introduction of athletes, co-sponsors<br>and other dignitaries                                                                                                                                |
| 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  | Two-mile walk along the National Mall from 4th<br>Street to the Washington Monument and back<br>(without crossing 14th Street).<br><br>Walk starter: Health and Human Services Secretary<br>Donna Shalala |
| 9:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. | Athlete visits to members of Congress                                                                                                                                                                     |

For more information about the Walk, or event day weather conditions, call (202) 822-6804.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1996 (Cont.)**

2. **Congressional Awards Luncheon**  
Presented by JCPenney

12:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Russell Caucus Room 325  
(by invitation)

HONORARY CO-SPONSORS:     Senator Bill Bradley (D-NJ)  
                                         Senator Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS)  
                                         Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK)

Announcement of Women's Sports Foundation Flo Hyman Award winner by Senator Stevens and presentation of U.S. flag by Senator Bradley.

3.     **TO BE CONFIRMED: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON**



## NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

When Olympic volleyball great Flo Hyman died suddenly of Marfan's Syndrome while playing a game in Japan on January 24, 1986, the world lost a tremendous athlete who was committed to excellence both on and off the court. Hyman was a leader of her peers who worked for equality for women's sports. Her death led to a legacy that includes a celebration of women's sporting achievements each year.



GIRL SCOUTS

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National Association for  
Girls & Women in Sport  
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Reston, VA 22091  
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FOUNDATION

Women's Sports Foundation  
Eisenhower Park  
East Meadow, NY 11554  
(516) 542-4700  
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YWCA of the USA  
726 Broadway  
New York, NY 10003  
(212) 614-2700

The Women's Sports Foundation and Senator Bob Packwood (R-OR) organized the first National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NGWSD) to remember and honor Hyman. Senator Packwood and Representative Olympia Snowe (R-ME) introduced the bills declaring February 4, 1987, as the first National Women in Sports Day. That day was the first open day on the legislative calendar after the anniversary of Hyman's death.

Since 1987, five major women's sports organizations have joined together to coordinate the Day nationally. They are Girl Scouts of the USA, Girls Incorporated, the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport (NAGWS), the Women's Sports Foundation and the YWCA of the USA.

A ceremony on Capitol Hill marked the first NGWSD celebration and each one since. Senators Ted Stevens (R-AK), Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and Bill Bradley (D-NJ) attend each year, as well as many other distinguished members of the House and Senate.

The event provides an opportunity to emphasize the importance of sports for girls and women. Women's sports leaders discuss current legislation and issues with members of Congress and focus attention on the needs of females in sports. Similar efforts take place on state and local levels.

Page Two

Also at the ceremony on Capitol Hill, the winner of the Women's Sports Foundation Flo Hyman Award is announced, an athlete who captures Flo Hyman's "dignity, spirit and commitment to excellence." The first winner was tennis star Martina Navratilova. For the past six years, the President has presented the award in the White House. It has been given to track stars Jackie Joyner-Kersey (1988), Evelyn Ashford (1989), tennis legend Chris Evert (1990), world disabled ski champion Diana Golden (1991), professional golfer Nancy Lopez (1992) and basketball player Lynette Woodard (1993).

The Day is about much more than ceremonies in Washington. It is a nationwide event with celebrations in all 50 states, coordinated by NAGWS and their many dedicated volunteers. Each year, more and more community-based events, awards and other activities honor the achievements of girls and women in sports.

Several states now have statewide awards dinners that recognize their best athletes, coaches and contributors to women's sports. YWCAs, Girls Incorporated centers and other youth-serving groups often provide special sports programming around the Day. For instance, in 1994 Girl Scouts in Independence, Kansas, are celebrating the day by attending local community college women's basketball games.

Schools get involved with classroom activities relating to NGWSD. For example, students at Arnett C. Lines Elementary School in Barrington, Illinois, will participate in the Team Jeopardy Game of Women Athletes during their fourth annual Girls in Sports Day event.

The Day traditionally takes place on the first Thursday in February, and in 1994 it will occur on February 3.

###

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NATIONAL WOMEN'S SPORTS FOUNDATION AWARDS PRESENTATION  
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- I am delighted to be here today to celebrate the tenth annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day. Although I cannot place myself among the elite female athletes of our nation, I am a huge fan of women's sports.
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- Donna de Varona was the youngest member of the United States Olympic swimming team at the 1960 Olympics in Rome when she was just 13 years old. By age 17, she had broken 18 world records in swimming, winning two gold medals at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo. She is a co-founder of the Women's Sports Foundation, and was the first woman sportscaster on network television, beginning her career in 1965. Today we give Donna de Varona this award in recognition of her long and outstanding career in support of women's athletics.

E X E C U T I V E   O F F I C E   O F   T H E   P R E S I D E N T

31-Jan-1996 06:06pm

TO:            Alison Muscatine  
FROM:          Daniel Wexler  
                Office of Public Liaison  
  
SUBJECT:      HRC remarks for Women's sports event on Friday

When Mrs. Clinton presents the Flo Hyman Award on Friday she should acknowledge the following organizations:

The Women's Sports Foundation  
Girl Scouts  
YWCA of America  
Girls, Inc.  
National Association of Girls and Women in Sports  
JC Penney

These are the organizations that sponsor the award and Girls and Women in Sports Day.

I'd be happy to take a look at the remarks/talking points when they are available.

Thanks.

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All Sponsors

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Girl Scouts  
YWCA of America  
Girls, Inc.  
National Assoc. of Girls + Women in Sports  
JC Penney



**HOLD FOR RELEASE  
UNTIL FEBRUARY 1 (a.m.)**



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726 Broadway  
New York, NY 10003  
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**A SKETCH OF DONNA DE VARONA  
1996 FLO HYMAN AWARD WINNER**

Donna de Varona was the youngest member of the United States Olympic swimming team at the 1960 Olympics in Rome when she was just 13 years old....By age 17, she had broken 18 world records in swimming.....She won two gold medals at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo....That year she was voted the Most Outstanding Female Athlete in the World by both Associated Press and United Press International....de Varona has been inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame, the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame and the San Francisco Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame.....She was a three-time nominee for the Sullivan Award, given annually to the nation's most outstanding amateur athlete....She served on President Ford's Commission on Olympic Sports and President Carter's Women's Advisory Commission....She served five terms on the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports...de Varona served as a consultant to the United States Senate from 1976 through 1978 and was instrumental in Congress' passage of the 1978 Amateur Sports Act as well as Title IX legislation...She served as a consultant to Peter Ueberroth during the 1984 Olympics...She is a co-founder of the Women's Sports Foundation...She has served on the board of the U.S. Olympic Foundation...She was the first woman sportscaster on network television, beginning her career in 1965...She is currently a sports commentator on ABC and covered the 1968, 1972, 1976 and 1984 Summer Olympics and the 1988 and 1994 Winter Olympics...She won an Emmy Award for her coverage and production of the 1991 Special Olympic Games...de Varona is a graduate of UCLA and is married with two children.

January 2, 1996  
Page Three

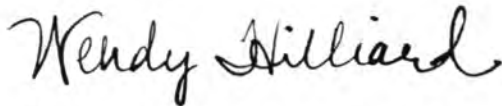
With regard to scheduling of the Flo Hyman Award presentation, in past years it has been held in the afternoon. We understand that you will be hosting a state dinner for the French president that evening, and that an afternoon ceremony may not be possible for that reason. Because the presentation is the highlight of the Day, we would be pleased to accommodate your schedule, and a ceremony on the morning of February 1 is a possible alternative time. The afternoon of Wednesday, January 31 or the morning of Friday, February 2 would also be possible.

For your information, other events planned for the NGWSD include a two-mile "Women's Sports Day Fitness Walk" along the National Mall from 8:00-9:00 a.m. and a Congressional awards luncheon from 12:00-2:00 p.m. The honorary co-sponsors of the walk are Senators Dianne Feinstein, Kay Bailey Hutchison and Carol Moseley-Braun and Representatives Cardiss Collins, Connie Morella, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Pat Schroeder and Barbara Vucanovich. The luncheon will be co-sponsored by Senators Bill Bradley, Nancy Kassebaum and Ted Stevens.

Our Washington representative, Diana Holman, will contact your office to determine your availability and to answer any questions you may have about NGWSD. If you have any questions in the meantime, she can be reached at 202-822-6804.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request. We hope that you will join Congress and the nation in honoring female athletes and focusing attention on the importance of fitness as an essential ingredient in a healthy lifestyle.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Hilliard". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Wendy" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Hilliard".

Wendy Hilliard  
President  
Women's Sports Foundation



## NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY



**GIRL SCOUTS™**  
Girl Scouts of the USA  
420 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10018-2798  
(212) 852-8000



**Girls Incorporated**  
30 East 33rd Street  
New York, NY 10016  
(212) 689-3700



**National Association for  
Girls & Women in Sport**  
1900 Association Drive  
Reston, VA 22091  
(703) 476-3450



**Women's Sports Foundation**  
Eisenhower Park  
East Meadow, NY 11554  
(516) 542-4700  
(516) 542-4716 fax



**YWCA of the USA**  
726 Broadway  
New York, NY 10003  
(212) 614-2700

National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NGWSD) was established by Congressional resolution in 1987 to celebrate the achievements of girls and women in sports. The first NGWSD was organized to remember and honor Flo Hyman, the Olympic volleyball player who died suddenly of Marfan's Syndrome during a game in 1986. The Women's Sports Foundation's Flo Hyman Award is awarded annually on NGWSD to the female athlete who exemplifies the dignity, spirit and commitment to excellence of Flo Hyman. Past recipients have included gymnast Mary Lou Retton; tennis champions Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert; track and field stars Jackie Joyner-Kersey and Evelyn Ashford; golfers Nancy Lopez and Patty Sheehan; world disabled ski champion Diana Golden; and basketball champion Lynette Woodard.

On February 1, 1996, the Tenth Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day will be celebrated nationwide. The NGWSD National Celebration in Washington, D.C., will include a Women's Sports Day Fitness Walk and Congressional awards luncheon on Capitol Hill. Later in the Day, the President traditionally presents the Flo Hyman Award to the outstanding female athlete selected for the year.

Female athletes participating in the 1996 NGWSD celebrations in Washington, D.C., include: tennis players Billie Jean King and Pam Shriver; rhythmic gymnast Wendy Hilliard; Olympic swimmers Donna de Varona and Nancy Hogshead; fitness expert Kathy Smith; hurdler Benita Fitzgerald; auto racer Lyn St. James; Colorado Silver Bullet member Angie Marzetta; and wheelchair racer Jean Driscoll.

NGWSD receives bi-partisan support from members of Congress including Senators Ted Stevens, Bill Bradley, Nancy Kassebaum, Ted Kennedy, Dianne Feinstein, Joseph Biden, Kay Bailey Hutchison, John Warner and Olympia Snowe, and Representatives Susan Molinari and Cardiss Collins.

NGWSD is celebrated in all 50 states. Each year, more community-based events, awards and other activities are organized to honor the achievements of girls and women in sports. Several states have statewide dinners to recognize accomplished athletes, coaches and contributors to women's sports. Other states organize meetings between women's sports leaders and state legislators to discuss current legislation relating to women in sports.

NGWSD is sponsored by five prominent national organizations: Girls Inc. (250,000 members); Girl Scouts of the USA (3.4 million members); National Association of Girls and Women in Sport (9,000 members); Women's Sports Foundation (155,000 members); and YWCA of the USA (2 million members).



### **JCPenney Support of National Girls and Women in Sports Day**

JCPenney has been involved as a national sponsor of National Girls and Women in Sports Day for the last five years. We are committed to this event and many other women's events and activities throughout the year. However, we take special pride in sponsoring this program because it involves so many girls and women of all ages and different levels of athletic skill in the communities in which we operate.

JCPenney will award 12 JCPenney Scholar Sportswomen Awards and one JCPenney Sports Woman of the Year Award to local Washington, DC high school female athletes for academic and athletic leadership and accomplishments. We will present these awards at a special ceremony on January 31, 1996.

Nationwide, JCPenney stores will give away 350,000 posters featuring the theme for this year's National Girls and Women in Sports Day, "Meet the Challenge." In addition, JCPenney has teamed with Reebok to produce 50,000 community action kits which will be distributed as a guide for local event coordinators. These kits will assist the coordinators in planning community programs nationwide.

JCPenney is also telling more than 60 million Americans about the event through JCPenney preprinted advertising circulars and messages included in our credit billings. In addition, JCPenney will sponsor a cable television broadcast highlighting the importance of girls' participation in sports. The broadcast will air in 23 markets across the nation throughout February and March.

JCPenney is excited about our involvement with this year's program and we look forward to a continued partnership with National Girls and Women in Sports Day.



## NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY 1996

Listed below is a small sample of the hundreds of events JCPenney will sponsor across the nation in 1996.

### January 27, 1996

WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

YMCA - Wausau

Details:

"Meeting the Challenge" of learning a new sport. There are 60 expected participants that will learn rock climbing on the Y's new indoor rock climbing wall.

### January 31, 1996

SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Springfield Mall JCPenney

Details

Lyn St. James will visit and sign autographs while promoting National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

### February 1, 1996

MIAMI, FLORIDA

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Miami Dade Jr. College Campus (South Campus Kendal)

Details

JCPenney district has invited the top four female athletes including one physically challenged and the head female athletic coach from (77) middle schools, and (2) high schools in Dade County, Florida. 400 are expected to participate in seminars for Training, Nutrition and Education Scholarship.

This is the second year for this event.

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Drexel University Physical Education Center

33rd and Market Street - Philly

Details

Breakfast reception, awards presentation, press conference and workshops. There will be many award winners, honored guests and keynote speakers.

## February 1, 1996 (continued)

### ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

12:00 noon

State Capitol - St. Paul

#### Details

"Meet the Challenge" Rally. All Minnesota high schools, parks and recreation, and sports organizations were invited to select an individual or organization that has made a positive impact on girl's sports. JCPenney will present awards at the rally. Renee Powell will be the keynote speaker at the rally and appreciation breakfast at the governor's mansion. The statewide elementary school poster contest display and various exhibits, video displays and printed resources will be featured.

### KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

New Theater Restaurant - Overland Park, KS.

#### Details

Women's Intersport Network for Kansas City and National Girls and Women in Sports Day luncheon. Karen Kornacky, KMBC TV will be M.C., Mildred Ball, Indiana High Schools Association will be in attendance.

## February 3, 1996

### MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Marriott Hotel - Brookfield, WI.

#### Details

The Annual Women's Sports Advocates of Wisconsin Awards Banquet. 600 high school athletes and parents are expected to attend and receive recognition awards. Banquet includes dinner and awards

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: CARRIE SCHUM  
KRISTEN CARR  
(202) 822-6804



**D.C. HIGH SCHOOL FEMALE ATHLETES**

**TO BE HONORED AT JCPENNEY/WOMEN'S SPORTS FOUNDATION**

**WASHINGTON, D.C., AWARDS CELEBRATION**

**One scholar/athlete winner will be chosen from 12 finalists  
at January 31 ceremony.**



Girl Scouts of the USA  
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(212) 852-8000

**girls  
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New York, NY 10016  
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National Association for  
Girls & Women in Sport  
1900 Association Drive  
Reston, VA 22091  
(703) 476-3450



Women's Sports Foundation  
Eisenhower Park  
East Meadow, NY 11554  
(516) 542-4700  
(516) 542-4716 fax



YWCA of the USA  
726 Broadway  
New York, NY 10003  
(212) 614-2700

**WASHINGTON, D.C., January 22** -- The JCPenney Scholar Sportswoman of the Year will be chosen from 12 finalists selected from Washington, D.C., high schools at the JCPenney/Women's Sports Foundation Washington, D.C., Awards Celebration on Wednesday, January 31 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the JW Marriott Hotel, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

The ceremony is traditionally held the evening before National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NGWSD), which is being celebrated this year on February 1, 1996. The reception is one of many events celebrating NGWSD sponsored by JCPenney in the nation's capital and nationwide.

Cathy Mills, JCPenney Executive Vice President and Director of Communications, will present the JCPenney Scholar Sportswoman of the Year Award to the senior high school girl from District of Columbia public schools who has best demonstrated outstanding athletic achievement while maintaining a grade

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point average of at least 2.8. The 12 finalists for the award were nominated by their high school coaches, and each will receive an honorary certificate.

Ms. Mills stated, "JCPenney is pleased to honor the female high school athletes that have served as role models for other girls in meeting the challenges of outstanding academic and athletic achievements."

The 12 finalists are: **Lakisha Davis**, Spingarn Senior High School; **Rebecca L. Gaither**, H.D. Woodson High School; **Shemillia Gregory**, Eastern Senior High School; **Nikia Huff**, Frank W. Ballou Senior High School; **Charlene S. McLean**, Anacostia High School; **Erin Victoria Perry**, Calvin Coolidge Senior High School; **Maria Rachel Reff**, Woodrow Wilson Senior High School; **Chunita Simms**, McKinley/Penn Senior High School; **Teri Michell Thompson**, Paul Laurence Dunbar Senior High School; **Nakiya E. Whitaker**, Francis L. Cardozo Senior High School; **Trinishia M. Williams**, Benjamin Banneker Academic High School; and **Sherita Yates**, Roosevelt Senior High School.

Women's Sports Foundation President **Wendy Hilliard** will serve as emcee for the awards ceremony. Hilliard was the first African-American member of the United States National Rhythmic Gymnastics team, and was a member of the team for nine years. Eighteen other top female athletes, including **Billie Jean King**, former #1 WTA Tour tennis player and holder of 20 Wimbledon and 13 U.S. Open titles, and fitness expert **Kathy Smith** will attend the ceremony.

In addition to King, Smith and Hilliard, other top female athletes who will pay tribute to the JCPenney Scholar Sportswoman finalists and be available for autographs

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include: two-time Olympian in track and field **Robin Campbell**; 1964 double Olympic gold medalist in swimming, **Donna de Varona**; wheelchair athlete **Jean Driscoll**, Olympic silver medalist in the 800m wheelchair race; 13-time U.S. National Waterski Champion **Camille Duvall-Hero**; track and field star **Benita Fitzgerald**, gold medalist in the 100 meter hurdles at the 1984 Olympics and the second American and only African American to win the race; wheelchair tennis champion **Brenda Gilmore**; former middle distance runner **Lillian Greene-Chamberlain**, women's world record holder in the 440 yard dash in 1961 and women's U.S. record holder in the 440 yard and 880 yard dashes from 1958 to 1961; **Nancy Hogshead**, a triple gold medalist at the 1984 Olympics; women's judo pioneer **Rusty Kanokogi**, who holds a fifth degree black belt and is the highest ranked American woman in judo; Colorado Silver Bullet outfielder **Angie Marzetta**, who has a .221 batting average; professional beach volleyball player **Liz Masakayan**; 1994 and 1995 National Steeplechase Champion **Blythe Miller**; 14-year old archer **Angela Moscarelli**, youngest World Target Champion in the compound bow category in 1995; tennis player **Pam Shriver**, holder of 21 singles and 92 doubles titles on the WTA Tour and a gold medal winner in doubles at the 1988 Olympics; auto racer **Lyn St. James**, named the 1992 Indianapolis 500 rookie of the year; and basketball player **Lynette Woodard**, first-ever female member of the Harlem Globetrotters and member of the gold medal-winning 1984 Olympic basketball team.

In addition, ESPN and ABC sports commentator **Robin Roberts** and former Milwaukee Brave **Phil Niekro**, who currently manages the Colorado Silver Bullets women's professional

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baseball team, will attend.

Representatives from the five organizations which organize National Girls and Women in Sports Day will also attend the reception: Girls Incorporated; Girl Scouts of the USA; National Association for Girls and Women in Sport; Women's Sports Foundation; and YWCA of the USA.

NGWSD has been celebrated annually on the first Thursday in February since 1987 in the nation's capital and in all 50 states. The Day was designated to honor the late Flo Hyman, the Olympic volleyball player who died unexpectedly from Marfan's Syndrome in 1986. NGWSD was established by Congressional resolution to recognize the achievements of women athletes and highlight the importance of sports and fitness activities for girls and women of all ages.

Other events planned for the national celebration of NGWSD in Washington on February 1 include the JCPenney Women's Sports Day Fitness Walk on the National Mall from 7:30 - 9:00 a.m., and a Congressional Awards Ceremony sponsored by Senators Ted Stevens, Bill Bradley and Nancy Kassebaum from 12:15 - 2:00 p.m. in the Russell Senate Caucus Room 325. The recipient of the Women's Sports Foundation's Flo Hyman Award will be announced at the luncheon. A meeting with President Clinton at the White House has also been requested.

For information on NGWSD events across the nation and bios and photos of participating athletes, go to Sports/Women's Sports World on America On-Line or e-mail the Women's Sports Foundation at [wosport@aol.com](mailto:wosport@aol.com).

####

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: KRISTEN CARR  
CARRIE SCHUM  
(202) 822-6804**



**JCPENNEY WOMEN'S SPORTS DAY FITNESS WALK  
TO KICK OFF  
TENTH ANNUAL NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY**



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**girls  
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National Association for  
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Women's Sports Foundation  
Eisenhower Park  
East Meadow, NY 11554  
(516) 542-4700  
(516) 542-4716 fax



YWCA of the USA  
726 Broadway  
New York, NY 10003  
(212) 614-2700

**Two-mile fitness walk on Mall with top female athletes  
celebrates women's sports;**

**Members of Congress, the Administration and Washington dignitaries  
will join Billie Jean King, Kathy Smith and 17 other top female athletes.**

**Former Milwaukee Brave Phil Niekro and  
ESPN sports commentator Robin Roberts will also walk.**

**WASHINGTON, D.C., January 21 --** Tennis legends **Billie Jean King** and **Pam Shriver**, two-time Olympic gold medal swimmer **Donna de Varona** and fitness expert **Kathy Smith** will be among 19 top female athletes joining members of Congress and other supporters of women's sports in the "JCPenney Women's Sports Day Fitness Walk" on the National Mall on February 1 at 7:45 a.m.

The Walk, which is free and open to the public, will kick off the 10th Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NGWSD) celebration in Washington, D.C. for the fourth consecutive year. Walkers will assemble on 4th Street between Madison and Jefferson Drives at 7:30 a.m. for a pre-walk stretch with Kathy Smith, followed by a two-mile walk on the Mall from 4th Street, two blocks west of the Capitol Reflecting Pool, to 14th Street and back.

The Walk is the opening event of NGWSD, a day designated by

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Congressional resolution as the first Thursday in February to highlight the achievements of women athletes and draw attention to the importance of sports and fitness activities for all females. The Day, celebrated in all fifty states and the District of Columbia for the past nine years, is organized by the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., Girls Incorporated, the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport, the Women's Sports Foundation and YWCA of the U.S.A., whose combined national membership is over 5.8 million girls and women. The theme of this year's celebration is "Meet the Challenge!"

All NGWSD activities in the nation's capital and nationwide are being presented by JCPenney. Cathy Mills, JCPenney Vice President and Director of Communications, said, "JCPenney is proud to sponsor activities in Washington, D.C., and across the nation that encourage girls' and women's participation in sports. Our company is committed to improving the wellness of women and meeting the challenges of our target customer."

Honorary Congressional co-sponsors of this year's Walk are **Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) and Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL); and Representatives Cardiss Collins (D-7-IL), Connie Morella (R-8-MD), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-18-FL), Pat Schroeder (D-1-CO) and Barbara Vucanovich (R-2-NV).** Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala has been invited to make opening remarks and lead the Walk.

Wendy Hilliard, a nine-time member of the U.S. National Rhythmic Gymnastics Team and president of the Women's Sports Foundation, noted, "We are especially excited about this tenth anniversary celebration, because it represents a milestone for girls and women who are meeting the challenge that females in sports continue to face. Our struggle for Title IX has

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helped open doors to females who seek equal opportunities in sports. This year's NGWSD celebration will be especially meaningful, as Billie Jean King and Donna de Varona, the co-founders of the Women's Sports Foundation will be in Washington in honor of the tenth anniversary. They will be joined by Lynette Woodard, a past recipient of the Flo Hyman Award, and many other top female athletes who support the Day."

Prior to the Walk, Hilliard will introduce 18 other champion female athletes who are gathering in the nation's capital to promote daily physical activity as a part of healthy living for girls and women. They will include: two-time Olympian in track and field **Robin Campbell**; 1964 Olympic double gold medalist in swimming **Donna de Varona**; wheelchair athlete **Jean Driscoll**, Olympic silver medalist in the 800 meter wheelchair race and winner of six consecutive Boston Marathons; 13-time U.S. National Waterski Champion **Camille Duvall-Hero**; track and field star **Benita Fitzgerald**, gold medalist in the 100 meter hurdles at the 1984 Olympics and the second American and only African-American to win the race; wheelchair tennis champion **Brenda Gilmore**; former middle distance runner **Lillian Greene-Chamberlain, Ph.D.**, women's world record holder in the 440 yard dash in 1961 and women's U.S. record holder in the 440 yard and 880 yard dashes from 1958 to 1961; Olympic rhythmic gymnast **Wendy Hilliard**; **Nancy Hogshead**, a triple gold medalist at the 1984 Olympics; women's judo pioneer **Rusty Kanokogi**, who holds a fifth degree black belt and is the highest ranked American woman in judo; **Billie Jean King**, former #1 WTA Tour tennis player and holder of 20 Wimbledon and 13 U.S. Open titles; Colorado Silver Bullet outfielder **Angie Marzetta**; professional beach volleyball player and two-time All-American **Liz Masakayan**; 1994 and 1995 National Steeplechase

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Champion **Blythe Miller**; archer **Angela Moscarelli**, the youngest ever World Target Champion in the compound bow category in 1995; tennis player **Pam Shriver**, holder of 21 singles and 92 doubles titles on the WTA Tour and a gold medal winner in doubles at the 1988 Olympics; fitness expert **Kathy Smith**; auto racer **Lyn St. James**, named the 1992 Indianapolis 500 rookie of the year; and basketball player **Lynette Woodard**, first-ever female member of the Harlem Globetrotters and member of the gold medal-winning 1984 Olympic basketball team.

In addition, ESPN and ABC Sports commentator **Robin Roberts** and former Milwaukee Brave **Phil Niekro**, current manager of the Colorado Silver Bullets, will attend.

Senator Hutchison, an honorary Congressional sponsor of the fitness walk for the second consecutive year, said, "In 1986, NGWSD helped put equality for women's sports on the national agenda. The Day receives continues to receive bi-partisan support for its efforts to broaden opportunity for girls and women in sports, to honor those female athletes who have achieved greatness and to reinforce the importance of fitness in maintaining a healthy lifestyle."

The Walk will begin on the East side of the Mall on 4th Street, two blocks from the Capitol Reflecting Pool, between Madison and Jefferson Drives. Fitness expert Kathy Smith will lead participants in a pre-walk stretch from 7:40 a.m. to 7:55 a.m. The starting signal will be given by Secretary Shalala at approximately 8:00 a.m. and the Walk is expected to end by 9:00 a.m. The two-mile course will follow the Mall paths adjacent to Madison Drive to 14th Street, returning by way of the paths along Jefferson Drive to the finish area on 4th Street. Participants are invited to bring a ball to bounce, pass, kick or toss while they walk.

The first 500 walkers to register will receive a Kodak® Funsaver camera and a giveaway

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bag containing health and fitness information and products. A hot Ocean Spray® juice beverage will be available to all walkers. All participants can register to win a set of Top-Flite Tour Women's Irons, Reebok® products and more. The junior high school, senior high school and non-school girls' group with the most walk participants will receive a set of Spalding® balls.

Following the Walk, the athletes will be honored at a Congressional awards luncheon on Capitol Hill. Senators Ted Stevens (R-AK), Bill Bradley (D-NJ) and Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS) will host the luncheon, where the Women's Sports Foundation's Flo Hyman Award will be announced. A meeting with President Clinton at the White House has also been requested.

Other companies providing products and services for NGWSD in Washington are: Avon Products, Inc.; Gillette; Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.; Girls Incorporated; JCPenney; Lily of France; NAGWS; Ocean Spray; Quaker Rice Cakes; Reebok; Women's Sports & Fitness, Women's Sports Foundation and YWCA of the U.S.A.

For information on NGWSD events across the nation and bios and photos of participating athletes, go to Sports/Women's Sports World on America On-Line or e-mail the Women's Sports Foundation at [wosport@aol.com](mailto:wosport@aol.com).

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CONTACT: KRISTEN CARR  
CARRIE SCHUM  
(202)822-6804



**HOLD FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 1 (A.M.)**



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YWCA of the USA  
726 Broadway  
New York, NY 10003  
(212) 614-2700

**TOP FEMALE ATHLETES WILL BE HONORED BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS  
IN WASHINGTON CEREMONIES FOR**

**10TH ANNUAL NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY**

**Olympic swimmer and ABC broadcaster Donna de Varona to receive  
Women's Sports Foundation Flo Hyman Award.**

**WASHINGTON, D.C., February 1** --Senators Ted Stevens (R-AK), Bill Bradley (D-NJ) and Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS) will host 19 champion female athletes representing 13 sports ranging from steeplechase to tennis to judo at the 10th Annual Congressional Awards Ceremony for National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NGWSD) on Thursday, February 1. Members of Congress, the media and the community will pay tribute to the athletes at an awards luncheon in Caucus Room 325, Russell Senate Office Building, Constitution and Delaware Avenues, N.E., from 12:15 - 2:00 p.m.

The 1996 NGWSD theme is "Meet the Challenge!" Female athletes including **Billie Jean King**, **Kathy Smith** and **Lyn St. James**, whose achievements have inspired other women to meet the challenges faced by women in sports, are among the outstanding female athletes invited to Washington, D.C., to celebrate the Day.

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This year's celebration will be especially meaningful, as Women's Sports Foundation co-founders **Billie Jean King** and **Donna de Varona** and past Flo Hyman Award recipient **Lynette Woodard** will attend the tenth anniversary ceremonies. In addition, ESPN and ABC Sports commentator **Robin Roberts** and former Milwaukee Brave and current manager of the Colorado Silver Bullets **Phil Niekro** will attend.

NGWSD was established in 1986 by a Congressional resolution designating the first Thursday in February as a day to provide national recognition of female athletic achievements. The Day was conceived as a way to honor the late Flo Hyman, captain of the 1984 U.S. Olympic Volleyball Team, who worked tirelessly with Congress on issues involving amateur athletics. NGWSD was celebrated for the first time in 1987.

Events are held nationwide to commemorate the Day. The Day is organized by five organizations representing over five million members nationwide: Girls Incorporated; Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.; National Association of Girls and Women in Sport; Women's Sports Foundation; and the YWCA of the USA.

JCPenney is the official sponsor of all NGWSD events in the nation's capital and nationwide. JCPenney Vice President and Director of Communications Cathy Mills said, "JCPenney is proud to sponsor activities in Washington, D.C., and across the nation that encourage girls' and women's participation in sports. Our company is committed to improving the wellness of women and meeting the challenges of our target customer."

The highlight of the Congressional ceremony will be the announcement of the Women's Sports Foundation's Flo Hyman Award recipient by Senator Stevens, known as the father of Title

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IX. The 1996 winner is swimmer Donna de Varona, who won two gold medals at 1964 Olympics and went on to co-found the Women's Sports Foundation. The Flo Hyman award has been given annually since 1987 to a female athlete who exemplifies the dignity, spirit and commitment to excellence of the late Flo Hyman, captain of the 1984 U.S. Olympic volleyball team who died of Marfan's Syndrome in 1986.

Senator Stevens said, "For those of us who were fortunate to work together on crafting the Amateur Sports Act, Donna de Varona holds a special place of honor. Her insight and understanding were important in assuring that the Act met the needs of the time.

"As a young Olympic athlete and gold medalist, as a member of the President's Council and the team that worked on the Amateur Sports Act, as a founder of the Women's Sports Foundation and a member of the Olympics Committee, as a wife, a mother and a sports broadcaster, Donna has been the best. She exemplifies all that the Flo Hyman Award represents.

"Donna is a great personal friend to me and to my family and continues to be an inspiration to our younger athletes as they work toward their goals.

"I'm pleased and honored to be chosen to present the Flo Hyman Award to her on this tenth anniversary of National Girls and Women in Sports Day."

De Varona was the youngest member of the United States Olympic swimming team at the 1960 Olympics in Rome, when she was just 13 years old. By age 17, she had broken 18 world records in swimming and won two gold medals at the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo. That same year she was voted Most Outstanding Female Athlete in the World by both Associated Press and United Press International.

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For her accomplishments de Varona has been inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame, the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame and the San Francisco Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame. She was a three-time nominee for the Sullivan Award, given annually to the nation's most outstanding amateur athlete.

De Varona served on President Ford's Commission on Olympic Sports and President Carter's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. In addition, she served as a consultant to the U.S. Senate from 1976 through 1978 and was instrumental in Congress' passage of the 1978 Amateur Sports Act and Title IX legislation.

A co-founder of the Women's Sports Foundation, de Varona is currently a sports broadcaster on ABC.

Previous winners of the Flo Hyman Award include tennis champions Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert; track and field stars Jackie Joyner-Kersey and Evelyn Ashford; gymnast Mary Lou Retton; world disabled ski champion Diana Golden; Hall of Fame golfers Patty Sheehan and Nancy Lopez; and basketball star Lynette Woodard.

Senator Nancy Kassebaum, a co-sponsor of the luncheon, commented, "Participation in athletics has been an important part of my life, teaching me lessons in dedication and discipline that I continue to draw upon every day. I'm proud of my association with NGWSD; young women need to be exposed to the many benefits of living a fit and active life and NGWSD continues to meet the challenge."

Senator Bill Bradley will present an American flag flown over the U.S. Capitol to the Flo Hyman Award winner, a tradition he began in 1987 with Martina Navratilova. A longtime

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supporter of NGWSD and Title IX advocate, Senator Bradley noted, "These athletes have served as outstanding role models for millions of American women who dream of success, both in their athletic pursuits and in their lives off the field. It is important that we honor and recognize their many achievements."

Among the members of Congress who are expected to attend this year's event are: Senators Ted Stevens (R-AK), Bill Bradley (D-NJ), Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS) and Strom Thurmond (R-SC) and Representatives Eva Clayton (D-1-NC), Howard Coble (R-6-NC), Kika De La Garza (D-15-TX), Tom Latham (R-5-IA), Tim Roemer (D-3-IN), Pat Schroeder (D-1-CO) and J.C. Watt, Jr (R-4-OK).

In addition to de Varona, the 17 athletes who will participate in the Washington, D.C., NGWSD events are: two-time Olympian in track and field **Robin Campbell**; wheelchair athlete **Jean Driscoll**, Olympic silver medalist in the 800m wheelchair race; 13-time U.S. National Waterski Champion **Camille Duvall-Hero**; track and field star **Benita Fitzgerald**, gold medalist in the 100 meter hurdles at the 1984 Olympics and the second American and only African American to win the race; wheelchair tennis champion **Brenda Gilmore**; former middle distance runner **Lillian Greene-Chamberlain**, women's world record holder in the 440 yard dash in 1961 and women's U.S. record holder in the 440 yard and 880 yard dashes from 1958 to 1961; Olympic rhythmic gymnast **Wendy Hilliard**; **Nancy Hogshead**, a triple gold medalist at the 1984 Olympics; women's judo pioneer **Rusty Kanokogi**, who holds a fifth degree black belt and is the highest ranked American woman in judo; **Billie Jean King**, former #1 WTA Tour tennis player and holder of 20 Wimbledon and 13 U.S. Open titles; Colorado Silver Bullet

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outfielder **Angie Marzetta**; professional beach volleyball player **Liz Masakayan**; 1994 and 1995 National Steeplechase Champion **Blythe Miller**; archer **Angela Moscarelli**, youngest ever World Target Champion in the compound bow category in 1995; tennis player **Pam Shriver**, holder of 21 singles and 92 doubles titles on the WTA Tour and a gold medal winner in doubles at the 1988 Olympics; fitness expert **Kathy Smith**; auto racer **Lyn St. James**, named the 1992 Indianapolis 500 rookie of the year; and basketball player **Lynette Woodard**, first-ever female member of the Harlem Globetrotters and member of the gold medal-winning 1984 Olympic basketball team.

Prior to the luncheon, athletes will visit legislators to discuss women's health and fitness issues. A delegation of athletes and representatives of the five sponsoring organizations has also requested a meeting with Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala at 9:30 a.m.

The public will have an opportunity to meet the athletes during the "JCPenney Women's Sports Day Fitness Walk" a two-mile walk on the National Mall beginning on 4th Street, two blocks west of the Capitol Reflecting Pool, between Madison and Jefferson Drives, beginning at 7:40 a.m. The Walk is intended to promote sports and fitness as a vital element in healthy living for all females. This is the fourth year that the Walk has been held as the NGWSD kick-off event.

Congressional sponsors of the Walk are **Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)**, **Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX)** and **Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL)**; and **Representatives Cardiss Collins (D-7-IL)**, **Connie Morella (R-8-MD)**, **Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-18-FL)**, **Pat Schroeder (D-1-CO)** and **Barbara Vucanovich (R-2-NV)**. A meeting with President Clinton has also been requested.

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Secretary Shalala, Office of Management and Budget Director Alice Rivlin, anchorwomen from local television stations, and other female Administration dignitaries have been invited to walk and show their support for women athletes.

The Walk is free of charge. Walkers can enjoy a hot juice beverage from Ocean Spray. In addition, the first 500 walkers will receive a free gift bag and a Kodak® Funsaver camera. The junior high school, senior high school and non-school girls' group with the most walk participants will each receive a set of Spalding® balls. Participants can also register to win a set of Top-Flite Tour Women's Irons, Reebok® products and more.

For information on NGWSD events across the nation and bios and photos of participating athletes, go to Sports/Women's Sports World on America On-Line or e-mail the Women's Sports Foundation at [wosport@aol.com](mailto:wosport@aol.com).

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 1, 1995

PRESENTATION OF THE 1995 FLO HYMAN AWARD AND PHOTO WITH  
ATHLETES IN HONOR OF NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

DATE: February 2, 1995  
LOCATION: Blue Room  
TIME: 2:30 pm  
FROM: Danny Wexler

PURPOSE

To recognize female athletes participating in National Girls and Women in Sports Day and present the 1995 Flo Hyman Award to Olympic Gymnast, Mary Lou Retton.

II. BACKGROUND

During the 1993 celebration of National Women in Sports Day (NGWSD) the President met with a group of star female athletes on the White House Basketball Court and presented the Women in Sports Foundation's Flo Hyman Award to basketball star Lynette Woodward. (During this event, The President made a successful "back-to-the-basket" shot.) For the ninth year, the White House will participate in presenting the Flo Hyman award on the first Thursday in February, National Girls and Women in Sports Day. Last year Mrs. Gore presented the award to golfer Patty Sheenan.

NGWSD was established in 1986 to acknowledge the significant achievements of women in sports and to highlight the importance of sports and fitness for girls and women of all ages. The Women's Sports Foundation and Senator Bob Packwood (R-OR) organized the first National Girls and Women in Sports Day to remember and honor Flo Hyman. The Flo Hyman Award is given to an athlete who represents the spirit, dedication and commitment of Flo Hyman, the 1984 Olympic volleyball captain who died of Marfan's Syndrome in 1986.

Senator Packwood and Representative Olympia Snowe (R-ME) were the original sponsors of the bills declaring February 4, 1987 as the first National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

The Flo Hyman Award winner and other athletes selected to participate in the National Celebration of NGWSD have been received at the White House each year since 1987.

Past recipients include: Nancy Lopez (1992); Diana Golden (1991); Chris Evert (1990); Evelyn Ashford (1989); Jackie Joyner-Kersey (1988); Martina Navratilova (1987).

This year's NGWSD theme is "Believe it, Achieve it" The women athletes invited include those whose achievements have inspired other women to believe in their own athletic abilities.

This year's Flo Hyman Award winner is Olympic Gymnast, Mary Lou Retton. Retton was the first American woman ever to win an Olympic gold medal in gymnastics. She won a total of five medals during the 1984 Games, more than any other American athlete. Her accomplishments won her the Sports Illustrated Sportswoman of the Year award in 1984 and was the youngest and first gymnast ever elected to the United States Olympic Committee Olympic Hall of Fame. Last year the Olympic Committee established the annual Mary Lou Retton Award for athletic excellence in her honor.

### III. PARTICIPANTS

See Attached List

### IV. PRESS PLAN

Closed

### V. SEQUENCE

To be provided by Social Secretary.

### VI. REMARKS

None required

## PARTICIPANTS IN THE 1995 PRESENTATION OF THE FLO HYMAN AWARD

Kim Braatz, Duluth, Georgia

Member of the Colorado Bullets, all female professional baseball team.

Elise Burgin, Baltimore, Maryland

Four time All-American tennis player at Stanford University and winner of 12 professional titles.

Robin Campbell, Washington, D.C.

Two-time Olympian in track and field in 1980 and 1984.

Nadia Comanici, Norman, Oklahoma

Won three gold medals, a team silver and a bronze medal in the 1976 Olympics as a member of the Romanian gymnastics team. She scored the first perfect "10" in Olympic history, receiving seven perfect scores in all.

Collette Cunningham, Burke, Virginia

First woman to play in the Continental Indoor Soccer League.

Dominique Dawes, Silver Spring, Maryland

1992 Olympic Bronze Medalist in gymnastics. In 1993 World Championships won two silver medals, (balance beam and uneven parallel bars) Has won a total of 22 medals in national and international competition, seven of which are gold)

Donna De Varona, Greenwich, Connecticut

Two-time Olympic Gold Medalist in swimming. In 1960, at age thirteen, she was the youngest member of the U.S. Olympic Swimming team and held the world record in two events the 1964 Tokyo Games.

Janille Duvall-Hero, New York, New York

Five time World Professional Slalom Champion, and five-time U.S. Overall Champion and the winner of 13 U.S. national Waterski titles.

Lisa Fernandez, Long Beach, California

Member of the 1994 Women's National Softball Team than won its third consecutive medal at the World Championships.

Benita Fitzgerald, Atlanta, Georgia

Member of the U.S. Olympic Track Team in 1980, 1984 and 1988. Won a gold medal in the 100m hurdles in the 1984 Olympics.

Julie Foudy, Menlo Park, California

Member of the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team that won the silver medal at the 1993 World University Games.

Conda Gilmore, Washington, D.C.

First African-American female to play on the wheelchair tennis circuit and maintain a national ranking in the top ten for five years.

Shan Greene-Chamberlain, Silver Spring, Maryland  
First African-American female to represent the United States  
in international middle distance running.

Deby Hilliard, New York, New York  
First African-American Rhythmic Gymnastics National Team  
member. Currently the President-elect of the Women's Sports  
Foundation. Now President of the Women's Sports Foundation  
and Director of Amateur Sports for the New York City Sports  
Commission.

Lucy Hogshead, New York, New York  
Won more medals than any other swimmer at the 1984 Olympics:  
three golds and one silver. At age fourteen, she was the  
only American woman to be ranked number one in the world.  
Currently President of the Women's Sports Foundation.

Don Jones, Thousand Oaks, California  
Basketball player with University of North Carolina, set the  
ACC record for steals as Freshman with 111.

Patte Love, Temple Hills, Maryland  
Won the gold medal in the taekwondo heavyweight division in  
the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

Missa Price, Kingsburg, California  
Top-ranked American and United States record-holder in the  
pole vault. She is a 17-year old high school senior.

Frederick Sanders, Roseville, California  
Won four medals in swimming at the 1992 Summer Olympics in  
Barcelona.

Deby Smith, Los Angeles, California  
Sold more than two million videocassettes in her fitness and  
exercise series.

Deby Sugg, Petersburg, Virginia  
The third African-American since Althea Gibson to join the  
PGA tour.

John Townley, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Has won 23 international rowing titles and 22 U.S. National  
Championships.

Tom Stroy  
Youngest member of the U.S. Track and Field Team in 1968.

Deby Turner, Rochester, New York  
Recently defended her Olympic title repeating as gold  
medalist in the 500m short track speedskating event at the  
1994 Olympics in Lillehammer.

Deby Williams, Pompano Beach, Florida  
Made her professional debut at the 1994 Bank of the West  
Classic in Oakland, California.

Deby Swallen, Co-Chair, President's Council on Physical Fitness  
and Sports.

## SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

Donna Lopiano  
Executive Director  
Women's Sports Foundation

Prema Mathai-Davis  
YWCA

Louisa Anderson  
Associate Director, Scholarships and Awards  
Girls Incorporated

Verna Simpkins  
Director Membership and Program Services  
Girl Scouts of America

Dr. Roberta Abney  
President  
National Association of Girls and Women in Sports

Arthur Pappathanasi  
Board Member (Corporate Sponsor)  
National Fluid Milk Processor Promotion Board

Charlie Decker  
National Fluid Milk Processor Promotion Board

Diana Holman  
Holman Communications

Elizabeth Paige Davis  
Holman Communications

Carrie Schum  
Holman Communications

Kristen Carr  
Holman Communications

216TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 The Time Inc. Magazine Company  
Sports Illustrated

June 12, 1995

SECTION: BOOKS; Pg. R2 [NOT AVAILABLE IN ALL EDITIONS]

LENGTH: 796 words

HEADLINE: CAUTION: GIRLS AT RISK;  
TOO MUCH IS BEING ASKED OF TOP YOUNG GYMNASTS AND FIGURE SKATERS

BYLINE: SUSANNA SCHROBSDORFF

BODY:

Chronic back pain, high-stress work, anxiety about retirement, fear of weight gain, erratic or nonexistent menstrual periods, dependence on laxatives, low bone density. The laments of a 55-year-old professional woman? No. Sadly we are talking about some of the country's most popular young female athletes, and the above are just some of the problems they encounter as they struggle to reach the top of their sports and remain there. Joan Ryan discusses these and other difficulties young athletes face in her book *Little Girls in Pretty Boxes: The Making and Breaking of Elite Gymnasts and Figure Skaters* (Doubleday, \$ 22.95).

The book, published this month, is a detailed condemnation of the intense physical and mental training that some of these girls endure. Ryan likens this process to "legal, even celebrated, child abuse." She aims many of her hardest shots at gymnastics, and she weaves dozens of heartbreaking tales around the shocking story of Julissa Gomez, a 15-year-old gymnast who crashed headfirst into a vaulting horse while practicing a vault before a meet in 1988. Gomez suffered a broken neck, lapsed into a coma and died three years later.

This backstage view is a reality check for anyone who has ever turned on the television and been charmed by these little girls in bows and makeup competing for gold medals. In the book are stories about young gymnasts who train with cracked bones, consume only 1,000 calories a day, pop Advil to dull the pain in their limbs and get cortisone shots so that they can perform when they are injured. Ryan also tells stories of figure skaters who have eating disorders and who overtrain.

Ryan concedes that much of her evidence is anecdotal, gathered during 10 years as a journalist covering gymnastics and figure skating for the San Francisco Examiner and Chronicle. However, the stories she tells seem to confirm what many people who watch these sports suspect: that encouraging ever younger, ever smaller girls to stretch the limits of their bodies by performing ever more difficult jumps, flips and spins is not healthy for their developing bones or young minds.

According to a 1993 study in the *Journal of Pediatrics*, a gymnast who trains more than 18 hours a week in prepubescence and continues training at that level through puberty can alter her growth rate and fail to reach her full adult height. Despite these risks some parents of elite gymnasts allow their daughters

to train an average of 30 hours a week.

Why do otherwise loving parents allow their daughters to continue participating in gymnastics or figure skating when it begins to damage their well-being? In Ryan's book Wendie Grossman, whose daughter was once a dedicated figure skater, describes the "high" that parents get from having children in competition: "We became junkies for our kids' success. You want more and more, and you push your kids." Another mother was so bent on her daughter's success that she covered up the young gymnast's chicken pox so that she could compete in a meet.

The pressure from all sides to win and the way the girls respond to the pressure are both awesome and frightening. Before the 1991 world gymnastics championships, a stress fracture was diagnosed in Betty Okino's right elbow. She continued training, even though doctors told her to stop. "But that wasn't really an option," she says. "It was like, either you are paralyzed and you can't move, or you train. No matter what, you went to the gym." Okino, who retired after winning a bronze medal in the team event at the 1992 Olympics, cannot fully straighten her arm today.

Next to injury the biggest fear for these athletes is weight gain. At 16, national champion figure skater Elaine Zayak found herself taking prescription diet pills. She weighed only 125 pounds, but her coaches and parents told her that to succeed she would have to drop the 15 pounds she had gained in puberty. As U.S. Olympic skating coach Evy Scotvold put it: "As soon as they have a woman's body, it's over."

Ryan blasts the U.S. Gymnastics Federation (now called USA Gymnastics) and the U.S. Figure Skating Association for not doing enough to protect these girls. She suggests that athletes be required to stay in school full time until they are 16, that the number of hours they train be limited and that coaches who encourage them to train when they are injured be disciplined. Ryan argues that these young performers deserve the same protection from exploitation that the government provided child actors decades ago. The best young gymnasts and figure skaters are marketable stars, and their caretakers are vulnerable to temptation to profit at the kids' expense.

Susanna Schrobbsdorff covered Olympic figure skating for Time magazine in 1992 and 1994.

GRAPHIC: COLOR PHOTO: RICK RICKMAN/DUOMO, Under Bela Karolyi, Okino chalked up medals and injuries. [Bela Karolyi and Betty Okino]

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: June 9, 1995

171ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 The Time Inc. Magazine Company  
Sports Illustrated

July 24, 1995

SECTION: COLLEGE SPORTS; Pg. 32

LENGTH: 1947 words

HEADLINE: AN END TOO SOON;

DARTMOUTH GRIEVED OVER THE SUICIDE OF SARAH DEVENS, A RARE ATHLETE AND FRIEND

BYLINE: GERRY CALLAHAN AND SONJA STEPTOE

BODY:

Another long, exhausting practice would end, and her teammates would scatter like kids stepping off a school bus, rushing to the locker room, the library, the parties, the rest of their lives on the campus of Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H. Sarah Devens would stay put. The Devil, as they called her, would just keep going, running laps, taking shots, pushing a little harder than everyone else. "The Devil was amazing," says her close friend and former coach Heather Crutchfield. "She was hyper and crazy and just so alive. She never slowed down."

Devens played on three varsity teams at Dartmouth--field hockey, ice hockey and lacrosse--and the 5'4", 125-pounder was named a captain of all three. She seemed to go from game to game and practice to practice without coming up for air. One athletic season ran into the next, and the end of the school year meant the beginning of camps and clinics.

She told friends that she wanted to take a break, but she didn't dare. How could she? She was Sarah Devens, the best female athlete Dartmouth ever had. She was never the richest or the smartest kid in her class, but when the games began, no one was better. How could she quit sports? Sports was probably the reason she was there, in the Ivy League, at the top of the academic ladder. The teams needed her. The school needed her. She was Dartmouth's Tasmanian devil in a do-rag, indefatigable in practice and competition. She never slowed down.

"People think sports is so much fun, but it's not always like that," says Daphne Clark, who had known Devens since kindergarten. "Sarah couldn't just go out and enjoy herself. She had to be great. If you're the Devil, people expect perfection."

Of Devens, they may have expected too much. In early July she returned from a field hockey camp in Maryland and was preparing to travel to Boulder, Colo., for the Olympic Festival. In addition, she had made the U.S. "B" team; naturally, she wanted to be on the first team. She was disappointed and depressed, but most of all, her friends say, she was exhausted. She was tired of trying to be everything to everyone. "In her mind, quitting probably would have seemed selfish," says George Crowe, the women's ice hockey coach at Dartmouth.

Last week, in her bedroom at her father's house in Essex, Mass., she took a

.22-caliber rifle and killed herself with a shot to the chest. The Devil couldn't outrun her demons. At age 21, about to begin her senior year in college, Sarah Devens finally slowed down.

Devens's sophomore year was winding down when the Dartmouth lacrosse team's season came to an end. For a few days she had no practice, no games. Some friends asked her if she wanted to go mountain biking, and she jumped at the chance. "She called me and said it was just the most fun thing she had done at school," says Blair Linen, a friend from high school. "She said she saw all this beautiful woods and wilderness around the campus that she had never seen before."

Devens had spent much of her life on a field or in a rink. She grew up in an athletic family. Her paternal grandfather, Charles Devens, pitched for the New York Yankees in the early '30s. Her mother, Sally Willard, coached Sarah in both field hockey and lacrosse in elementary school. Sarah learned to play ice hockey with her father, Charles Jr., and her two brothers, and she was the captain of the boys' hockey team in junior high. She was twice named the outstanding female athlete at her boarding school, St. Paul's, in Concord, N.H.

When it came time to apply to college, Sarah had a short, impressive list--Dartmouth and Harvard. Her father was a Harvard graduate, and many of her friends from St. Paul's were heading to Ivy League schools. Sarah wanted to attend the best, and if her grades and test scores wouldn't open the door--"Let's just say her SATs were not spectacular," says one friend--surely her athletic skills would. No one doubted that she could handle the athletic rigors of college, but some of her friends wonder if Sarah would have been better off in a less competitive academic environment.

The same qualities that made Devens a star on the playing field made her life in the classroom difficult. She could not sit still or slow down, and she seemed to have trouble accepting her own limitations. Devens was far from a failure in the classroom, but academics did not come easily.

"She just didn't enjoy sitting in class," says Dartmouth field hockey coach Julie Dayton. "She was hyperactive. She had so much energy. She was bright and perceptive, but sitting in a classroom wasn't her preferred way to learn."

"It was a struggle for Sarah," says Clark, her childhood friend who now attends Harvard. "She's a year ahead of me, and when I went to Harvard, I was thinking about playing three sports. I talked to her, and she said, 'No way. Don't do it. It's just not fun.'"

The story is cut right out of a novel: A privileged young woman has everything but happiness. Devens grew up in the comfortable coastal town of Essex, 45 minutes north of Boston. Her blood could not have been bluer. She is a descendant of Charles Devens, a major general in the Union Army during the Civil War and later a U.S. attorney general. A statue of General Devens stands at the Esplanade on the banks of the Charles River in Boston.

Sarah's parents were divorced when she was in grade school, but Sarah long ago "came to terms" with it, says Crutchfield. Her father, who works in real estate, stayed in Essex, and her mother, a masseuse, moved to nearby Ipswich. Sarah split her time between the two homes.

She had enough best friends to stretch from Ipswich to Hanover and back again. There were nearly 1,000 people at her funeral in her hometown and another 300 at a memorial service at Dartmouth. They told stories of a vibrant young woman who loved to play jokes and have fun with friends; of a girl who, as a first-grader, took the hand of a frightened kindergartner who was clinging to her mother and said, "I'll take care of it from here."

They spoke with great love and passion of the Devil--a nickname that not only sounded like her surname but also described her personality. It was a term of endearment, as in "lovable little devil." She was a mischief-maker, but always with the aim of helping a pal. "It seemed she was everyone's older sister," Dayton says. "She made the bus driver who took us on road trips a part of the team. By the end of a meal, she knew the waitress's favorite music and how many kids she had."

While her own family does not have the boundless wealth of some of Sarah's classmates, they still have clout. According to a source, The Boston Globe quashed a follow-up story on her death when the Devens family made an arrangement with the publisher of the newspaper. The family reportedly agreed not to speak to any other publication if the Globe backed off the story.

Sarah hated reading about herself, and her friends say she was almost obsessively modest. When she started gaining a measure of fame at Dartmouth, it became harder for her to enjoy herself. "She never even told me that she was voted All-America in lacrosse," says Scott Dolesh, who was her boyfriend. "When I asked her why, she said, 'Oh, it's no big deal.'"

When she was named co-winner of the Class of '76 Award during her sophomore year, presented annually to the best female athlete at Dartmouth, Devens worried about the expectations that awaited her over the next two years. What could she do to top that?

"The more publicity she got, the less she liked it," says Crutchfield. "She got letters and had stories written about her, and that just made her feel like she was playing for everyone else. She wanted to quit one sport and take time off, but she felt like that would be letting everyone down."

Lacrosse was her least favorite sport, but it was probably the game at which she was most dominant. How could she quit? This past year she was an All-America. She was also named first-team All-Ivy League in field hockey and second team in ice hockey, which was the game she loved the most. She loved the speed, the excitement of outskating everyone else, and she would hurtle down the ice with reckless abandon in search of either the puck or a passing lane. Her friends say she was crushed last January when she traveled to Lake Placid, N.Y., to try out for the women's national team and failed to make it. Women's ice hockey will debut at the '98 Winter Olympics, and Devens had dreamed of winning a gold medal.

Last August, The Dartmouth, the school newspaper, asked Devens about her demanding schedule. Her answer showed her conflict. While she described her life as "definitely stressful," she admitted that she would have trouble giving up a sport. "It's very intense," she said. "There's not much time to hang out. But I don't know if I would be happy if I quit a team. Part of me wishes I could take a break, but I want to be there, to keep playing."

Her coaches say they encouraged Devens to take breaks, but she refused. It was one of the paradoxes in her young life. She would return home in the summer and complain of exhaustion before heading off to compete in a triathlon.

"I remember last year when we established a policy that she had to take a week off between seasons and relax, and we all laughed because we knew she wouldn't," says Dayton. "Sure enough, somebody would see her running laps in the gym."

Devens sought help from a string of counselors as she went from game to game, season to season. She finally found a counselor she liked and had begun showing up at games with a music tape she had been given to relax. But she kept playing.

Off the field, too, Devens tried to be all things to all people, and always with a smile or a laugh. "She said she wanted to be the best girlfriend, the best athlete, the best student," says Dolesh. But in her own mind, it seemed, she could never do enough. She would have lunch with someone she met at the rink after a game, drop off a bag of caramel cremes to Dayton, visit a friend in the hospital, mail a gag gift and fire off a dozen E-mail messages--all between classes and practices.

Even as her friends celebrated her life, some stopped short of expressing complete shock at her death. "It is an awful, awful shame," says one friend. "But Sarah had her struggles."

Her friends say that in the spring of 1994 Devens seemed to struggle emotionally, and Dolesh says they broke up briefly. "She said it was because she couldn't be in a relationship at the time," he says. "She couldn't explain why. I know she was down and depressed."

But that time passed, and friends said that they hoped Sarah had resolved whatever was troubling her. They noticed she was quieter but thought she was looking forward to the Olympic Festival. Devens was a psychology major and spoke of teaching or coaching but had no definite plans for life after Dartmouth. "We talked about going out West and starting a ranch," says Linen. "Or just getting away and being ski bums for a year."

On Monday morning, July 10, Devens called a childhood friend and invited her to go mountain biking. They agreed to meet, but when Sarah didn't show, the friend drove to the Devenses' house, a large wooden structure with the year "1803" above the front door. The friend found Sarah's body and called the police.

There are no answers and little consolation for those still struggling to understand. "The thing is, she was so good at everything, as a person and an athlete, that she got on this vicious cycle," says Crowe. "She wanted to please everybody, and she couldn't stop. She wanted to rest, and this was the only way she knew how."

GRAPHIC: COLOR PHOTO: MEDORA HEBERT/VALLEY NEWS, Schoolmates held a candlelit vigil for Devens (15). [Sarah Devens playing lacrosse]; COLOR PHOTO: RICK

Sports Illustrated, July 24, 1995

FRIEDMAN/BLACK STAR, [see caption above--people walking with candles during vigil for Sarah Devens]; COLOR PHOTO: KATHY SLATTERY, Devens led the way for Dartmouth in field and ice hockey, two of the three teams she was to captain. [Sarah Devens playing field hockey]; COLOR PHOTO: JOHN QUACKENBOS, [see caption above--Sarah Devens playing ice hockey]; B/W PHOTO: THE BREARLEY COLLECTION INC., Like her Yankee granddad (top right, with Babe Ruth), Devens (above right, with Clark in high school) was a team player. [Babe Ruth and Charles Devens]; COLOR PHOTO: CARROLL CLARK, [see caption above--Sarah Devens and Daphne Clark]

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 27, 1995

295TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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Sports Illustrated

March 20, 1995

SECTION: Pg. 98

LENGTH: 1804 words

HEADLINE: THE POST WITH THE MOST;

WRITER'S CRAMP MAY BE ALL THAT CAN STOP REBECCA LOBO, NO. 1 UCONN'S FAN FAVORITE

BYLINE: RICK TELANDER

BODY:

There are five people that Connecticut's All-America forward-center, Rebecca Lobo, would invite to her perfect dinner party. First: Thomas Jefferson. "He was a Renaissance man," explains Lobo, herself a budding Renaissance woman. Second: David Robinson. "My basketball hero," she says. Third: Bruce Springsteen. "I love him. He would sing." Fourth: Robin Williams. "Jokes. He'll make fun of Jefferson's wig." And fifth: Julia Child. Oh? Lobo smiles. "I'm not cooking for this shindig," she says.

Fair enough, because the 6'4", 180-pound Lobo is doing more than enough cooking for the Husky women's basketball team, which is 29-0, ranked first in the nation and poised for a run at its first national title as the NCAA tournament gets under way this week. Lobo is probably the favorite to win women's player of the year honors. She averaged 17.3 points, 10.3 rebounds, 3.4 blocks and 3.8 assists this season for a team that blew out opponents so badly -- by a nation-leading average of 35.1 points -- that she played only about 28 minutes a game. "What is she great at?" asks Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma. "I can't say any one thing. But the sum of all the parts is unreal."

Against North Carolina State this season Lobo had 24 points, nine rebounds and six assists. Against Seton Hall she had nine blocks. Against California she had 16 rebounds. Against Georgetown she had 33 points, six blocks and 14 rebounds. And in the Huskies' two biggest wins -- against then No. 1-ranked Tennessee and then No. 17-ranked Kansas -- Lobo had a combined total of 38 points, 20 rebounds, 10 assists and seven blocks.

"She makes everybody else on her team better," said weary St. John's forward Lynn Lattanzio after Lobo and her mates had fricasseed the Red Storm 103-56 on Feb. 22. "I've worked basketball camps with her, and she's very modest and friendly. You think she's quiet, but when you're guarding her, she's not so quiet."

Nor is she a shrinking violet in the classroom or in social settings. A political science major, she has made the dean's list every semester she has been at Connecticut, currently has a 3.7 cumulative average and is a first team Academic All-America. During her perfect 4.0 semester last fall, Lobo took an English literature course taught at the dreadful hour of 8 a.m. The class was taught by Samuel F. Pickering, the real-life model for the eccentric prep school

teacher played by Robin Williams (one of Lobo's dream-party guests, you'll recall) in the movie Dead Poets Society.

"That class was so enjoyable," says Lobo. "It showed me how easy something can be if you like it, even at that hour. In a way it's like our team -- we're doing well because we enjoy it so much." Pickering dug it too. "I look around the classroom," he told a reporter last fall, "and pick out the people who have sunlight shining from their eyes. Rebecca is one of them."

Lobo and her teammates have brightened the UConn basketball scene, too, by giving the Huskies a women's team with a record even more sterling than that of their 25-4 men's team. Most women's games at 8,241-seat Gampel Pavilion are screaming, banner-waving sellouts. While other Big East women's teams often play home games in front of Mom, Dad and a janitor or two, UConn sold 6,541 season tickets this season, generating nearly \$ 700,000 in revenue.

Lobo adds a touch of glamour to these happy proceedings. Earlier this year she came out of the locker room after a game wearing a miniskirt, and one of the assistant coaches noted that she was showing a lot of leg. "I've got a lot of leg to show," Lobo fired back. She wears her hair long and has guard Pam Webber, her roomie, spend 10 minutes before each game pleating it into a French braid. That's in part so the hair won't get in her eyes while she's playing, and in part to prove, as she says, that "femininity and sport can go together."

All is sweetness and light for Lobo as she takes a seat for her 11 a.m. Thursday class in a course called Toxic Chemicals and Health. Needing just eight credits to graduate and having already completed all her required courses, she is taking a couple of courses this semester that are not exactly advanced physics. Today, says the instructor, the lecture will be on carcinogens and mutagens and will look at "why, if your grandmother or parent had cancer, it might affect you."

Oh, dear. Last season Lobo had no sooner put together two of her best games ever, leading the Huskies to back-to-back upset wins over Auburn and Virginia, than her mother, RuthAnn, informed her that she had breast cancer. Rebecca went from the peak to the abyss in a heartbeat, and she and RuthAnn, a 5'11" former high school basketball star, cried and cried. Rebecca felt helpless, but RuthAnn bucked her up by saying, "You do your job, and I'll do mine."

RuthAnn and Rebecca's father, Dennis, a pair of educators who live in Southwick, Mass., never miss a UConn home game, and when RuthAnn first showed up in the stands in a wig, to cover the hair loss caused by chemotherapy, Rebecca cried again. But she played on. The Lobos are so tight as a family that you almost want to add a little WD-40 now and then so they don't squeak. "We're like the Waltons," RuthAnn says. "You know: 'Good night, Dad'; 'Good night, Jason'; 'Good night, Mom'; 'Good night, Rebecca'; 'Good night, Rachel.'" But their closeness enabled them to deal with the cancer and grow from it.

"Petty things don't bother me as much as they used to," says Rebecca. "I won't trivialize the situation and say that in a game, when I'm tired, I can look over at Mom and get energy. But it does feel good just to see her there." For her part RuthAnn is also feeling good; her cancer has been in remission for nearly a year.

When class is over, Rebecca tries to find a little time to catch up on

answering her avalanche of fan mail. There are sacks of letters from all over the country for her in the athletic department. Lobo will write back to each correspondent, but when? "She'll sit in the lounge for hours and write back," says UConn women's sports publicity director Barb Kowal. "She does not blow it off. Last year she didn't finish until two weeks after the season." This year Lobo persuaded Hartford Courant sportswriter Bruce Berlet to print a message from her in his column. "I try to answer every letter I get," she said in the paper. "I kept up with it for a while, but I'm so backed up, it'll take months to catch up. I hope everyone understands."

Lobo does everything asked of her in the public relations realm. She talks to kids or adults or anyone who says hi to her. She smiles at all. At Villanova in late February, two security guards had to protect her so she could do postgame interviews without being trampled by admirers. After a game at Syracuse on Feb. 25, she signed autographs for 45 minutes. "It was Girl Scout Day, and there were over a thousand Brownies and Girl Scouts in our stands," Syracuse coach Marianna Freeman says. "For her to do what she did - - those little girls will remember it for a long time."

Lobo's surname means "wolf" in Spanish, but off the court she is about as unferocious as she could be. Back at Southwick High where Rebecca was also a star in field hockey, track and softball, she once had 62 points in a basketball game while en route to breaking the Massachusetts career scoring record. Her response to that transcendent performance? "Embarrassment," she says, almost trembling. "I mean, it's a team game."

Auriemma laughs and scratches his head when confronted with his star's humility. He wants her to be mean, nasty, selfish. Score 50, 60 points. Decimate foes. Yet when Lobo was a sophomore, Auriemma felt she was underachieving. He told her, "We're at a crossroads. I can't reach you. If you want to leave, fine. Or you stay here, and I'll leave." He said she had to get tougher if she wanted to be a champion. She told him not to yell at her about effort, that she always gave effort. The other things she would work on. But the effort was always there.

"She was right," says Auriemma. But just last week he took her aside and said, "You're like a recovering alcoholic."

Lobo's eyes grew wide. "What?" she said.

"Except you're a recovering wussy suburban girl," the coach continued. "And you need to take the steps every day to overcome it."

They both laughed. But Lobo knew what he meant. "My nature isn't to be the son of a bitch he wants me to be on the floor," she says.

Lobo's temperament is a product of the idyllic, loving and playful family environment she grew up in. Her brother, Jason, who is 6' 11", and her sister, Rachel, a shrimp at 5' 10", both were gung ho about sports (Jason played hoops at Dartmouth, Rachel at Salem [Mass.] State) and the three siblings did everything together. Stickball, volleyball, Wiffle ball, soccer -- you name it, they played it, in the street, the backyard, the house, the garage. "One of my favorite images of Rebecca is her in the homemade catcher's outfit she put together out of paper, with a football helmet on her head, with me pitching and Rachel

swinging," says Jason.

Jason, who is four years older than Rachel and six years older than Rebecca, even organized boxing matches between his sisters. "I'd put mittens on them, get on my knees and referee," he says. "If I got them mad enough, they'd box till one of them cried, then I'd spend the next 20 minutes telling them why they couldn't tell Mom."

Even at play there was a determined side to Rebecca. When the Lobos would take trips in the family station wagon, Rebecca would lie in the rear section and roll paper into little balls and shoot baskets into the wheel-well. And then there was the day in fourth grade when she heard that her grandmother was going to a Boston Celtic game. Rebecca wrote a note and made Granny Hardy promise to give it to Celtic president Red Auerbach. The note said, "I'm a really big fan. I want you to know I'm going to be the first girl to play for the Celtics."

"Young and dumb," says Lobo, laughing. But that determination still burns in her. Broken noses (she has had two at UConn), a damaged knee, a broken finger (she is nursing a fractured pinkie right now) -- none of it stops her. "This past summer she was working so hard at conditioning, she was in the best shape she's ever been in," says Rachel, now an assistant women's coach at Salem. "She told me then, 'I'm doing this because we're going to be playing at the end of March.' She wants a championship very badly."

Rachel thinks about her kid sister, and as so many people do when they ponder the tall young woman with the soft touch around the bucket, she smiles. "Rebecca cares about other people first," she says. "She's a beautiful person."

Sounds like the perfect host for the perfect dinner party.

GRAPHIC: COLOR PHOTO: THE HARTFORD COURANT, [Rebecca Lobo with her arms raised after game]; COLOR PHOTO: JEFFREY LOWE, The obliging Lobo tries to answer all of her fan mail. [Rebecca Lobo sitting amid bags of mail writing letter]; COLOR PHOTO: BOB STOWELL, As her twice-broken nose attests, Lobo is a marked woman who endures endless on-court muggings by frustrated foes. [Rebecca Lobo playing while wearing nose guard]; COLOR PHOTO: AL TIELEMANS, [see caption above--Rebecca Lobo being fouled during game]; COLOR PHOTO: THE HARTFORD COURANT, [see caption above--Rebecca Lobo in pile-up on the court trying to pass ball]; COLOR PHOTO: RICK STEWART, Husky Seniors Night helped RuthAnn, Rebecca and Dennis forget more tearful moments. [RuthAnn, Rebecca, and Dennis Lobo walking on to court]

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HEADLINE: A Whole New Tack;

As Shelley Beattie and Dawn Riley prove, the all-female America3 crew has both brawn and brains

BYLINE: by Kelly Whiteside

BODY:

SHELLEY BEATTIE didn't know the America's Cup from the Stanley Cup at this time last year. She was busy preparing for her third season on the TV show American Gladiators. Beattie plays Siren, one of the red-white-and-blue-spandex-clad warriors who regularly knock middle managers, nurses and gym teachers silly in contests such as the Wall, the Gauntlet and the Assault.

Although she knew more about sailing than Beattie did, Dawn Riley also wasn't looking ahead to the America's Cup at this time last year. She was in the middle of the Whitbread Round the World Race, battling 70-knot winds in a hailstorm off the coast of Tasmania. As the skipper of Heineken, Riley was facing contests such as the Tempest, the Snapped Rudder and the Ripped Sail.

Now these two women are in the same boat, crew members on America3, the first all-female team in the 144-year history of the America's Cup. Also on the team are 26 other athletes, chosen from a pool of 687 applicants. They include Olympic sailors and rowers, a single mom, a newlywed, a NASA microgravity engineer and a college football strength coach, all assembled by Bill Koch, the billionaire yachtsman who skippered America3 to victory in the last America's Cup, in 1992.

On Jan. 13, eight months after they began training, this eclectic group sailed into history when America3 defeated Stars & Stripes in the first race of the defender selection series, which determines the U.S. entry for the America's Cup finals this May. The loser was skippered by Old Glory himself, Dennis Conner, a veteran of six Cup campaigns. Since then, America3 has lost eight of 9 races, and as the second of four round-robins ended last week off Point Loma in San Diego, America3's three points placed it a distant third behind Stars & Stripes and PACT 95's Young America, each with nine. But the America3 crew believes that the situation isn't as bad as it looks. Before the end of the month, the women will take delivery of a new \$3 million boat, which is expected to be faster than their current hull. Because the scoring system awards a greater number of points for victories in the later rounds, America3 could still come out on top when the defender trials end in April.

How a group of rookies and lifelong sailors came together is a story best

illustrated by two people who had nothing in common before this: Beattie and Riley. How did an American Gladiators superhero and a professional sailor, a grinder (the brawn of the boat) and a member of the afterguard (the brains of the boat) -- in other words, a novice and an old salt -- come to share common ground?

After a recent practice, America3's 75-foot yacht sits in its lift with a huge skirt around its hull. Shelley Beattie appears from behind this curtain. There are streaks of blue paint across her cheeks and forehead and blue specks dotting the bridge of her nose. The bill of her hat is upturned, like a cyclist's, and wisps of light-brown bangs tinged with blue hang over her eyes. She looks as if she has been working under the hood of a car. She and a few other crew members have been wet-sanding the keel of the boat with fine sandpaper. Her hands are as worn as a scuffed baseball.

Here she looks nothing like Siren. When taping for American Gladiators starts in June, she will dye her hair blonde again and add hair extensions. She will put on that star-spangled bodysuit and hang from a bungee cord and body slam some unsuspecting contestant in midair in the Swingshot event and topple some poor sap with something that resembles a giant Q-Tip in the Joust. In fact it was her performance on the show that convinced team coach Kimo Worthington that she deserved a shot at making the crew.

"When I came here, I was worried about what some people on the team would think of me," Beattie says. She was worried about fitting in. Some of her teammates are former Olympic sailors; Beattie is a former Ms. Olympia finalist. What would they make of her biceps, as large as grapefruits, and her thighs, the size of canned hams? What could they have thought when she and her husband, John Romano, wheeled into the parking lot of the San Diego Yacht Club, and the roar of their Harley set off all the car alarms?

There was a greater concern for Beattie: She is 90% deaf, the result of a childhood accident, and, she says, "I didn't want them to treat me as if I'm handicapped." There were communication obstacles that had to be overcome. It was difficult to read lips on the boat, so she asked her teammates to use hand signals. Crew meetings were frustrating because more than one person spoke at a time, so an interpreter was hired. Over the past several months Amy Baltzell, also a grinder, learned how to sign, and that helped.

Before a maneuver, Beattie crouches over a winch, which raises and lowers the sails, and grasps its two handles. When the helmsman, Leslie Egnot, shouts "Tacking," and one of the sail trimmers twirls her index finger, Beattie turns the winch as if pedaling a bicycle with her arms. During lengthy tacking duels, one of the most physically taxing parts of sailing, she is Greg LeMond climbing a steep peak in the Pyrenees. When the winds are light, she is a paperboy on a Schwinn delivering the morning edition.

Beattie and America's seven other grinders brought plenty of muscle to the boat -- six are rowers and one is a weightlifter -- and silenced those who thought the women's crew would not be physically strong enough to be competitive. When working the coffee-grinder winches, this group grinds enough java for all of Seattle. In the light winds of what is known as the Coma off Point Loma, America3 regularly beats its rivals in tacking duels.

Though the grinders brought strength, they also arrived with little or no sailing experience. But they quickly learned never to call a rope a rope. (It is a sheet, a halyard or a line.) They learned the difference between port and starboard, windward and leeward. They learned how to build a sail loft and how to operate a forklift. They learned about the electronic gadgets on deck and the secrets of the keel below. They are now sailors.

And somewhere in the Pacific, Beattie fell in love with sailing. "I'm going to continue sailing after this is over," she says. "The best thing about being on a boat is the space, the freedom out there. Every day is different. At practice it's so peaceful at times, and then other times, in the middle of a storm, you know that God is out there. You're watching the swells come in, and you're chopping right through them. You see a ripple way out there and then soon feel the wave go underneath you. You feel the wind. . . ." Beattie goes on and on, this unlikely sailor speaking so eloquently about the sea it's as if she were baptized in saltwater.

"I'm here because I like doing things that people don't think are possible," she says.

The house is rented. The kitchen table bought new. The couch borrowed. The flatware purchased at a Salvation Army store. This is home for Dawn Riley, at least until the defender trials are over. Usually her life is lived out of a duffel bag. A bed is found on a boat or in the back of a van or on a friend's sofa. There is no need to own a car. Everything is purchased on one credit card, and the bills are sent to Mom in Detroit, then paid with money from Dawn's account. Last year Riley saw her fiance, Barry McKay, a sailor from New Zealand, three months out of the year. They were engaged about a year ago when she was between legs of a race around the world and he was about to sail off in another one. When will they get married? "I hope sometime in the fall -- the fall in our hemisphere," she says. This is the life of a professional sailor. This is the life of Riley.

"It might seem a little irresponsible," she says, with a slight smile that spreads into a toothy grin.

Riley is 30 years old, though with her blonde ponytail she looks much younger. She has been sailing for every one of those 30 years. "The first time I was on a boat was the day I was baptized," she says. "I was a month or so old. My mom didn't want me on a boat before that because, well, you know the way Catholics are, just in case."

When she was 12 she missed a year of school because her parents took the family on a trip from the Great Lakes to the Caribbean and back again. (Her parents tutored her using her school's eighth-grade textbooks.) She fell in love with sailing during that trip, somewhere in the Atlantic, and has been playing hooky from what others might deem a responsible life ever since.

Her family didn't belong to the blue-blazer set. She paid her own way through Michigan State, where she was the captain of the sailing team, by working in boatyards and sail lofts. An advertising major, she graduated in 1987, but when she found it difficult to break into the ad business, she decided to try sailing instead.

Since college she has competed on sailing circuits around the world, going from race to race like a migrant farmworker following the crops and the seasons. She has spent a total of nearly two years sailing in the Whitbread, the 32,000-mile, nine-month-long race -- aboard Maiden in 1989 and '90, with the first all-women's Whitbread team, and then in 1993 and '94 as the skipper of Heineken, with another all-female crew.

Three years ago Riley worked the pit for America3 in the defender trials and was a rookie on the team -- and the only female sailor in the 1992 Cup. Now she is a member of the afterguard, the so-called brain trust of the boat, and the only sailor on America3 with Cup experience. Riley's position is crew boss, which means she is the troubleshooter on board, attending to problems from the bow to the stern. "We need Dawn to help out all over the boat; everyone else has only been doing this for nine months," says Worthington, who was in Koch's afterguard in the last Cup campaign.

If this team didn't exist, Worthington says, Riley would be the only woman sailing in the defender trials. The America's Cup has remained an all-boys' yacht club because women sailors have been held back by this well-worn circularity: You can't race in big boats until you have the experience, and women haven't been able to get experience because they weren't given an opportunity to race in big boats.

Riley's past eight months in San Diego have been the longest period she has lived in one house since . . . the last America's Cup. Yet she wouldn't trade in her duffel-bag existence for a job on Madison Avenue and a nice house in the suburbs. "Sailing is a way to see the world and meet different people," she says. She can't think of a job that would give her the same rush that winning a race provides. "This is something I did when I was young, something I can do at midlife, something I can do until I'm ready to sail off into the sunset."

"And besides, it's a hell of a lot of fun," she says, as that impish smile stretches across her face.

And so the gap between a woman who started sailing the day she tried out for the team and a woman who started sailing the day she was baptized has narrowed considerably. They have found common ground on the ocean, competing in the most prestigious sailing race in the world, for sports' oldest trophy.

"I'm here to win -- god, it felt good to stomp Dennis Conner in that first race," Beattie says, with a loud laugh.

"We can win this," says Riley. "Once we get our new boat, we'll be rocket-fast."

Whether America3 will make it into the Cup finals will come down to how fast the new boat is and to this question: "Can they gain experience as the calendar pages keep flipping over?" says PACT 95's president, John Marshall.

"Yes," says Beattie.

"Yes," says Riley.

They have already come so far.

GRAPHIC: Picture 1, The group that keeps America3's sails billowing include grinder novice Beattie and career sailor -- and team captain -- Riley.  
descColor: From below, Shelley Beattie., DANIEL FORSTER; Picture 2, See above.  
descColor: Two photographs: Aerial view of Dawn Riley working on racing boat America3; Dawn Riley manning the sails., BOB GRIESER; Picture 3, Seasoned hands like high-flying Merritt Carey bolster the America3 crew's bold quest for the Cup. descColor: Aerial view of Merritt Carey on top of the main mast., DAN NERNEY/DOT PICTURES; Picture 4, Koch and crew rejoiced in June and may again after their old boat is replaced. descColor: All-woman crew of America3 holding Bill Koch aloft; aerial view of old boat America3 racing another yacht., DAN NERNEY/DOT PICTURES

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HEADLINE: STILL THE ONE;

IS MONICA SELES SO GOOD SHE CAN PICK UP WHERE SHE LEFT OFF--OR IS THE  
COMPETITION THAT BAD?

BYLINE: SALLY JENKINS

BODY:

What did it say about the top echelon of women's tennis that Monica Seles was able to win her first tournament in more than two years without losing more than a handful of games? While Seles roared through the draw of the Canadian Open, her first WTA tour appearance since she was stabbed by a fanatic 28 months ago, her opponents watched her withstand wilting 100-degree heat and painful tendinitis in her left knee while they dropped out quicker than Shannon Faulkner.

Oh, there were reasons: Steffi Graf was racked by worry over her father, Peter, jailed in Germany on tax-evasion charges, and lost in the first round; Arantxa Sanchez Vicario was suffering from a head cold and was gone in the third round; Mary Pierce was having trouble with her contact lenses as well as a queasy stomach and lost in the quarterfinals. But what did it say about the best players in women's tennis that after her layoff, Seles dropped only 14 games on her way to a title? "I'm not so surprised by Monica," said Jana Novotna, who was upset by Amanda Coetzer in the semis. "I'm surprised the other players didn't put up more of a fight."

Seles put up enough fight for all of them, showing her old raptorlike ferocity. Teeth bared and elbows swinging, she defeated three Top 20 players--No. 19 Nathalie Tauziat (6-2, 6-2), No. 10 Anke Huber (6-3, 6-2) and No. 8 Gabriela Sabatini (6-1, 6-0)--in succession en route to the final. There she destroyed No. 21 Coetzer, 6-0, 6-1, in a match that was more ceremony than tennis and was over in 51 minutes. That was only slightly longer than the actual ceremony that came afterward, at which Seles burst into tears when she received a prolonged salute from the full house. For months after the stabbing Seles had wondered if she could ever face a crowd again. "It's just been so hard, so many emotions," she said. "From that day to this day, what a difference."

Will there be a difference from this day in Toronto to another day next month in New York? Or will the rest of women's tennis watch helplessly again as Seles holds aloft a trophy--this time a much larger one--at the U.S. Open?

GRAPHIC: COLOR PHOTO: MANNY MILLAN, Seles hardly had to stretch as she ran

through the field at the du Maurier Ltd. Canadian Open. [Monica Seles]  
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August 7, 1995

SECTION: TENNIS; Pg. 44

LENGTH: 1028 words

HEADLINE: BACK IN FULL SWING;

MONICA SELES REMAINED FIRMLY FOCUSED AS SHE MADE A TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO THE COURT

BYLINE: SALLY JENKINS

BODY:

If a plastic-helmeted Caesar wasn't trying to press a gold coin into the palm of her hand, a Cleopatra in a beaded headdress was showering her with rose petals. That's what happens when you star in a made-for-TV event amid the high camp and fakery of Atlantic City. Yet somehow, Monica Seles's return to competitive tennis was both real and affecting. As exhibitions go, Seles's victory over Martina Navratilova was sincere. As comebacks from stabbings go, it was a blockbuster.

It had been 27 months--820 days, to be exact--since a German lathe operator, Gunther Parche, knifed Seles in the back at a tournament in Hamburg in a deranged attempt to return the No. 1 ranking to his countrywoman Steffi Graf. After two-plus years of seclusion broken only by some social doubles and a few fleeting public appearances, Seles walked rather shakily in her return to the public eye. But all the creepiness of the past and contrivances of the present disappeared the first time Seles connected squarely with the ball. "This whole thing has been, like, one big wow," Seles said after defeating Navratilova convincingly, 6-3, 6-2. The score wasn't nearly as significant as the self-assurance of Seles's performance: She was unflinching in the spotlight. "I couldn't have asked for any more from myself," Seles said.

That is saying something, because Seles was a merciless teenage No. 1 from 1991 to '93, a span during which she won seven of her eight Grand Slam titles. Now, at 21, she has matured physically. She laced returns at Navratilova's feet, tore forehands crosscourt, buried backhands in the corners. She made an uncharacteristically high number of unforced errors, but that was to be expected. And her serve was rusty, as evidenced by her six double faults. But it was also bigger. "I felt like the rabbit that sets the pace and then drops out after the first mile," Navratilova said.

Granted, Navratilova is a 38-year-old retiree. However, she is still a lively opponent and an expert prognosticator. She estimated that it will take Seles exactly no time at all to reacclimate to the WTA tour. "Those passing shots were not a mirage," said Navratilova. "She is here."

One facet of Seles's game was noticeably diminished: her grunting. Otherwise she was the same player, just a little taller and heavier. With her tendency to

Sports Illustrated, August 7, 1995

slouch, Seles has never looked the part of a champion athlete, and despite sporting some sleek new clothes courtesy of a recent deal with Nike, she still doesn't. "I need to get stronger, and I need to run a lot," she said. Seles can certainly get back into shape by the U.S. Open, which begins Aug. 28, but she'll need to be in top condition to contend during the grueling two weeks at Flushing Meadow. She will play one warmup event, in Los Angeles or Toronto.

All in all the exhibition in Atlantic City was a healing experience. Seles's main objective was to conquer the stage fright that had set in during her hiatus, and that required long hours of work with a psychologist (SI, July 17). The glaring lights of CBS cameras and the din of the casinos were unnerving but a good test.

On the afternoon before the match, Seles flew by private jet from her home in Florida. No sooner had her stretch limo glided to a stop in front of Caesars Palace than a phalanx of cameras descended on her. Seles and a ring of security guards worked their way inside the front door, where a mock Caesar and Cleopatra stood on a red carpet and offered greetings. Cleopatra reached into a basket and tossed a handful of rose petals at Seles, who winced slightly and turned her head away, uttering a small squeal. It was her only visibly uncomfortable moment.

Navratilova's arrival was less eventful. She sprinted through the hotel lobby at 11 that night after having played a match for the New Jersey Stars of the World TeamTennis league. Late for a cocktail reception, Navratilova barely noticed the Cleopatra who pursued her through the lobby and finally flung a handful of petals at the elevator door as it closed.

Seles's composure and excellent form were a source of deep satisfaction to Navratilova, who had helped shepherd her return. As president of the WTA players' association, Navratilova made it her priority to get Seles back on the court, visiting and practicing with her this spring. In Atlantic City, Navratilova played her supporting role graciously. She brought just the right amount of levity and competitive fire to the proceedings, despite playing with a slightly pulled groin muscle. But injury or no injury, Navratilova had no intention of missing the occasion she had taken such pains to help bring about. When asked if she was fit, she replied, "I'm just dandy, thank you."

The level of Seles's play also justified Navratilova's insistence that Seles receive a co-No. 1 ranking with Graf when she returns to the tour. The proposal was unanimously adopted by the players, although its finer points have been controversial. A number of Top 10 players believe that Seles's ranking should not be artificially inflated for too long. Seles will be co-No. 1 for her first six events or for 12 months, whichever comes first.

Although the players have said repeatedly that they welcome Seles's return, there will be some awkward moments. When asked if she had heard from many of her peers, Seles stammered. The answer was no. "I got two nice letters from Helena Sukova," she said. But the notoriously elusive Seles also admitted that it might have been difficult for some missives to find her. Faxes, she said, "go through 10 people before they reach me."

Seles and Navratilova went through at least that many people as they strolled onto the court, walking on a red carpet lined by two dozen plastic-helmeted

centurions. They chatted animatedly, and the applause steadily mounted. "Basically, we talked about how nervous we were," Navratilova said. Seles maintained a frozen smile as the crowd noise reached a climax. Suddenly she put her hands to her face, embarrassed. Then she collected herself and curtsied four times, once to each grandstand. She and Navratilova high-fived. It was not a mirage. Seles is here.

GRAPHIC: COLOR PHOTO: JOHN IACONO, [Monica Seles]

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