

Women students get input

By LISA TIMPF

"Do choices of sport involvement represent what males and females are capable of or merely reflect social values?" That was one of the questions Abby Hoffman, Director of Sport Canada, posed in her keynote address to the Student Leaders Workshop held last weekend at Dalhousie University.

Hoffman's lecture on "Barriers to women's sport participation" was only one of a series of addresses given to female delegates from AUSA universities at the workshop. Other discussion topics included, "women's sport in the AUSA and CIAU," "women's sport in the community," "the media and women's sport," "promotion of women's sport," "leadership creativity" and "roles and rights of student leaders."

The workshop, funded by Fitness and Amateur Sport, Women's

Program, is one of a series of similar events scheduled to occur throughout the CIAU within the next two years. The objectives of the workshop were to enhance female student-athletes' awareness of issues related to women in sport, and to provide them with information and insight that would equip them to serve as leaders in women's sport and sport administration in the future.

As Hoffman observed in her keynote address, change for the better in terms of women's sport opportunities does seem to be occurring. "But we can't get Pollyanna-ish," noted Hoffman. "Often

things like this go in cycles. If we don't remain vigilant, we may actually start losing ground."

The situation remains to be that women have less, are given less, and have less opportunity to participate in the sport world, according to Hoffman. The barriers to women's sport participation are many-faceted. They include historical traditions, social/psychological factors, physiological "myths" about women's physical inferiority, barriers within the structure of organized sport itself and problems in ensuring rights despite legislation and legal suits.

The workshop speakers helped to provide some suggested direc-

tions for women to take if they want to effect change in the sport world.

Understanding the structures of sport and sport organizations are a key to learning how to effect change. Understanding leadership theory and its applications, understanding how to work with the media and developing strategies for promotion of women's sport are all further considerations in change creation.

On an individual level, women can try to influence attitudes. Hoffman provided an example by noting the centrality of hockey to the Canadian sport consciousness. Road hockey is a popular sport among young boys primarily who risk life and limb to venture out into the streets to participate.

When Hoffman sees such a group, she told the audience at the keynote address, she sometimes calls out, "Where's your sister? Why isn't your sister out here?" to the boys.

They get infuriated, she noted, but maybe at least it will start them thinking . . . □

U of T edges women's swimmers

Dalhousie women's swim team hosted the defending national champions, the University of Toronto, in an exhibition swim meet on Saturday and, for the third consecutive year, the outcome of the meet was in question until the final relay. The final score was U of T 54, Dalhousie 41.

Dalhousie captured three events, the 400 medley relay (Maxwell, Hall, Hoganson, Kaulback) with a time of 4:53.31; the 100 Free (Patti Boyles, 1:01.91) and the 200 Breaststroke (Sue Hall, 2:57.87). Dalhousie's Heather Kaulback placed second in the Breaststroke with a time of 2:57.91. Toronto's times in these three events were 4:55.61, 1:03.34 (Val McLaren) and 2:59.58.

Toronto took the 800 Freestyle (Bronwen Beatty, 9:23.95—first; Deanne Weber, 9:29.91—second); the 200 Freestyle (Kelly Milne, 2:11.09); the 50 Freestyle (Val McLaren, 27.93); the 200 Individual Medley (Deanne Weber, 2:34.16); the 200 Butterfly (Bronwyn Beatty, 2:24.41); the 200 Backstroke (Terri Samuel, 2:42.36); the 400 Freestyle (Kelly Milne, 4:37.82) and the 400 Freestyle Relay (Beatty, Wright, McLaren, K. Milne, 4:10.55).

Dal's times in these events were: 800 Free, Bonnie Autcliffe, 10:14.55; 200 Free, Patti Boyles 2:13.15; 500 Free, Heather Kaulback, 29.20; 200 IM, Jennifer Davidson, 2:35.58; 200 FLY, Mary Mowbray, 2:26.83; 200 Back Suzanne Maxwell, 2:45.40; 400 Free, Bonnie Autcliffe, 5:03.03; 400 Free Relay, Dal (Autcliffe, Pierce, Moore, Hoganson, 4:11.00).

Tiger standouts were Heather Kaulback, who anchored the Medley Relay team and placed second in the 50m FREE and the 200m BR and team captain Mary Mowbray, a Bahamas native, who recorded a lifetime best and a Bahamian National record in the 200 FLY with her 2:26.83 time.



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