



July 27, 2015

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

The 1935-36 school year was a good one for Women's athletics at Riverside Junior College. Seven teams and one sports club were pictured and profiled in the "Tequesquite" yearbook. In the 1920s and 1930s, competitive women's team sports were not the same as they are today. In those decades the concept of "Play Days" was conceived. Female student athletes from area junior colleges would meet informally for friendly games.

The photo and text below is of the Women's Athletic Association. This organization brought together representative from all of the Women's sports teams.



"This year the Women's Athletic Association boasts a larger membership than ever before. About sixty students actively participated in after-school sports. A play day at Chaffey followed the volleyball season. In March, Riverside was play day host to the other junior colleges. Later in the year the third and largest play day was held at Fullerton. Aside from the annual banquet held in June, the social events included an entertainment following each sport, which was furnished by the losing team. Officers of the W. A. A. were: Marion Thompson, president; Myrtle Mae Johnson, vice president; Genevieve Raymer, secretary; Joe Anna Bayless, treasurer; Carol Ketcham, publicity chairman; Doris Yost, volleyball head; Evelyn Brannan, basketball head; Jane White, hockey head; Norah Rohiand, badminton head; Jane Davies, tennis head; Gladys Kuffer, swimming head; Leita Lackey, rifle head; and Barbara Keith, hiking head."

The first Women's team profiled was the Volleyball team.



"The Freshmen women got off to a grand start. In the volleyball match they walked away with the game by a score of 72-35. In any sport such a score means a dull game in that one team is much better than the other. Such was true in this case. Even though the winners put in all their substitutes in an attempt to slow down the rapid piling up of points, the Sophomores were unable to get more than one-half as many points as their skilled opponents. In spite of the great inequality in the teams, the game dragged on until the referees and timekeepers gave in and blew their whistles. Though the Sophomores were down they were not out and later proved it by giving the victors a wiener bake. Doris Yost managed the team while Jean Herbert captained the Freshmen and Norah Rohland the Sophomores."

Second was the Badminton team:



"Badminton is one of the most successful of all women's sports. The attendance lists of this game are larger than for any other sport on the records of the Riverside W.A.A. Because of its popularity, the entire third quarter is given over to badminton. This year, the women needed extra practice before meeting other junior college teams in the play day held here in March, so, in the last part of the second quarter, they played badminton after each hockey practice. The playoffs of this sport differ markedly from those of the other team sports. In this also, the Freshmen and Sophomores are ranged against each other, but there are also matches between the teams of each class. The women play in teams of two and those who win their 100 points must be members of the four highest ranking doubles of each class."

The third team profiled was Basketball.



"Again the Freshmen are victorious. They won both basketball games, 25-9 and 15-9. Although these scores do not tend to show that the competition was strong, there was a great deal of good sportsmanship shown during these matches as well as much excitement over the games themselves. This is the first time in the history of the college that two-court basketball has been played, and because of its success, it probably will continue in place of the old three-court type. Because of the new rules and regulations the attendance records were kept even more strictly than in the other sports and the women who finally did make the team were those who really knew the game. This new game makes for stiffer competition and quicker thinking but it also is harder physically. Captains of the teams were Joe L. Brand for the Freshmen and Jane White for the Sophomores, while Evelyn Brannan ably managed the sport."

The fourth was the Field Hockey team:



"Ground sticks, ground sticks, ground sticks, hit!" Thus begins every hockey game and thus it began between the Freshmen and Sophomore women. Needless to say the Freshmen were victorious, winning by a score of 5-1. In spite of the fact that the winners made four more goals than their opponents, each point was made only after a hard battle for supremacy. Because of the late rainy season, hockey practices were cut short, but the players gave their rooters a good game. On the other hand, when they met the other junior college teams, during the play day held at Riverside in March, they showed their inexperience and lost every game, or perhaps the women only wanted to show what perfect hostesses they were. At any rate, they lost. Manager of hockey was Jane White. The two captains were Gerry Raymer and Margaret Brown."

The fifth was the Rifle Team:



“Although a women’s rifle team is quite a new development in the field of sports at R.J.C. it has found favor with its seven members. The team shoots from four positions: prone, sitting, kneeling, and standing. This year, the team has competed for honors against the Pomona Junior College women and met the boys’ team from the Riverside High School. As yet, in spite of its popularity among students, rifle has not become so popular as to be added to the play day lists. In order to forward this activity, the Riverside W.A.A. planned to add it to their program for the hockey play day in March, but their attempt to feature it failed.”

The sixth was the Swimming Team:



“Every Wednesday afternoon the comparative quiet in the neighborhood of the Y.W.C.A. is shattered by a great to-do in the swimming pool—the Junior College women’s swimming team is taking its weekly workout. At the first of the year the pool was pretty well filled every Wednesday, but near the end only four girls came down regularly, the others got cold—wet feet, or something. Under the direction of Miss Toeppen the four regulars have improved tremendously. After much thought, they decided that they would not try out for the 1936 Olympics. It would be unfair to the rest of the girls in America to have Riverside monopolize the key positions on the Women’s Olympic swimming team. The team’s only interscholastic competition was at Fullerton on May 2, it placed third.”

The seventh was the Tennis Team:



"Women's tennis, like that of the men, is a round-the-year sport. Yet, tennis for the R.J.C. women is only listed as a minor sport. Because of this, there have been no competitive matches with other junior colleges this year. In spite of this, tennis has been played at all of the three play days: at the volleyball play day in Chaffey, the hockey play day here, and at the tennis play day at Fullerton. Only at the last one were the games played to completion. At the other two each player played only one or perhaps two games and then stopped, but at Fullerton the loser was eliminated and the winners continued playing. Attendance on the courts has only been fair. Although there have been many beginners, unbelievably few advanced 'racketeers' turned out, thus making it hard for Jane Davies, head of tennis, to pick a team."

There are 32 weeks until RCC's 100th Anniversary on March 13, 2016.

The Riverside City College Instructional Media Center is bringing you this five-year countdown to RCC's 100th Anniversary. Our intention is to give everyone a weekly glance at the many people and events that have been a part of the college. Our thanks go to the RCC Digital Library Archives and the District's Office of Strategic Communications and Relations for allowing us to use their photo and newspaper collections. Thanks as well to all of the RCC students and Faculty Advisors that were a part of the yearbook and newspaper staffs. Thanks also to Tom Johnson and Gilbert Jimenez who wrote "the book" about RCC's history. "Riverside City College 1916-1981- A 65 Year History" is available in the RCC Digital Library. For copyright purposes, all images originating from Riverside City College publications and the District's Office of Strategic Communications and Relations are the property of the Riverside Community College District.