North Side playgrounds were the start of athletic journeys for future prep stars

While North Side playgrounds in Minneapolis were magnets of athletic opportunities for young people, too often, some were relegated to the sideline. Especially female athletes.

That didn’t sit well with Kathie Eiland-Madison in the late 1960s. So, she made a stand. Rather, a sit-in to protest.

She believed she was every bit as good as the boys at all sports, but at the time, females as athletes weren't seen as much beyond the “tom-boy” tag. Eiland-Madison would show her disgust by not being selected to play in a pick-up basketball game by sitting at midcourt. She'd refuse to move until someone took a chance on her or she had to be moved. Mind you, she was on the same court as neighborhood standouts Terry Lewis, Jimmy Jam and Jellybean Johnson. If those names sound familiar, you aren't mistaken. All were bandmates in the Minneapolis-based group, The Time. Johnson, by the way, was the one typically in charge of lifting Eiland-Madison off the court and carrying her to the side.

“All I wanted was a chance,” Eiland-Madison said. “Those boys were phenomenal, but I thought, no, I knew, I could hang with them.”

At about the same time, Faith Johnson Patterson would watch from a window of her North Minneapolis home as neighbors, including rising prep star Ronnie Henderson, would play basketball in her backyard.

Marshall-University’s 1976 state tournament team

 Prior to the passage of Title IX, Lutsen’s Cindy Nelson was blazing down ski slopes at the state, national and world levels.

In 1971 at the age of 16, she was competing at the international level and earned a berth on the Team USA squad for the World Cup Ski Team. Through 1985, she would be one of the world’s top-ranked skiers. Nelson became the first American to win a race in the World Cup’s Downhill event and the first American skier to win a World Cup Super Giant Slalom.

During her 14-year career, Nelson was on four U.S. Olympic teams and four World Championship teams. Her resume includes three world championship medals and an Olympic bronze medal in the Downhill in 1976.

She retired from competitive skiing at the age of 29.

The League’s first Alpine Skiing State Meet was held in 1976.

Did you know?
• Lakeville North’s Rachel Banham was a two-time Girls Basketball Player of the Year selection by the St. Paul Pioneer Press. She was a varsity starter beginning in her eighth-grade season.
• Margaret Chutich, a member of Minnesota’s Supreme Court, was a tennis and basketball standout at Anoka High School.
• Former Apple Valley track and field standout Shani Marks-Johnson went on to compete in the Olympic Games. She is the head coach at Southwest Christian.
• Local television personality Lea B. Olsen is a graduate of Minneapolis South High School. She began her basketball career in her junior year and then became the first walk-on captain for the University of Minnesota women’s basketball team.

Reflections on Coaching and Title IX

SNAPSHOTS: Girls Sports in MN

Education and Leadership for a Lifetime

Editor’s Note: On June 23, 2022, Title IX, the landmark federal civil rights law that brought equality and athletic opportunities for girls and women, will celebrate its 50th year. Throughout the 2021-22 school year, the Minnesota State High School League will celebrate the trailblazers and share their stories.

Continued on page 3
Title IX also paved the way for aspiring coaches and administrators

On July 20, 1969, astronauts from the United States walked on the moon. This historical moment led to innovations that still reap benefits.

About three years later, one of the most important pieces of legislation was another historical moment that led to opportunities for an underrepresented class of student-athletes within our great nation. It was the birth of Title IX. As we continue the walk-up in marking the 50th year of Title IX, I want to reflect on my experience of how it impacted my educational experience and acknowledge how it has also impacted so many deserving student-athletes.

After graduating from college in 1991, I had the opportunity to coach boys hockey for four years with the Mounds View High School team. It was a time I learned so many valuable lessons that still impact my work today. I left coaching and education for a short period and pursued a private sector job in sales. While working in sales, I was offered the opportunity to work as an assistant coach with the Irondale High School girls hockey team. It was two years after their co-op with Mounds View had dissolved. At this time, we had a diverse group. Many had the opportunity to have played with the boys youth program. Most were playing organized hockey for the first time.

I only wish I had taught our group of athletes as much as they taught our coaching staff during those first years. The incremental growth was amazing. They were there to learn, compete and create opportunities for future generations. In my experience, this was the essence of Title IX. Creating opportunities for those who had not had that opportunity in the past.

I became a first-time head coach leading a girls hockey team who had experienced little success in terms of wins and losses. Those student-athletes improved quickly because of their willingness to learn, determination and an unmatched work ethic. They showed up to the rink every practice challenging our staff to assist them to learn the game of hockey through competing on a daily basis. They rarely complained and wanted only to take advantage of the opportunities they earned. Very quickly, they began competing for both conference and section championships. They were already champions, though, for what they accomplished on the rink, in the classroom and in our community. They were role models and motivated the next group to accomplish even more.

Those six years as a head coach impacted my career in a way I never could have imagined. Following those years as a head coach, I pursued my administrative license. My goal was to become an activities director. Shortly after, I knew I would be leaving Irondale, and I was offered another opportunity to work with a group of student-athletes at Benilde-St. Margaret’s. They had a change in their coaching staff and Jerry Pettinger, the activities director then and now took a chance on me. It was a talented group, who again, were looking for opportunities to compete and excel. We learned a lot together and as individuals. They won many games and lost six. It was during those losses that we learned what it was going to take to be successful in postseason play.

In the 2001-2002 season, 30 years after Title IX, it marked the first year there was a two-class girls hockey tournament. Class AA had eight teams and Class A had four teams qualify because of the number of participating teams. The tournament was held at the State Fairgrounds Coliseum. It was an experience I hope all involved will never forget. It was the first of its kind and would be a springboard for our current state tournament.

I can recall almost every moment of those games as a coach. After victories against Farmington and Hibbing, that group of female student-athletes were the first Class A champion in Girls Hockey. The title, trophy and medals were a reward for an incredible accomplishment. The true accomplishments, though, were what they learned as a team throughout the entire season. Following that season, many of us went our separate ways. Many graduated and undoubtedly went on to accomplish even greater feats on the ice and in life.

That July, I accepted the activities director position at Mounds View High School where I would spend the next 15 years professionally. I truly believe this would never have occurred without those lessons I learned from all those student-athletes and experiences.

Imagine a time when those opportunities and experiences did not exist. The adoption of Title IX was proceeded by heroes who were pioneers. This group of pioneers simply sought the opportunity to compete in opportunities that did not exist.

We need to personally thank those who came before us with the wisdom of what those opportunities would create. Let’s take the time to celebrate all we have accomplished because of one of the most important pieces of legislation our nation has known.
High school experiences included inclusion, friendships

Continued from Cover

“I don’t know why they chose my hoop,” Johnson Patterson recalls. “I would watch them in amazement. I thought that it looked like a lot of fun. But I didn’t ask to get into their games. I’d walk down to either Willard Elementary or North Commons Park and try the game on my own.”

For both Eiland-Madison and Johnson Patterson, their journeys from the playgrounds of North Minneapolis led to Marshall-University High School in Dinkytown on the University of Minnesota campus. Their paths converged when Eiland-Madison was a senior and Johnson Patterson was an eighth-grader.

Eiland-Madison was a popular student-athlete that excelled in basketball, volleyball, track and field and cheerleading. She was a captain in those activities as well. Her athletic resume would include participating in the track and field state meet and being an all-state selection in leading Marshall-University to the first girls basketball state tournament in 1976. Eiland-Madison was also in the first group of Athena Award winners, an honor given to the top senior female student-athlete.

Johnson Patterson embraced the cultural diversity of Marshall-University and greatly enjoyed her high school experience. As for athletics, she didn’t think she had the basketball skills for the varsity level.

“My mother wanted me to go to Marshall U,” Johnson Patterson said. “It wasn’t a private school, but it was a college prep school. I had an opportunity to get an excellent education. It was diverse. You saw different races and people got along. It was a great community school. It just felt comfortable. The seniors embraced the eighth-graders. Kathie and her friends allowed me to play with them. It didn’t matter what race you were or how good you were. It felt so good to be surrounded by people that genuinely cared about you.”

Eiland-Madison had to convince Johnson Patterson to try out for basketball at Marshall-University.

“She said she just liked playing for fun, but I kept at it,” Eiland-Madison said with a laugh.

The coaxing worked and helped pave the way for Marshall-University to qualify for the League’s first girls basketball state tournament in February, 1976. The Cardinals entered the tournament with a 19-0 record and finished fourth in Class A.

“To play in a state tournament was magical,” Johnson Patterson said.

“It was an opportunity to showcase the talent on our team and to meet other athletes that I have established lifelong connections,” Eiland-Madison said.

Eiland-Madison went on to play at the University of Minnesota. She is currently the Vice President of Human Resources-Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for Delta Dental of Minnesota.

Johnson Patterson earned a scholarship to play at the University of Wisconsin. She moved on to become a Minnesota State High School League Hall of Famer as a legendary girls basketball coach. Johnson Patterson was the first African American woman to coach a League member school to a girls basketball state championship, and she’s done so a record eight times between titles at Minneapolis North and DeLaSalle. She currently coaches at Visitation High School.

As the Title IX legislation celebrates its 50th year, Connect caught up with Eiland-Madison and Johnson Patterson to share thoughts and reflections on their personal journeys through education and athletics.

**Connect: As a female athlete growing up in North Minneapolis, what dreams did you have when few athletic opportunities existed?**

**Eiland-Madison:** “My dream as a female athlete was to play in the NBA, however, that option was not available. And the WNBA did not exist at the time. My brother, David (a multi-sport standout at Minneapolis Roosevelt), said I would have played in the WNBA for sure. I was just too early.”

**Johnson Patterson:** “I just didn’t think that athletic opportunities existed beyond the park board level. I even stopped playing basketball for a while. You just didn’t see women’s basketball. I was exposed to college basketball accidentally. We practiced at Peik Hall (on the University of Minnesota campus) and heard that the women’s basketball playoffs were in town. We watched Lucy Harris and Delta State playing at Williams Arena. One of the teams had a point guard that was 4-11. I was taller than her and felt I was every bit as good as her. That gave me confidence. It got me thinking about the possibilities.”

**Do you know?**

1. What publication is known as “Minnesota’s Wrestling Newspaper?”
2. Was 6-man football ever played in Minnesota?
3. In 1956, what was the Alexander Hamilton Scholarship Project?
4. When was the first year that the League sponsored Curling as an activity?
5. In the nine years that Curling was sponsored, what member school won the most titles?

Answers on page 5

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Connect: Who were your role models?

**Eiland-Madison:** “My role models growing up were both of my parents, Ray and Doris Eiland. They not only taught me to pursue my dreams, but they instilled in me the values of team, collaboration, fortitude and resiliency as they were both successful in the education and business sectors.”

**Johnson Patterson:** “Kathie Eiland and (St. Paul Central’s) Lisa Lissimore. Those two were everything I ever wanted to be. I was so inspired by both. They were the “wow” and the “it.” They were popular, beautiful and people wanted their autographs. Those two instantly were my role models, not only with how I wanted to play, but how I carried myself and who I wanted to be. It was like having big sisters. How they treated me, at my age, made an incredible impression.”

Connect: At the time, did you understand the significance of Title IX?

**Eiland-Madison:** “No, I did not understand the implication of Title IX during high school. As athletes who loved the sports, we were excited to play and compete, and recognized that sometimes that entailed playing with the boys. It wasn’t until college that I understood the true magnitude of inequity in sports for women that ranged from the financial budget impact, opportunities, exposure and fairness.

**Johnson Patterson:** “I did. (At Wisconsin) We would walk out of practice and see the guys would have a training table being catered to with full-course meals and other luxuries of the time. We had a meal plan at the dorm. They would fly to most of their games. The women’s team would take a bus or vans. I fully understand now. I was going through the conversion. I played with a men’s-sized basketball and never played with a three-point line.”

Connect: What were some of the challenges you faced in your participation in athletics?

**Eiland-Madison:** “There were several challenges relating to equity and fairness. As a young athlete playing basketball, my only option was to play with boys. Additionally, there were challenges in financial resources, equal playing time and recognition of our abilities to play at a high level.”

**Johnson Patterson:** “I was called a Tom Boy. I went from being teased and taunted to beating other guys to being selected first or second in pick-up games. I played basketball, but there wasn’t a women’s game that I was aware of to aspire to. I recall playing flag football and Terry Lewis was the coach. We were really good, but there was no women’s football at that time, either. I really enjoyed my high school experience so much. I didn’t experience any racial differences. Sports, that’s what did it for me. It made me feel like I belonged. Other female athletes ahead of me showed us the way.”

Connect: What were some of the rewards?

**Eiland-Madison:** “A major reward was the opportunity to build lifelong friendships with my former teammates and competitors. Most of my teammates continue to keep in touch after our playing time. The interchangeable competencies of teamwork, collaboration, goal-setting, navigating through change, competition and strategy planning have been invaluable to me in my career as a leader in the Human Resources arena.

**Johnson Patterson:** “When I look back now, the unfortunate thing is that I accidentally stumbled on a scholarship, not even knowing that they existed. There were other female athletes that were really good, and some even great, but didn’t get a chance to get recruited. There certainly wasn’t social media and recruiting websites back then. Meeting people has been a huge reward. Kathie and Lisa are some of my friends for life. My education through sports created confidence and gave me experiences that paved the way for the coach that I have become. I made sure that the people that played for me and the community we represented knew how valued they were. The fight for equity continues. When you grew up in an inner-city environment where there was gang violence and bad things happening, you want good things to happen for kids. Athletics, education and an opportunity to go to college are great rewards.”

Connect: As you reflect, what are some of your favorite memories that resulted in your participation in athletics?

**Eiland-Madison:** “My fondest memory was my senior year participating in the very first girls basketball state tournament in 1976. That is an opportunity that I will never forget. As for Title IX, it was a change to seek change, and I envision more systemic change. We made strides then and continue to do so now. We want to keep the momentum going.”

**Johnson Patterson:** “Being on that stage of a state tournament was one of the most incredible experiences of my life. Not winning a championship left a huge hole in me. Having that experience is what drove me to understand what that experience did for my life. It wasn’t just playing with great people and meeting extraordinary friends. It was just such an honor and incredible moment to be playing at that level. To get others to experience that state tournament is what drives me as a coach. Through my winning experiences, I have been able to be an advocate for girls and women’s sports for so many years. I have the opportunity to prepare young women to become great leaders. I want to be that role model for them.”
Dornfeld retires from cross country, track and field roles

Longtime cross country running meet manager Dan Dornfeld worked the event for the final time on Saturday, Nov. 6 at St. Olaf College in Northfield.

Dornfeld has worked the Cross Country State Meet for nearly 40 years, including the last seven as the meet manager. In this role, he worked with St. Olaf’s grounds crew and coaching staffs to ensure the proper logistical provisions were in place and with League staff organizing meet officials and their duties. Dornfeld also serves the League as the state Cross Country rules interpreter and represents Minnesota on the national level with the NFHS. He shares in those same roles with Track and Field.

Dornfeld has also retired from his role as the state meet manager for Track and Field.

“He has left an indelible handprint on the heart of our two championships,” Scott Stallman told those in attendance at the cross country award ceremonies. “He represents the gold medal standards of passion and dedication in his service to the League’s member schools.”

“Dan’s leadership is rooted in problem-solving skills that has benefited the League for decades,” League Associate Director Lisa Lissimore said. “His drive to improve high school running sports will be greatly missed by the coaches and officials he’s mentored. Dan will be difficult to replace.”

MSHSL Officials

• All communications regarding registration, rule or mechanics clarifications, and reminders will take place via email from officials@mshsl.org via Arbiter and Smore.

• Registration for the 2021-2022 spring season is open! Encourage your friends, neighbors and colleagues to join us in this rewarding avocation. Registration should be completed via the MSHSL Arbiter Central Hub. The deadline for returning spring officials to register, without a late fee, is February 1. New officials can register at anytime with no late fee prior to the exam deadline. Those interested in becoming an official may check out information on the program in the officiating portal of the new MSHSL website.

• You may select your primary and secondary Association during the registration process. Only Associations that are a part of the Charter/Legacy Program are listed. This is optional for officials to choose an Association, but it is a helpful tool for Associations as they verify eligibility of their officials. Please do not select an Association if you are not a member with that Association.

• Officiating Recruitment Forums are continuing to expand. Please do hold an additional Forum aimed at bringing in new officials for spring sports. These Forums will be held on Zoom and the next Forum is tentatively scheduled for February.

• Officiating training will continue with a virtual option for the 2021-2022 school year. Each sport that provides/requires clinics will have two in-person clinics and two Zoom clinics. Both count towards the in-person clinic requirement for post season consideration. Sites and dates will be shared as they are finalized. Officials must attend one of these clinics once every two years to be current.

• Important reminder: Officials MUST bring the printed Eligibility badge(Profile tab) or a device with the badge on it to EVERY varsity contest. Officials need to be proactive and show the badge to someone at the site without a request. The AD/site person/coach still needs to check at the site as we have last minute replacements.

• We continue to develop our observation program in basketball, hockey and wrestling during the winter season. If you have not been observed in the last three years and would like to count towards the in-person clinic requirement for post season consideration. Sites and dates will be shared as they are finalized. Officials must attend one of these clinics once every two years to be current.

• The deadlines to complete online meetings and exams for the 2021-2022 school year are posted on the Arbiter Central Hub. Please plan ahead to complete these items on time. The Eligibility Badge cannot be printed or shared without completing all of the required items.

• Select Section officiating assignments will be assigned via Arbiter and paid with ArbiterPay during winter tournaments. All State assignments will be assigned via Arbiter and paid with ArbiterPay.

• Nominations for the 2022 Distinguished Service Award are now being accepted. Please connect with your Association leadership if you are interested in making a nomination. These nominations are due by January 5th.

• The MSHSL is excited about our partnership with Smitty Official’s Apparel. Not all sports are a part of the agreement, but we encourage all officials to check out Smitty products online or in-person at General Sports in Edina. Soccer may come on board as early as next season.

Rule Changes for Spring Sports – Spring sport coaches and officials are encouraged to be aware of the rule changes in their sports. The National Federation has completed that annual process for fall sports, and the results can be found on the MSHSL website or through either your Coach’s Dashboard or Arbiter Central Hub page. Go to your individual sport information and select the link to the news release from the NFHS. Look for “2021-2022 Rule Changes.”

Debate

• Section managers are preparing for a return to in-person competitions. The Debate State Tournament is scheduled to take place at the University of Minnesota, Blegen Hall, on Friday, Jan. 14 and Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022. The Debate State Tournament is the League’s longest-running tournament.

One Act Play

• The League’s One Act Play Advisory Committee met on Monday, Nov. 29. The committee, judges and directors are all looking forward to in-person plays, after participating in virtual/video events last year.

Music

• The League’s Music Advisory Committee is meeting via virtual platform on Wednesday, Dec. 8.

• The League’s Music Advisory Committee is serving as the Interim Music Approval Committee. If music directors have a music score that isn’t on the Approved Music List, please submit to Tim Leighton at Leighton@mshsl.org. More information is also on the League’s website at www.mshsl.org and then selecting the Music tab.

Speech

• Registration is still open for speech judges. Hundreds of judges are needed for sub-section and section competitions. Click here for more information.

1. The Guillotine. This incredible wrestling resource was first published in December, 1971.

2. Yes. In 1955, 44 schools played 6-man football.

3. It was an award presented to a student from a member school for excellence in public speaking.


Officials Recognition

Distinguished Service Awards

This group was recognized in an on-field ceremony during Prep Bowl XXXIX at U.S. Bank Stadium on Nov. 27.

Association of Excellence:
SKYLINE OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION
Salute To Fall Champions

Class A
- Team --- Breck
- Singles --- Ancele Donsek, Minnehaha Academy
- Doubles --- Ellie Pirtle-Petra Lyon, Breck
- Team --- Minnetonka
- Singles --- Sarah Shahbaz, Minnetonka
- Doubles --- Annika Elvestrom-Karina Elvestrom, Minnetonka

Class A
- Team --- Southwest Christian
- Singles --- Orono
- AAA --- Mounds View

Class AA
- Minnehaha Academy
- Singles --- Mahtomedi
- AAA --- Stillwater Area

Class AA
- Team --- Minnetonka
- 200 Medley Relay --- Minnetonka.
- 200 Freestyle --- Katie McCarthy, Edina
- 200 Individual Medley --- Grace Rabb, Andover
- 50 Freestyle --- Caroline Larsen, Eden Prairie
- One-Meter Diving --- Gabby Mauder, Woodbury
- 100 Butterfly --- Claire Reinke, Wayzata
- 100 Freestyle --- Haley Zelen, Shakopee
- 500 Freestyle --- Katie McCarthy, Edina
- 200 Freestyle Relay --- Edina
- 100 Backstroke --- Grace Rabb, Andover
- 100 Breaststroke --- Caroline Larsen, Eden Prairie
- 400 Freestyle Relay --- Minnetonka

Class AAA
- Team --- St. Paul Highland Park
- Individual --- Isabelle Schmitz, Hutchinson
- AAA --- Edina
- Individual --- Ali Weimer, St. Michael-Albertville

Class AAA
- Team --- Staples-Motley
- Individual --- Jakob McCleary, Perham
- Team --- Big Lake
- Individual --- Alden Keller, Breck
- AAA --- Wayzata
- Individual --- Nick Gillies, Minnetonka

Class AAAAA
- Team --- LeRoy-Ostrander
- Individual --- Mayer Lutheran
- AA --- Chatfield
- AAA --- Dassel-Cokato
- AAAA --- Hutchinson
- AAAAA --- Mankato West
- AAAAAA --- Lakeville South
Wells Fargo
- All-Tournament Team Program
- ExCEL Award
- Spotlight on the Arts Award Excellence
- Most Valuable Teammate Award
- Sportsmanship Challenge

McDonald's
- Spotlight on Scholarship Program
- Triple 'A' Award Program

Smitty Official's Apparel
- Supplier of MSHSL Officials Apparel

Toyota
- John's Journal

Hometown Ticketing
- Official Digital Ticketing Provider

Hudl
- Exclusive Video Analytics/Game Exchange

Media Partners
- 45TV
- Minnesota Broadcasters Association
- School Space Media

Official Balls/Equipment for MSHSL State Tournaments
- Baseball - Wilson (A1010HS1)
- Basketball - Spalding Top-Flite Legacy (wide channel)
- Softball - Dudley SB 12L (Yellow)
- Tennis - Wilson (US Open Extra Duty)
- Volleyball - Baden (VXSEC-220 Perfection Blue/White/Grey)
- Hockey - Bauer
- Football - Spalding (Alpha)
- Soccer - Select Sport America