

Jim Lorimer's Unexpected Path: From the Ohio Track Club to the Arnold Sports Festival

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In March 2011, an estimated one hundred eighty thousand sports and fitness enthusiasts convened in Columbus, Ohio, for the twenty-third annual Arnold Sports Festival.¹ Like the Olympic Games, the 2011 Arnold Sports Festival, formerly known as the Arnold Classic, is a multi-sport event featuring forty-six sports for teams and individuals from age six to age ninety.² Spectators in Columbus saw amateur and professional athletes—including bodybuilders, strongmen, gymnasts, martial artists, archers, cheerleaders, wrestlers, and even ballroom dancers—compete at all levels.³ Eighteen thousand athletes, including twelve thousand women, came from around the world to participate. In comparison, only eleven thousand athletes competed in the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.⁴

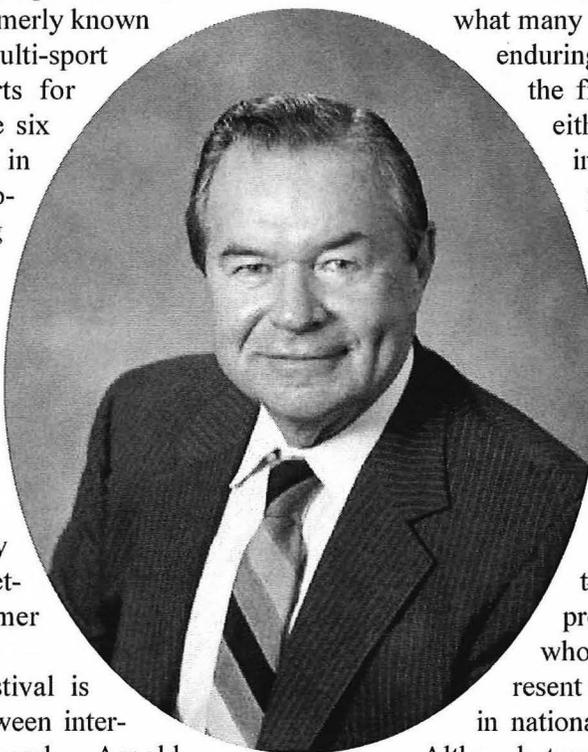
The Arnold Sports Festival is the product of a friendship between international bodybuilding legend Arnold Schwarzenegger and sports activist and promoter James Lorimer. Their partnership began in 1976 when they co-promoted the Mr. Olympia bodybuilding championships in Columbus, Ohio. They continued to work together over the next decade and in 1989—with the support of Joe and Ben Weider and the International Federation of Bodybuilders—established the Arnold Classic Bodybuilding Championship. Since then, “The Arnold” has expanded from a one-day bodybuilding contest into a four-day sport extravaganza with six major venues,

seven hundred volunteers, more than seven hundred fitness-related booths, and over seven hundred thousand dollars in prize money.

However, Jim Lorimer’s first steps toward what many would regard as one of the most enduring and accomplished careers in the fitness industry did not begin in either weightlifting or bodybuilding. It was, instead, an “unexpected path,” as Lorimer explained in a recent interview, that led him to the creation of the largest multi-sport event in the world; and it began in 1959 when he decided to create a racially diverse girls’ Olympic development program for track and field.⁵ Lorimer’s team, known as the Girls’ and Women’s Division of the Ohio Track Club, aimed to provide effective training for girls who, he hoped, might someday represent Columbus and the United States in national or international competition.⁶

Although tension between the United States and the Soviet Union and between black and white Americans largely defined the late 1950s and most of the 1960s, Lorimer and his young athletes flourished and triumphed, winning several Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) National Championships and establishing for Lorimer an unparalleled record of achievement and organizational genius.

Over fifty years later, Lorimer’s dedication to creating “great competitive experiences” has not faded, exemplified by the continuous growth and success of the



Jim Lorimer



Sylvia Cox, Melissa Long, and Diane Young receive advice from Jim Lorimer on how to explode from the starting blocks at the beginning of a race.

Photo courtesy Jim Lorimer

Arnold Sports Festival. This paper explores Lorimer's first efforts at sport promotion and how those early efforts set him on the road toward his future. Today in their sixties, the women athletes on Lorimer's early team recall their competitive experiences as "powerful" and "life-changing" and they describe Lorimer as an "indefatigable visionary."⁷ His commitment to his country and his community and to providing athletes the opportunity for physical expression through competition may well be unique in the history of sport.

Jim Lorimer's Early Years

James J. Lorimer was born in Bristol, Pennsylvania, on October 7, 1926. At age thirteen, he wrote a letter to Federal Bureau of Investigation Director J. Edgar Hoover inquiring about how to become an FBI agent. Remarkably, Hoover personally responded and advised the young man to consider studying to become an accountant or attorney. Lorimer saved the letter and filed away the advice and went on to enjoy a notable career in high school as an athlete participating in basketball, football, and track. At age fourteen, he was living in Mor-

risville, Pennsylvania, when he and his best friend, Jim Murray, began lifting weights to make themselves larger and stronger for football. They based their training on the advice in *Strength & Health* magazine, which Murray later edited.⁸ Lorimer and Murray, who are still close friends, were popular students at Morrisville High School where they led the student council, dated cheerleaders, and co-captained the Bulldog varsity football team to two Lower Bucks County championships.⁹ Upon graduation, near the end of World War II, Lorimer enlisted in the United States Navy. He received a fleet appointment to the US Naval Academy and

was sent to preparatory training school. After completing his Naval service, Lorimer eagerly returned to civilian life. Hoover's advice still resonated with him and so Lorimer decided to attend law school and then apply to the FBI. He earned a bachelor's degree at Ursinus College, a small liberal arts school in Collegeville, Pennsylvania; married his high school sweetheart, Martha Jean Whittaker, in 1949; and was admitted to Pennsylvania's oldest law school, the Penn State Dickinson School of Law that same year. In 1951, as he completed his law degree, Lorimer met with an FBI recruiter who visited his campus; shortly thereafter Lorimer joined the agency.¹⁰

At the Bureau, Lorimer experienced the front lines of the Cold War. One of his primary assignments was to interview members of the Communist Party. During the McCarthy era the FBI worked to identify individuals who could be a security threat to the United States in the event of a confrontation between the US and the Soviet Union. According to Lorimer, most of the communists he investigated were well-educated, wholly dedicated to the idea of socialism, and firmly believed

that it would ultimately prevail over “exploitive” capitalism.¹¹ Lorimer’s job was to determine if individuals should be placed on the FBI’s security index and to determine their relative threat level. Although the Soviet Union was considered the great threat in this era, Lorimer also investigated other groups with anti-American sentiments. The FBI was particularly concerned in this era with the emergence of new black activist groups such as the Nation of Islam. Lorimer stated that his FBI experience in investigating these black groups “gave me good insight on the pent up hate that existed in the [black] community.”¹² One of his most interesting assignments was the surveillance of radical activist Malcolm X.¹³

Being a special agent presented challenges for the young husband and father, however, as he had to move his family four times in three years. So, in 1954, Lorimer resigned from the FBI and returned to Morrisville, Pennsylvania, as an attorney with Nationwide Insurance. Shortly after joining the company, Lorimer was transferred to Nationwide’s headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, where by 1979 he would become Vice President of Government Relations, a title he held until his retirement in 1991. “While with Nationwide,” Jim explained, “my responsibilities included acting as liaison with many different state and federal legislative and regulatory agencies and maintaining grassroots political programs. Another program—one of the highlights of my career with Nationwide—was the founding of their corporate fitness program which I directed for fifteen years.”¹⁴

The Cold War on the Track

The post-World War II era was largely defined by rising tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States that overshadowed many aspects of American life. During the era called by historians the Cold War, comparing American democracy to communism was a national obsession. The Olympic Games and sport in general became important Cold War battlegrounds. As historian Susan Cahn put it, “sport became part of the Cold War international contest in which the United States and USSR vied not only for athletic laurels but to prove the superiority of capitalism and communism.”¹⁵

The USSR did not enter the Olympic Games until 1952, yet they quickly rose to competitive status on the world’s stage and vied with America as the dominant force in postwar international sport.¹⁶ In a comparison of

track and field world records set by US and USSR athletes from 1951 to 1961, American men clearly dominated, nearly quadrupling the number of records broken by the Soviet men.¹⁷ The Soviet women, however, set ten times more records than their US counterparts over the same eleven-year period.¹⁸ As their state-supported athletic system became more firmly established, the Soviets grew in strength and at both the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne, Australia and the 1960 Rome Olympic Games they finished with more medals than the United States.¹⁹

The Soviets clearly saw sport as a political tool that could help their image and convert other followers to communism. As this became more obvious, American newspapers and popular magazines such as *Sports Illustrated* began warning Americans about the Soviet’s approach to sports participation and how it was increasingly embedded as a way of life. *Sports Illustrated*, for example, released a special issue on Soviet sport on December 2, 1957, proclaiming on the cover that “For the First Time Photographer Jerry Cooke documents in words and pictures the full story of the Soviet Union’s tremendous drive to world supremacy in sports.”²⁰ Similarly, Jack Raymond, from the *New York Times*, had warned Americans in the run-up to the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games that, “Engaging in sports is a serious project in the USSR.”²¹ Quoting the vice chairman of the Committee for Physical Culture and Sports under the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Raymond explained that physical culture was viewed by the state as important for the “Communist education of the working people,” and that the Communist Party had made sports participation and physical training mandatory in all the schools.²² The Soviets’ plan to use sport to demonstrate the superiority of communism was a great success. As historian Barbara Keys put it, their Olympic victories demonstrated communism’s “legitimacy at home and its prestige abroad.”²³ One of the most successful aspects of the Soviet’s drive to athletic dominance was its treatment and support for women’s sport. Historians Rob Beamish and Ian Ritchie argue that the Soviets were especially cognizant of the political clout of their female athletes. While Richard Nixon was still explaining the supposed superiority of American domestic life—with women as the central figure in the home in the famous “kitchen debate” of 1959, Soviets could point to the treatment and achievements of their women athletes as evidence of a more liberal, egalitarian attitude toward women under

communism.²⁴

In August of 1956, the Soviets invited the US to send a team to Moscow for a track and field competition with Soviet athletes.²⁵ During the Cold War it was not uncommon to have dual-nation contests and from the early 1950s the USSR had competed in dual track and field meets against Romania and other nations such as Great Britain and Hungary.²⁶ The 1956 invitation was the first to the United States in track and field, however, and it set off a flurry of debate between the two nations over the financial arrangements and scoring practices.²⁷ A further wrinkle in these negotiations was that the Soviets and Americans quickly decided there should be two meets: one in Moscow in 1958 and another in Philadelphia in 1959.²⁸ However, the McCarran Act of 1952, an immigration law that required fingerprinting everyone from the USSR or one of its allies who entered the United States, became an issue. The Soviets refused to be fingerprinted and so initially turned down the invitation to come to Philadelphia.²⁹ When the McCarran Act was rescinded in October of 1957, however, the second meet was agreed to by the Soviets, and Philadelphia was affirmed as the best location.³⁰ Historian Joseph Turrini argues that besides the Olympic Games, the US-USSR track and field meets were the “most important and visible events held during the Cold War.”³¹ Once Cold War tensions were heightened by the Soviet’s resounding success at the 1956 Summer Olympics, and their unexpected upset over Canada in ice hockey in the 1956 Winter Olympics, the 1958 Moscow track and field meet symbolized much more than a simple two-day sporting event. Olympic decathlete Rafer Johnson spoke for most Americans when he described the planned matchup with the Soviets as, “Communism versus the Free World.”³²

During the politically-charged negotiations for the track meets, a major point of contention was how the scoring would be handled. The Russians wanted to total both the men’s and women’s team points into one overall team title. American officials, knowing that their women could not match the athleticism of the women of the USSR, insisted that scoring of men’s and women’s squads be tallied separately. Begrudgingly, Soviet officials eventually agreed, although they knew that they could control the reporting of the contest in their own media as they wished.³³ The American track team sent forty-four men and twenty women to Moscow.³⁴ The US men outscored the Russians 126-109 while the Soviet

women defeated the US women 63-44.³⁵ If scoring had been combined, the USSR would have been victorious: 172-170.³⁶

In 1959, the USA-USSR dual meet was held at Franklin Field, home of the Penn Relays, on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania.³⁷ Despite a ferocious thunderstorm that broke out on Sunday afternoon, the results were totally as expected. “The men’s team of the United States and the women’s team of the Soviet Union again demonstrated their superiority in track today,” reported the *New York Times*.³⁸ The American women scored only 40 points to the Soviet’s 67, while the US men beat the Soviet men 127 to 108.³⁹ If combined for each nation, the USSR would have defeated the Americans by a score of 175 to 167.⁴⁰ It was abundantly clear to all who attended that the US women were no match for the Soviet women, who approached sport seriously and in some cases had also begun training with weights.⁴¹ However, almost no one expected them to compete at the level of the Soviets, and many Americans easily excused the defeat. As Arthur Daley of the *New York Times* put it, “But if the gals from this country sloughed off a bit in succumbing to the Amazons from the Steppes, 67-40, there’s nothing alarming about that. Women’s track is a contemptuously treated stepchild over here. Our women have two or three meets a year. The Russians have twenty times as many. It’s a wonder that we perform as well as we do.”⁴²

Among the fifty-four thousand spectators at the Philadelphia meet was Jim Lorimer.⁴³ In high school he had participated in the Penn Relays at Franklin Field, so it was a familiar place to him. What’s more, based on his extensive knowledge of the Communist Party, Lorimer was deeply familiar with the intensely competitive Soviet system and knew that he was watching Russian athletes who were essentially professionals compete against America’s amateurs.⁴⁴ As he watched, Lorimer, like others in attendance in Philadelphia, was struck by the American women’s lack of preparation and poor technique.⁴⁵ Using the antiquated scissor-style approach in the high jump, for example, the American women jumped a full foot less than the Soviet women.⁴⁶ In the shot put, Tamara Press set a world record that was four feet better than American Earline Brown’s best throw. In the discus, Brown threw twenty feet less than Olympic gold medalist Nina Ponomareva.⁴⁷ Lorimer began thinking about the stepchild status of America’s women athletes and about what could be done to help them. “I



By the time this team photo was taken in the early 1960s, the team had grown to fourteen girls. Back Row (L-R) : Harry McKnight, Coach; Karen Davis; Pat Zezech; Sandy Clapp; Estelle Baskerville; Melissa Long; Sandy Fears; Laura Voss; and Coach Jim Lorimer. Front Row (L-R): Karen Williams, Rida Thompson, Ruth Roll; Sue Konet; Suzanne Knott; Chris Miller; and Wanda Fuller.

Photo courtesy Jim Lorimer

knew that the Soviets had undertaken a national sports development program with the intention of demonstrating the superiority of their communist society," he explained. In order to compete with them, he concluded, American women also needed to be prepared for the rigors of international competition.⁴⁸ Someone, Lorimer thought, needed to see what would happen if American women had adequate access to good coaches and proper training facilities. What was needed was coaching and organizational support for US women athletes.⁴⁹

Lorimer's decision to become personally involved with women's track and field was truly unusual in the late 1950s. As historian Mary Jo Festle has said of this era, masculinity and femininity were seen as "two poles of a dichotomy."⁵⁰ Nearly everyone believed that American women should be dedicated to family and

home, and that their role in life was to be graceful, dependent, and submissive. The physical and competitive nature of sports made it a masculine domain in the eyes of most of the American public, and track and field, in particular, was regarded as a "manly sport." One member of the US Olympic Committee suggested in 1952, for example, that women's track and field should be eliminated from the Olympics altogether so that we all might be, "spared the unaesthetic spectacle of women trying to look and act like men."⁵¹ And the Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Arthur Daley opined in 1953, "There's nothing feminine or enchanting about a girl with beads of perspiration on her alabaster brow."⁵²

During the Cold War the debate over women's sport became part of the propaganda machine used by both sides. Soviet sportswomen were generally cast as

unappealing, muscular “amazons” in US newspapers and magazines.⁵³ American women athletes—when they received press coverage at all—were more likely to be lauded for their appearance rather than their performance. Historian Helen Lenskyj argues that the dominant American ideology in this era made it easy to forgive American women athletes for their lack of performance. As “feminine” American women they were easily forgiven for losing to the “manly” Soviet competitors.⁵⁴

In considering Lorimer’s decision, it is also important to remember that women’s track and field was not particularly popular in the United States in the 1950s.⁵⁵ During those years the public largely associated the sport with African American women, and since Title IX was still more than a decade away, there were very few high school or college track teams for women. Two historically black institutions—Tennessee State University and the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama—were the only two universities that consistently sponsored competitive women’s track programs.⁵⁶ Tennessee State was the only university to award track scholarships in this era, and its team, the Tigerbelles, won the AAU national outdoor track championship eleven times between 1955 and 1967.⁵⁷ So strong was the racial divide in track that during the 1950s more than two-thirds of the American women competing in international events such as the Pan-American Games and the Olympics were African Americans.⁵⁸

In an article entitled “‘The Tuskegee Flash’ and ‘the Slender Harlem Stroker’: Black Women Athletes on the Margin,” historian Jennifer Lansbury discussed two highly successful African-American sportswomen in the 1940s and 1950s: track athlete Alice Coachman, who won America’s only gold medal in track and field at the 1948 Games, and tennis star Althea Gibson.⁵⁹ Lansbury suggests that their racial and gender identities eclipsed their identities as elite athletes, and this impacted how they were viewed by the nation. Coachman, who was a member of Tuskegee Institute’s women’s track team, competed in a sport that was “a decidedly masculine endeavor.”⁶⁰ A belief held by some in the 1950s was that one reason African American women were drawn to sport was because they were more “mannish” than white women and thus better “suited” for sport.⁶¹ Although Gibson’s sport of tennis was considered a more feminine game, her acceptance within that sport was impacted by the sport’s identity with the socially elite.⁶² Although both women were internationally recognized for their athletic achievement, the reality was that they still battled racism and were marginalized in American society.

Coachman battled gender stereotypes; Gibson battled class issues. Their histories suggest the duality of the African American woman’s experience in sport during the early Cold War—a time when most Americans still believed strongly in racial and gender stereotypes.

Conservative notions of femininity and the climate of race relations in postwar America resulted in minimal public support for women’s sport. This especially stalled the growth of women’s track and field, which seemed to serve as a nexus for shifts in attitudes toward the Cold War, race, and gender. However, the disappointing performances by American women at the US-USSR dual meets not only heightened awareness of women’s track, but ultimately inspired new opportunities for women athletes.⁶³ Before 1958, women were rarely included on the US track team’s “foreign tours,” a fact that meant most American women had little international experience before attending an Olympic Games.⁶⁴ Following the dual meets, however, a number of new women’s track clubs formed which meant that within the space of a few years Americans went from a small handful of clubs to more than two hundred. Jim Lorimer founded one of those clubs.⁶⁵

Organizing a Women’s Track Team in Columbus

As Lorimer travelled home from the US-USSR dual meet in Philadelphia, he thought about what he had seen and began planning what he might personally do to help America’s sporting image.⁶⁶ Shortly after he returned, he met with several prominent coaches and community leaders and explained that he wanted to establish a women’s track program in Columbus. He explained it as an Olympic development program aimed at providing competitive opportunities for females in track and field.⁶⁷ Lorimer’s faith in democracy and love for sport combined with his conviction that there were untapped numbers of American girls who could develop into Olympic champions if they only had the opportunity to train.⁶⁸

Lorimer contended that girls must compete to test themselves in competition and to measure the effects of their training. To assess progress, he needed for his team to be able to enter meets at the national and, hopefully, even the international level.⁶⁹ It was, therefore, necessary to connect with the AAU because they sponsored competitions and chose the athletes invited to the Olympics.⁷⁰ So, Lorimer approached the AAU-affiliated Ohio Track Club (for men), primarily made up of former college runners, and asked if he could join them and form a women’s team. One of the founders of the Ohio

Track Club was Harry McKnight, who had been an outstanding pole vaulter in high school and at Ohio State University. McKnight, who had served in the Marines during World War II, was working as a high school football and track coach in Columbus when he met Lorimer. Intrigued by the idea of creating a women's development team, he agreed to help with the team's coaching. Once McKnight was willing to be involved, the Ohio Track Club agreed to admit the women to their association and Lorimer began working on his next organizational goals.⁷¹

Columbus was an ideal location to build the Ohio Track Club, largely because of the resources Ohio State University had to offer. One of Lorimer's first acts was to contact Larry Snyder, the university's highly respected track and field coach who had also been an Olympic coach. Snyder mentored superstar Jesse Owens to eight individual NCAA championships at Ohio State and was also the coach when Owens won four Olympic gold medals in 1936 in Berlin. Snyder had also been a spectator at the Philadelphia US-USSR dual meet and he agreed with Lorimer's assessment of the state of women's track and field in America. When Lorimer explained his vision, Snyder assured him that he would do what he could to help. After garnering Snyder's support, Lorimer made an appointment with OSU athletic director Dick Larkins. Since a lack of facilities for girls interested in track and field hindered development in the sport, Lorimer knew it was crucial to find an indoor place to train. Ohio State's French Field House was a premier facility, and Lorimer asked Larkins for permission to use it. This request put Larkins, head of a major National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) athletic department, in a difficult position because of the Ohio Track Club's affiliation with the AAU.⁷² However, in September 1959, Larkins agreed to allow Lorimer to use the indoor track at French Field House, provided he worked out a schedule with Coach Snyder and legendary football coach Woody Hayes. Once again, Lorimer's passion won the day, as it also did when he approached several local businesses about helping to sponsor the team financially.⁷³ Lorimer now had the foundations of a successful athletic program in place and lacked only one element: athletes.

Finding the Athletes

When it was time to form the team, Lorimer contacted several coaches in Worthington, Ohio, the suburban community on the edge of Columbus where he lived, and asked them to identify the best thirteen-

to fourteen-year-old athletes they knew of. One coach suggested Lorimer contact Melissa Long, who was beating most boys in foot races, and also suggested Barbara Ahl, who was known for her ability to throw a softball farther than other girls. Lorimer met with the girls' parents, who agreed to allow their daughters to be the first athletes on the team. Lorimer then entered the two novices in the Central Ohio Junior Olympics, held on August 15, 1959, an event sponsored by the Columbus Recreation Department. In borrowed shoes, Barbara won the softball throw and Melissa finished second in both the fifty and seventy-five yard dash events. Not only were the girls victorious, but Lorimer couldn't help but be heartened by the nearly fifteen hundred young athletes—half of them teenage girls—who participated in the meet and displayed great natural athletic talent.⁷⁴

After the Junior Olympics, Lorimer met with the head of Columbus's recreation department, Nick Barack, who was also the AAU's national president at the time. Lorimer asked Barack, who had also attended the dual meet in Philadelphia, to provide him with the entry forms of the most talented young girls who had competed in the Junior Olympics. Barack was supportive of the idea of starting an "Olympic development" program, and provided Lorimer with the contact information for twelve potential team members who were in the thirteen- and fourteen-year-old age range.⁷⁶ The reaction of the girls and their parents was enthusiastic. The girls wanted greater opportunities to compete and their parents realized that their children were being given a special opportunity. So, Ann Kolodzik, Estelle Baskerville, Laura Voss, Betty Toney, Wanda Fuller, Melissa Long, Christine Hayes, Sylvia Cox, Pat Wilkins, Sue Knott, Etherida Thompson and Karen Williams joined the team. Six of the girls were white, six were black.⁷⁷ In an interview, Lorimer explained that he really didn't think much at the time about the ethnic diversity of his team as his focus was on involving and encouraging the girls with the greatest athletic potential. However, he was not unaware of race issues as the State of Ohio, after considerable debate, passed The Ohio Civil Rights Act that same year—a law created to "prevent and eliminate the practice of discrimination in employment against persons because of their race, color, religion, national origin, or ancestry."⁷⁸

According to Lorimer and several members of the club, race was never an issue for the team. Betty Toney (Foster), one of the six African-American athletes on the team in 1959, reports that everyone, and especially Lorimer, seemed committed to creating a comfortable



Sylvia Cox, Pat Watkins, and Suzanne Knott show the results of excellent coaching in this photo taken during hurdle practice.

Photo courtesy Jim Lorimer

environment.⁷⁹ Betty did not always find the Columbus community so welcoming, however. When she was in third grade, she attended an integrated school for the first time because of the changes instigated by the Supreme Court's decision on *Brown vs. Board of Education*.⁸⁰ One day, the young student approached her white teacher for help after several boys used a derogatory, racist word on the playground to refer to Betty. The boys were not reprimanded, but the teacher made Betty wear a dunce hat for the entire day. Also, nearly ten years later, as a successful student, the first black cheerleader at Franklin Heights High School, and a highly successful athlete, Betty was named as one of Columbus' "Top Ten Teens," an award that meant she would appear on a local television show with the other winners. However, Betty was the only African-American winner and when it was her turn to be introduced on camera, she was "accidentally forgotten." In contrast, she reported that she always felt respected, appreciated, and confident on Lorimer's team.⁸¹

For most of the girls, the team represented their first opportunity to participate in organized sport. There were no interscholastic competitions for girls in the Columbus public schools in the 1950s and so until Lorimer came along, most had never thought about being athletes. So, they came to the team in different ways. Suzanne Knott (Rose) was invited after winning the long jump at the Central Ohio Junior Olympics. Laura Voss (Dodd), the daughter of a Columbus police officer, practiced with the boys' junior high track team in the

early 1960s but had never raced in a meet when she was invited to join Lorimer's team. Voss's athleticism so impressed her physical education teacher that the teacher contacted Lorimer, who then invited Laura to a practice and asked her to join the Ohio Track Club.⁸²

In October 1959, the members of the team began training as a group. They practiced five days a week from six to seven in the evening, after the Ohio State men's track athletes completed their workouts. None of the girls had known each other prior to the formation of the

team but, according to Lorimer, they quickly developed a kinship and camaraderie based on their mutual desire to compete at a high level.⁸³ Although the girls were young and largely untrained, Lorimer immediately began entering them in competitions when the track season began in 1960. They started with the Knights of Columbus Games in Cleveland, Ohio in March of 1960, and then one month later attended the AAU National Indoor Championships in Chicago where they won the 14-16 age group team championship. In June, at the Ohio AAU Championships they won the overall women's team championships and their relay team won the 440-yard race. In August, after talking with his bosses at Nationwide Insurance, Lorimer was permitted to use the company's private plane to fly the Ohio Track Club Girls' Team to the 1960 US Outdoor Nationals and Olympic Trials in Corpus Christi, Texas. For most of the girls this was their first time to fly.⁸⁴ The young Ohio Track Club won twenty medals at the meet, and though they did not win the team title, they had clearly arrived as a new force in women's track and field.⁸⁵ That fall, at the Central Ohio Junior Olympics (the event which had connected Lorimer with many of the athletes exactly one year prior) the Ohio Track Club Girls' Team dominated the events and attracted a large number of new and promising applicants. Lorimer could also take pride in the fact that that nine of his team members were now ranked nationally.⁸⁶

In 1961, after his team's respectable showing in Corpus Christi and an impressive win at the Ohio Junior

Olympics, Lorimer's interest in women's track and field caught the eye of AAU officials.⁸⁷ With hardly a year of experience directly managing a track and field program, Lorimer was named secretary of the US Olympic Committee for Women's Track and Field. In this new leadership role, Lorimer decided to put in a bid for the 1961 Women's National AAU Indoor Championships, and to hold them at Ohio State University's French Field House. The meet was Lorimer's first opportunity to be in charge of the organization and operation of a major sporting event, and according to reports he did an exceptional job as the promoter.⁸⁸ Equally impressive was the fact that his much younger team defeated the world-renowned Tennessee State Tigerbellees in the 880-yard relay with a world record time of 1:53.1.⁸⁹ This was a major accomplishment for the young club and it brought a great deal of pride to Lorimer and Columbus.⁹⁰ At the party following the team's great performance, Lorimer told the girls, "You won a great team victory today. But more important you learned a very important lesson about life. That is—you get back from every aspect of life in direct proportion to what you put into it . . . it is the commitment, the preparation, the striving, the desire, the willingness to pay the price that determines your success. You each—and together—gave it all you had today . . . You are and will continue to be champions."⁹¹

Over the next several years, those words proved to be prophetic. In addition to participating in the regular indoor and outdoor nationals and various Ohio meets, the team also attended the Mason-Dixon Games in Louisville, Kentucky; the Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden in New York; and *The New York Times* Games.⁹² In 1963, Lorimer organized a combined Pan American Trials and National AAU Indoor Championships in Columbus and the Ohio Track Club won the team title, setting several American records in the process.⁹³ Lorimer's young athletes won numerous team championships—and countless individual races—at major AAU meets in the 1960s and several club members competed in the US-Poland dual meet in Chicago in June of 1962, and in the US-USSR dual meet held in Los Angeles the following month. The most successful team member was Estelle Baskerville (Diehl); she held the American record in the high jump and competed on both the 1964 and 1968 Olympic Teams.⁹⁴ Baskerville was even featured in *Life* magazine before the Olympics in 1964.⁹⁵

As his team matured, Lorimer did as well, emerging as a major figure in national track and field circles. In 1961, just two years after the Philadelphia meet

with the Soviets, America travelled to Russia for another dual meet and Lorimer was appointed team manager by the AAU.⁹⁶ In 1963, in an address to the Civitan Club in Columbus, Lorimer expanded on the value he saw in women's track and field and how he believed it played an important role in the Cold War. "Track and field has become more than a sport," he told the group, "it is an instrument of international propaganda and our girls hold the key to world acclaim . . . Our men keep winning and our women keep losing, and it is their losing margin that gives the Russians their victory." Lorimer went on to tell the civic group that he needed their help to keep fighting on the local level. "If we can get kids like Sue Knott and Karen Davis in just three years here," he explained, (Knott was the holder of the US record in the 440, Davis a member of the US 880 relay team) "think what a national program will do towards giving us equal competitive opportunity and propaganda ammunition."⁹⁷

When speaking to groups such as the Columbus Civitan club, Lorimer had to battle the prevailing stereotype of the athletic female who, as one reporter put it, are "usually thought of as muscular girls with dumpy figures and chiseled faces."⁹⁸ To counter this, Lorimer mandated that his team reflect what he described as a "feminine image."⁹⁹ Lorimer expected his team members to behave as "young ladies," well-groomed and properly attired.¹⁰⁰ He had special uniforms made so the girls did not have to wear the sweat suits and track shorts made for boys. Everyone on the team was required to wear dresses or skirts for travel or community appearances.¹⁰¹ Although he believed women athletes should be driven and competitive, he understood that cultural acceptance for the Ohio Track Club members would come only if they were perceived as "feminine."¹⁰² He apparently succeeded, as the same reporter cited earlier went on to write, "One look at Lorimer's lasses and the image is melted. The girls not only run like deer, but look like dears."¹⁰³

For an amateur athletic club to progress and prosper, community support was essential. Lorimer's skills as an executive in promotion and organization were ideal for the job. His goal was to emphasize the girls' efforts, and stay out of the limelight. Despite the popular press's focus on men's sports, Lorimer fostered relationships with local media affiliates, recognizing that positive reporting would greatly benefit his team. He spoke to dozens of local service organizations—like the Civitans—to build public relations and establish sponsorships, and he organized at least one telethon for the team. When the team flew to Corpus Christi, for exam-

ple, the trip was paid for by the University Kiwanis Club, the Northern Kiwanis Club, The Knights of Columbus, the Worthington Boosters, the Merrymakers, and Nationwide Insurance. Lorimer himself took on the challenge of fundraising, so the girls did not have to solicit monetary support. Fully committed to the team, he also absorbed some of the costs himself. Energetic and selfless, Lorimer devoted himself to creating the best competitive atmosphere he could.¹⁰⁴

After four years as Secretary of the US Olympic Committee for Women's Track and Field Lorimer was named Chairman of the Committee in 1964. That carried with it the responsibility of preparing for, and helping select, the US team for the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City. In 1965 he again hosted the National AAU Women's Track and Field Championships in Columbus; he had, by this time emerged as the preeminent figure in women's track and field in the US.¹⁰⁵

In a recent interview, Lorimer recalled his surprise and interest when, as Chairman of the US Olympic Committee for Women's Track and Field, he began making appearances before groups of women physical educators. More than a few of these experts, including Ph.D.-level educators, he reported, questioned whether it was healthy for women athletes to engage in highly competitive physical activity. Some expressed the view, Lorimer stated, that "women should not compete at distances longer than four hundred meters." Another, he reported, told him it was "inadvisable for women to compete too strenuously since it could adversely affect child bearing." Lorimer described this as the "basketweaving" approach to women's exercise and said it was a great surprise to him how often such attitudes were expressed. Thankfully, Lorimer found it difficult to place any faith in such warnings. His experiences with the Ohio Track Club Girls' Team had led him to believe that women actually thrived on competition. Said Lorimer, "For them it was the opportunity to give expression to who they were—athletes who were denied the chance to compete. Our sports history and the system had been stacked against them. Girls were limited and discouraged from doing what many of them most wanted to do—compete and physically express themselves in a range of sports activity."¹⁰⁶

Historian Joseph Turrini has argued that the USA-USSR dual meets served as a powerful impetus for the growth of women's sports in the 1960s. Said Turrini, "[the dual meets] changed the attitudes of many track officials, coaches, and meet directors toward women's track prior to Title IX."¹⁰⁷ The dual meets definitely

inspired Lorimer, who began working with women track athletes because he believed, "there was clear inequality and lack of fair opportunity for women in athletics in our nation." Lorimer, and those few others like him who provided women with competitive athletic opportunities in the 1960s thus played a significant role in enabling the passage of Title IX in 1972.¹⁰⁷

Lorimer's involvement in his local community expanded dramatically in 1967 when he was selected as mayor of Worthington, Ohio; he has continued to serve as either mayor or vice mayor for the past forty-four years. That same year, while still serving as Chairman of the Olympic Committee, he ran the 1967 National AAU Weightlifting Championships and Mr. America contest in Columbus. In addition, in the summer of 1967 he led the US track team to Mexico City where they began preparing for the upcoming Olympic Games. Following the Olympic Games in 1968, Lorimer decided to step away from both his Olympic and the Ohio Track Club responsibilities. He left the team in the capable hands of Harry McKnight, who had helped coach the team since 1959.¹⁰⁸

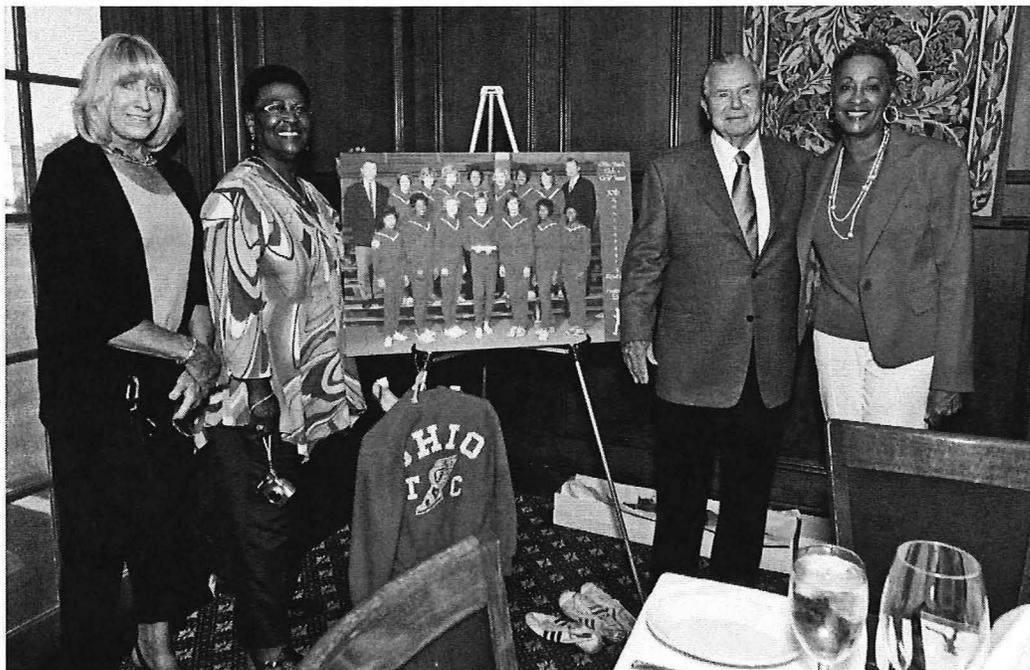
Enumerating all the records and achievements of the Ohio Track Club and its female athletes is beyond the scope of this paper. However, when some of the original team members met in Columbus in 2009 to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the team, and were asked by reporter Rob Oller if participation on the team had had an impact on their lives, the women were unanimous in their conviction that "Sports shaped who we have become."¹⁰⁹ It has to be remembered that, for the most part, these women did not have the opportunity to earn a college athletic scholarship because they lived in an era before the federal government mandated, through Title IX, that women must have equal athletic opportunities. In fact, only one of the original team members who attended the reunion—Estelle Baskerville (Diehl)—received a college scholarship in track. (Baskerville joined the Tennessee State Tigerbelles and set numerous NCAA records during her college career.) However, all of them earned at least one college degree and all have had productive lives. Ann Kolodzik (Burton) took a master's degree in Education at Florida State University and then spent most of her career as a teacher in the public schools. Estelle Baskerville (Diehl) used her master's degree to become the Director of Health and Welfare for the Columbus Urban League and more recently has worked as a consultant for the Ohio Department of Education. Christine Miller (Hayes) earned two master's degrees and has devoted her career to child welfare.

Sylvia Cox (Heeter) completed both her undergraduate and law degrees at Harvard University and then practiced law for many years in Boston. Karen Williams (Hubbard) became involved in the entertainment industry and moved to New York where she took up dance, appeared as a dancer on the 1960s television show *Hullabaloo*, and then toured with Pearl Bailey. However, like the others, Hubbard went back to school, earned a master's degree, and is now a tenured professor in dance at the University of North Carolina at

Charlotte. Laura Voss (Dodd) spent nearly forty years as a Columbus Police officer; Betty Toney (Foster), who joined the team at age thirteen, became a teacher. Wanda Fuller also became a teacher and for the past twenty years has taught in the Virgin Islands. Melissa Long (Goers) spent her early adult life raising three children and supporting her husband's military career—which took them overseas several times—and now works for a fraud prevention technology company in Virginia. Pat Watkins (Milner) became a surgical nurse; Sue Knott (Rose) works in San Francisco, where she is the principal editor for The University of California Press. Karen Davis (Sides) earned a master's degree in physical education and has spent her life as a coach; Etherida Thompson (White) also became a coach and has worked in the schools and for the city of Columbus, coaching young women. Like Lorimer, Etherida also formed a girls' track team—the Columbus Community Track Club—with help from Estelle Baskerville and Pat Milner.¹¹⁰ Reporter Rob Oller reported that the women were unanimous in agreeing that the dedication and selfless contributions of Jim Lorimer had made a lasting impression.¹¹¹

Lorimer's Next Steps

It is important to point out that Lorimer's career in sport promotion was technically "extracurricular." He was also raising a family and rising in the ranks at



At the team's fiftieth reunion in 2009, Laura Voss Dodd, Rida Thompson, Jim Lorimer and Estelle Baskerville Diehl posed next to a team picture and an original jacket and shoes worn by one of the squad.

Photo courtesy Jim Lorimer

Nationwide where he became Vice President of Government Relations. His 1967 promotion of the AAU National Weightlifting Championships and Mr. American Contest brought Lorimer back to an activity he began in high school with his best friend Jim Murray—the sport of weightlifting.¹¹² After he became part of the inner circles of weightlifting in 1967, Lorimer decided to do additional promotions and joined in submitting a bid to organize the 1970 World Weightlifting Championships. He also persuaded his sponsors to allow him to include a "Mr. World" bodybuilding contest as part of the overall event. Lorimer, who seems to only dream big dreams, particularly wanted Arnold Schwarzenegger to appear at the contest and arranged for ABC's *Wide World of Sports* to cover the Columbus event—the first time that either weightlifting or bodybuilding appeared on national television outside the Olympic Games. Lorimer viewed this as an ideal opportunity to publicize bodybuilding which was then a little-known sport. But there was a problem; Schwarzenegger had scheduled an event in London for the day before the Columbus 1970 World Championships. Because of the conflict, Schwarzenegger reluctantly declined the invitation but later changed his mind when Lorimer arranged to send a private jet to pick him up in New York so that he could appear in Columbus. At Lorimer's Mr. World event, Arnold defeated the great champion Sergio Oliva and the show was a great success for both men as well as for Vasily

Alexeyev who, in the weightlifting contest, became the first man in history to clean and jerk five hundred pounds.¹¹³ At the end of the contest, Schwarzenegger walked away with the title and a five hundred dollar prize, Alexeyev made history, and Lorimer had earned the respect and trust of major players in the weightlifting and bodybuilding communities and no doubt some added revenue from ticket sales. So impressed was Schwarzenegger by the whole event that he told Lorimer immediately after the competition that it was the best contest he had ever been in and that he wanted to go into the promotion of bodybuilding when he retired from competition. Lorimer said he was appreciative of the remarks but, not knowing Arnold at the time, was also skeptical that anything would ever come of them.¹¹⁴

However, when Schwarzenegger retired from bodybuilding in 1975, after winning every major competition since his victory in Columbus, he contacted Lorimer and they began planning the 1976 Mr. Olympia, their first co-promotion. With Lorimer at the helm, this two-day production, with an unprecedented winner's purse of \$50,000, served as the starting point of what would become the Arnold Classic, and later, the Arnold Sports Festival.¹¹⁵ According to Schwarzenegger, "Jim is a man of great vision, principle and loyalty . . . [in all] our years together, we have continually operated on a simple handshake agreement: no contract has been necessary."¹¹⁶

The lessons Lorimer learned through his promotion of the Ohio Track Club Girls' Team laid the foundation for what has been a genuinely remarkable career as a sport promoter. To create and promote his girls' team, Lorimer developed a clear mission statement with broad appeal to the Columbus community—"we can help fight communism by helping girls compete in sports." In countless meetings and fund-raising events Lorimer garnered support from the local community for his vision. Some of them donated money, some served as volunteers, some just bought tickets to watch the track meets. But they all became invested in the track club. Today, he employs the same fundamentals of promotion to run what has become the largest multi-sport event in the world. In March of 2011, seven hundred volunteers helped Lorimer host the Arnold Sports Festival, a mammoth spectacle made possible by fifty corporate sponsors, including Nationwide Insurance.¹¹⁷

As part of the 2011 event, Jim decided to return to his roots, and for the first time the Arnold Sports Festival featured a full track and field meet in addition to the several road races that have long been associated with

the weekend. The Arnold Track and Field Challenge attracted eight hundred boys and eight hundred and fifty girls representing more than eighty high schools.¹¹⁸ The venue was Ohio State's French Field House, where the athletes of the Ohio Track Club Girl's Team got their start.¹¹⁹ Lorimer and Schwarzenegger stopped by during the pole vaulting that weekend, as it remains Lorimer's favorite event from his own high school days on the track team. Following the meet, Schwarzenegger told a reporter that the response to the track meet, was ". . . beyond what we ever thought it would be."¹²⁰

Perhaps Schwarzenegger was surprised by the success of the initial Arnold Track and Field Challenge, but he shouldn't have been. Had he just taken a minute to look back at Lorimer's history as an advocate for sport—as we have attempted to do in this article—he would have seen an unparalleled record of culture-changing sport promotion. Long before it was common, popular, or socially acceptable, Jim Lorimer created a racially integrated team of young women and provided them with opportunities to compete inside the male-dominated realm of track and field. According to Ohio Track Club athlete Suzanne Knott, "He saw a need to promote women's sports, and he threw his energy into doing something about it."¹²¹ Lorimer challenged boundaries of race and gender in his advocacy of women's track and field and his desire to promote America. He provided young athletes with the means to compete and, within that structure, they excelled. He continued this mission through service on the President's Council for Physical Fitness during the administration of George H.W. Bush and, far more importantly, as the creator and co-promoter of the Arnold Sports Festival, which now provides more than eighteen thousand athletes with goals, means, and a competitive structure for athletic success each year. Athletes in many sports now train for "The Arnold" with the same fervor they would bring to a national championship.¹²²

In retrospect, Lorimer's path may not have been so "unexpected." He has long believed that "sport is a microcosm of life," and he has continually expressed this through his work as an activist and promoter of sport over the last half century. Lorimer laughed when asked his secret of success and playfully told a recent interviewer that his working maxim was to "strive for perfection and settle for excellence."¹²³ In Lorimer's case, however, the remark has some historical basis. As the women who fifty years ago helped him found the Ohio Track Club will quickly tell you, what he did for them—and the girls who came after them—was more

than excellent, it was perfect.

Notes:

1. "Press Room: Arnold Sports Festival – A Brief History," 2011 Arnold Sports Festival, 7, at: <http://www.arnoldsportsfestival.com/media-kit/>; Jim Lorimer, telephone interview with Kat Richter and Jan Todd, October 29, 2010.
2. Jim Lorimer, e-mail message to Kat Richter, November 28, 2010.
3. Arnold Sports Festival, "Press Room," 7.
4. "Beijing 2008," at: <http://www.olympic.org/en/content/Olympic-Games/All-Past-Olympic-Games/Summer/Beijing-2008-summer-olympics/>.
5. Lorimer interview, October 29, 2010.
6. Ibid.
7. Laura Voss Dodd, telephone interview by Kat Richter, October 27, 2010; Betty Toney Foster, e-mail message to Kat Richter, November 16, 2010; Suzanne Knott Rose, e-mail message to Kat Richter, December 1, 2010.
8. Jim Murray, "Jim Lorimer: The Iron Game's Greatest Promoter," *Iron Game History: The Journal of Physical Culture* 5, no. 3 (1998): 4-7.
9. Lorimer interview, October 29, 2010; Murray, "Jim Lorimer," 4.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. Jim Lorimer, e-mail message to Kat Richter, December 4, 2010.
13. Lorimer interview, October 29, 2010.
14. Tony Blinn, "James (Jim) J. Lorimer," IFBB Professionals Features page at: <http://www.ifbbpro.com/features/jim-lorimer/>.
15. Susan K. Cahn, *Coming on Strong: Gender and Sexuality in Twentieth-Century Women's Sport* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1994), 130.
16. Joseph A. Marchiony, "The Rise of Soviet Athletics," *Comparative Education Review* 7, no. 1 (1963): 17.
17. Ibid.; Between 1951 and 1961, US men's track and field athletes set 260 records to the Soviet men's sixty-six; US women set only nine to the Soviet women's ninety-three.
18. Ibid.; US women set no world records in track and field for six of the eleven years between 1951 and 1961.
19. Ibid.; In the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, the US earned seventy-four medals to the USSR's ninety-eight. In the 1960 Rome Olympics, the US earned 71 medals to the USSR's 103.
20. Cover, *Sports Illustrated*, December 2, 1957, at: <http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/vault/cover/featured/7541/index.htm>.
21. Jack Raymond, "Russians Get Ready," *New York Times*, October 14, 1956. The Melbourne Olympics opened on November 22, 1956.
22. Ibid.
23. Barbara Keys, "The Soviet Union, Global Culture, and the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games," (paper presented to the Conference on Globalization and Sport in Historical Context, San Diego, CA, March 2005), 3.
24. Rob Beamish and Ian Ritchie, *Fastest, Highest, Strongest: A Critique of High Performance Sport* (New York: Routledge, 2006), 43.
25. "Russians Invite US Track Squad," *New York Times*, August 14, 1956.
26. Joseph M. Turrini, "'It Was Communism versus the Free World.' The USA-USSR Dual Track Meet Series and the Development of Track and Field in the United States, 1958-1985," *Journal of Sport History* 28, no. 3 (2001): 429.
27. In 1955, the US Weightlifting team had a dual meet with the Soviets in Moscow. See: Arkady Vorobyev, "Paul Anderson's Moscow Triumph," *Iron Game History: The Journal of Physical Culture* 4, no. 2 (1995): 21.
28. Turrini, "It Was Communism," 429.
29. Ibid.; "Russians invite US Track Squad."
30. Turrini, "It Was Communism," 429. The McCarran Act was rescinded in 1957 for several reasons: organizations like the AAU successfully gained political support; the Eisenhower administration advocated for cultural changes that would promote capitalism and democracy; and the paranoia associated with McCarthyism had faded significantly. See also: "U.S.-Russia Track Meets Gain Green Light From AAU Unit," *New York Times*, November 30, 1957; "On Your Marks," *Track and Field News*, October 1957, 8; "On Your Marks," *Track and Field News*, November 1957, 14; "AAU Awaits Bid to Russia Track," *New York Times*, January 23, 1958; and "Funds Assured for Reciprocal Meets Between Russia and U.S. Track Teams," *New York Times*, February 25, 1958.
31. Turrini, "It Was Communism," 428.
32. Ibid., 430.
33. Ibid., 433. See also: "Men: We Win 132-104; Women: We Lose 41-66," *Sports Illustrated*, July 20, 1959 at: <http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/vault/article/magazine/MAG1070767/3/index.htm>.
34. "US, Russia Agree on Dates for Meets," *New York Times*, March 16, 1958. See also: Max Frankel, "100,000 to See US-Russian Track Meet Today," *New York Times*, Jul 27, 1958.
35. Joseph M. Sheehan, "59 Soviet Track Athletes Arrive for Week-end Meet against US Team," *New York Times*, July 14, 1959.
36. Despite the scoring agreement, the USSR claimed that the combined total was what mattered and used the results of the Moscow contest to further their political ends. See also: "Men: We Win."
37. "Here They Come!" *Sports Illustrated*, July 20, 1959, at: <http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/vault/article/magazine/MAG1070773/index.htm>. See also: "This Day in Track & Field: July 18-19" at http://www.american-trackand-field.com/read_feature/day-track-field.
38. Joseph M. Sheehan, "US Men Beat Soviet in Track," *New York Times*, July 20, 1959.
39. Arthur Daley, "Sports of the Times," *New York Times*, July 21, 1959.
40. McGowen, "US Girls' Team." According to a *Sports Illustrated* article predicting how the 1959 meet would unfold, the scoring was done on a 5,3,2,1 basis which helped the American women as the lowest competitor still received one point. See: "Men: We Win."
41. It is also possible that by this time some Russian women athletes had begun to use anabolic drugs, like their male counterparts. Charles Yesalis, *Anabolic Steroids in Sport and Exercise* (Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics, 2000), 54. See also: Marshall Smith, "Muscles Pop Through Iron Curtain: How Reds Mobilized to Win Olympic War," *Life*, July 28, 1952, 15-17.
42. Daley, "Sports of the Times," July 21, 1959.
43. Lorimer interview, October 29, 2010; Murray, "Jim Lorimer," 5; Turrini, "It Was Communism," 432.
44. In 1960 *Pravda* reported that there were twenty-four million active athletes in the Soviet Union and that there would be thirty million by the end of the year. David Maraniss, "Rome 1960," *New York Times*, July 13, 2008, reprinted from: David Maraniss, *Rome 1960: The Olympics that Changed the World* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2008).
45. Dick Bank, "US Beats Russia 127-108," *Track and Field News*, August 1959, 1. See also: Deane McGowen, "US Girls' Team Drills for Meet in Russia," *New York Times*, July 16, 1958.
46. Lorimer interview, October 29, 2010.
47. Joseph M. Sheehan, "US Men Beat Soviet in Track: Russian Women Are Victorious," *New York Times*, July 19, 1959; and Joseph M. Sheehan, U. S. Men Lead Soviet Union Team 59-47, in Track," *New York Times*, Jul 19, 1959. See also: Arthur Daley, "Sports of the Times," *New York Times*, Jul 20, 1959.
48. Tony Blinn, "James (Jim) J. Lorimer."
49. Jim Lorimer, telephone interview with Jan Todd, March 20, 2011. One example of the "step-child" nature of women's track in this era is the fact that *Track and Field News'* report on the dual meet gives the complete details of every men's race and event held that weekend yet does not even mention that women also competed in Philadelphia. Bank, "US Men Beat Soviet, 1-3.
50. Mary Jo Festle, *Playing Nice: Politics and Apologies in Women's Sports* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1996), 5-6.
51. David Zirin, Jeremy Earp, and Chris Boulton, Transcript, *Not Just a Game: Power, Politics and American Sports*, directed by Jeremy Earp, Media Education Foundation, 2010, 11 at: http://www.mediaed.org/assets/products/151/transcript_151.pdf.
52. Festle, *Playing Nice*, 6. See also: Zirin, *Not Just a Game*, 11.
53. See, for example, Smith, "Muscles Pop Through Iron Curtain," 15-19; and; Helen Lenskyj, *Out of Bounds: Women, Sport and Sexuality* (Toronto: Women's Press, 1986), 86.
54. Lenskyj, *Out of Bounds*, 86. One of the best examples of the bias against women athletes, and track and field in particular, is: William Barry Furlong, "Venus Wasn't a Shot-Putter," *New York Times*, Aug 28, 1960.
55. Turrini, "It Was Communism," 432.
56. Cahn, "Coming on Strong," 118-120.

57. Ibid.
58. Ibid., 120.
59. Coachman held national records in the fifty and hundred-meter dashes, the four-hundred-meter relay, and the running high jump. At the 1948 Olympics she won a gold medal in the high jump. Jennifer Lansbury, "The Tuskegee Flash' and 'the Slender Harlem Stroker': Black Women Athletes on the Margin," *Journal of Sport History* 28, no. 2 (2001): 233.
60. Ibid., 235.
61. Ibid.
62. Ibid.
63. Turrini, "It Was Communism," 435.
64. Ibid.
65. Ibid. Lorimer interview, October 29, 2010.; Murray, "Jim Lorimer," 5.
66. Lorimer interview, October 29, 2010; Glenda Guilliams, "The History of the Girls' and Women's Division of the Ohio Track Club" (Master's thesis, Ohio University, 1968).
67. Jim Lorimer, interview by Kat Richter, November 20, 2010; Murray, "Jim Lorimer," 5; Guilliams, "The History," 21.
68. Lorimer interview, October 29, 2010.
69. Guilliams, "The History," 21.
70. Lorimer interview, October 29, 2010. Guilliams, "The History," 24-27.
71. *Ohio Track Club, Girls Team 50th Anniversary Reunion Program: August 15, 2009* (Privately published, 2009). Xerox copy on deposit at The H.J. Lutchter Stark Center for Physical Culture and Sports, The University of Texas at Austin. McKnight coached for fifty-four years in the Columbus public schools and was also the US coach in dual meets with the USSR in 1973 and 1976.
72. Lorimer interview, October 29, 2010; Ying Wushanley, *Playing Nice and Losing: The Struggle for Control of Women's Intercollegiate Athletics, 1960-2000* (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2004), 27. During the late 1950s, the NCAA and AAU's power struggle over control of amateur sports and Olympic team representation was coming to a head. The relations grew more hostile and the federal government was forced to intervene in the early 1960s. It was not until 1978, with the passage of the Amateur Sports Act, that legislation took away the AAU's power and created National Governing Bodies for various Olympic sports.
73. Lorimer interview, October 29, 2010.
74. Ibid.; Guilliams, "The History," 28.
75. Ibid.
76. Lorimer interview, October 29, 2010. See also: *Reunion Program*.
77. Of note, Guilliams' 1968 thesis does not discuss race or any differences in experiences between white and African American athletes.
78. Lorimer interview by Todd. Although Lorimer reports that he did not directly consider this legislation in his planning, the attitudes and opinions of Ohio citizens were changing during this period, allowing for more latitude in social circles and extracurricular activities. Ohio History Central: An Online Encyclopedia of Ohio History. "Civil Rights Movement," at <http://www.ohio-historycentral.org/entry.php?rec=1608&nm=Civil-Rights-Movement>.
79. The Columbus Public Schools were integrated in 1888 and it was not uncommon in the middle years of the twentieth century for black teachers to teach white children. Despite school integration, racial problems still existed in Columbus and housing was largely segregated by race. See: *Notable Milestones in the History of the Columbus Public Schools*: [http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/website.nsf/27D8848A2D0DA88485256CFA00536C2A/\\$File/2003+Notable+Milestones+in+the+History+of+the+CPS.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/website.nsf/27D8848A2D0DA88485256CFA00536C2A/$File/2003+Notable+Milestones+in+the+History+of+the+CPS.pdf?OpenElement).
80. "Brown vs. Board of Education," Library ThinkQuest at: http://library.thinkquest.org/J0112391/brown_v_board_of_education.htm.
81. Foster, e-mail to Richter, November 16, 2010.
82. Rose, e-mail to Richter, December 1, 2010.
83. Lorimer interview, October 29, 2010.
84. "Head for Olympic Trials," undated clipping in: *Reunion Program*.
85. Turrini, "It Was Communism," 435.
86. The Ohio Track Club Girls' Team won the team title at the Central Ohio Junior Olympics from 1960 to 1967. Guilliams, "The History," Appendix C: Ohio Track Club Team Records, 99-100.
87. Ibid. In 1961, the Ohio Track Club's season began with the Evening Star Games in Washington, D.C. in January. The girls next competed at the AAU Indoor Nationals in Madison Square Garden in February, then attended the University of Chicago Relays in May, and next won the team championship at the Ohio AAU Championships in June. In August they competed in the AAU Outdoor Nationals in Gary, Indiana, where they finished fourth in the team standings. In subsequent years in addition to the regular indoor and outdoor nationals and local Ohio meets, the team also attended the Mason-Dixon Games in Louisville, Kentucky; the Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden in New York, the New York Times Games, and, in 1963, the Pan American Trials in 1963 where they won the overall team championship.
88. Ibid.; Guilliams, "The History," 40.
89. Guilliams, "The History," 68.
90. John Auble, "Ohio Club Wins AAU Title," Undated clipping in *Reunion Program*.
91. *Reunion Program*.
92. Guilliams, "The History," 67-68.
93. Turrini, "It Was Communism," 435.
94. Baskerville represented the United States as a high jumper at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo and the 1968 Games in Mexico City. She graduated from Tennessee State in 1969, and went on to earn a Master's degree from Ohio State in social work. See: Rob Oller, "Youth Sports, Big-picture Thinking Go Hand in Hand," *Columbus Post-Dispatch*, at <http://www.allbusiness.com/sports-recreation/amateur-sports-youth/12659590-1.html>.
95. "The Grace of our Olympic Girls," *Life*, July 31, 1964, 39.
96. "Wilma Rudolph Ties AAU Mark," *Corpus Christi Times*, July 3, 1961, B-4.
97. Lorimer interview with Todd. See also: Paul Schlemmer, "International Propaganda 'Female Track Stars Play Leading Role'—Lorimer," *Columbus Dispatch*, April 7, 1963, B-39.
98. Ibid.
99. Lorimer interview, October 29, 2010.
100. Ibid.; Guilliams, "The History," 22.
101. Ibid.
102. Guilliams, "The History," 1. Many American girls possessed the ability to become international contenders Guilliams claims, but were dissuaded by the "muscle-bound amazon" stereotype in track and field.
103. Schlemmer, "International Propaganda," B-39.
104. Lorimer interview, October 29, 2010; Guilliams, "The History," 22. The list of donors is included in: "Head for the Olympic Trials," newspaper clipping in *Reunion Program*.
105. Byron Rosen, "Women's AAU Meet on Slate," *Abilene Reporter News*, June 27, 1965, D-3.
106. Lorimer interview with Todd. The best discussion of the conservative attitudes of many women physical educators of that period and the role those attitudes played in limiting women's participation in competitive sports can be found in Susan Cahn, *Coming on Strong*, 55-83.
107. Ibid.; Turrini, "It Was Communism," 435.
108. Lorimer interview with Todd.
109. Oller, "Youth Sports."
110. *Reunion Program*.
111. Oller, "Youth Sports."
112. Murray, "Jim Lorimer," 5.
113. Ibid.
114. Lorimer interview with Todd.; "Schwarzenegger and Lorimer: History of a Long-lasting Friendship," *Columbus Dispatch*, February 25, 2008.
115. Ibid.; See also: "Jim Lorimer Biography," at: http://www.bodybuilding.com/fun/2006arnold_lorimerbio.htm.
116. Blinn, "James Lorimer."
117. "Sports-Fitness Weekend Promises Wealth of Entertainment," at: [http://www.arnoldsportsfestival.com/user_files/file/2010_asf_media_kit\(1\).pdf](http://www.arnoldsportsfestival.com/user_files/file/2010_asf_media_kit(1).pdf), 5.
118. Lindsey Fox, "Schwarzenegger Stops by Arnold Classic Track and Field Championships, Awards Scholarship," *The Lantern*, March 7, 2011.
119. Lorimer interviews, October 29, 2010 and November 20, 2010.
120. Fox, "Schwarzenegger Stops By."
121. Rose e-mail to Richter, December 1, 2010.
122. Lorimer interview by Todd.; See also: "History of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports(1956 - 2006)" at: http://www.fitness.gov/about/history_narrative/index.html.
123. Lorimer interview by Todd.