

Rockford Peaches: Follow your dreams

By Jessica Decina

There really is no crying in baseball—but there's plenty of hustle.

The highlight of Rider's ninth annual celebration of Women and Girls in Sports Day featured Joan Berger and Jean Ventura, two of the original members of the All-American Girls Baseball League, in addition to honoring the senior members of the women's basketball teams. Their speech served to celebrate both the talents and commitment of women athletes at Rider, according to Nancy Lee Roberts, the Associate Athletic Director.

"[They] started it all and gave women the opportunity to compete," Roberts said. "They are the forerunners for women in sports."

The All-American Girls League, created in 1943, ran for 13 years.

Professional baseball became available to women while many men went off to fight in World War II. It was

the women, Berger and Ventura explained, who kept the baseball dream alive and made sure no one forgot about it.

Berger and Ventura said that their love for the game began at a young age. Ventura recalled playing softball with her father when she was young. Both she and Berger went to high school and tried out for the boys' baseball teams, where they were immediately turned away. As sophomores in high school, they both tried out for the All-American Girls League. Both had to wait until they turned 18. Three years later, they were signed to the league as rookies.

Berger played 40 games in her first season with the Rockford Peaches, playing in the outfield. She played second base in 1952 and became the first rookie to make the All-Star team. She reminisced about both the team and herself, stressing the impact of her experiences.

"I wouldn't trade it for anything," Berger said. "And



Photo by Al Vicedo

Jean Ventura, left, and Joan Berger are presented with Rider sweatshirts during half-time of the women's basketball game.

I encourage women to pursue whatever dreams you have."

Ventura, who played first base, expressed her gratitude for the "tremendous experience" she had as a Rockford Peach. She encouraged the women in the audience to avail themselves to any athletic possibilities.

"Girls today have so many opportunities," she said. "Back then, we didn't have anything."

Both Berger and Ventura were inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1988. They credit their accomplishments to playing the game as a team member, not an individual.

"With any sport you play anywhere, the magic word is

hustle," Berger said. "It's a team effort."

Sophomore Adrienne Glasgow, a member of the women's Swimming and Diving Team, said that the speakers were genuine, fun people.

"They displayed their message in a unique way that was different from other speakers that we've had before," she said.

Glasgow mentioned the importance of women's history in sports today.

"We made such a giant leap from when we weren't allowed to participate in sports to the opportunity we have today," she said.

Extra day of Thanksgiving break to ease travel woes

By Stephanie Mostaccio

Students will have an extra day off for Thanksgiving break next year and one less day of summer vacation. These two minor changes to the academic schedule will go into effect for the Fall 2005 semester.

In order to balance the academic schedule, the Fall semester will begin one day earlier. Instead of fall classes beginning on the Wednesday evening of Labor Day week, they will begin Tuesday evening, which means Thanksgiving break will begin one day earlier.

"It's a safety and convenience issue, not an academic one," Phyllis Frakt, the vice president of academic affairs and Provost said. "Classes will be the same length for the semester."

Christopher Manning, the student representative of the University Academic Policy Committee (UAPC), also said that safety was an issue since some students have to drive several hours on the heaviest travel day of the year to get

home after a full day of classes.

"It is more likely that the student who left after classes might get into an accident than a student who is well rested," said Manning, who felt positively about the changes. "I feel that by moving forward the Thanksgiving break to the conclusion of classes on Tuesday, we can give those students that live long distances the time to get home."

Frakt proposed to make this schedule change to the UAPC in December. The UAPC approved the change, but told her to ask the members of each academic department how they felt about the new schedule.

Frakt then polled each department and asked for the staff's preferences by the end of the first week of the Spring 2005 semester. The majority was in favor of beginning Thanksgiving break one day earlier.

The schedule change was finalized at a meeting with the UAPC on Feb. 1, 2005.

According to Frakt, making

this change was not a complex process, but one speed bump did arise.

"You always find an idea that doesn't seem so simple," she said. "You always need to accommodate to other changes."

Frakt said she thinks the students will prefer to be home the day before Thanksgiving.

"This is an idea that would accommodate student preferences," she said.

Freshman Paula Ewers is in favor of these schedule changes.

"I would like getting out Tuesday night because I would have more time to go home and prepare for the holiday," she said. "It's more convenient."

Anthony Campbell, associate vice president of Student Affairs, believes these schedule changes will be advantageous to the students.

"It's a beneficial change for the majority of students because they don't have to drive on the busiest travel day," he said. "It will be safer for them."

'HEALTH'

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said Carter.

The students took a great interest in the programs, particularly with the massages.

"The feeling is indescribable," said freshman resident Jen Arruda. "It felt like pure

heaven. I felt relaxed and carefree; the tension in my back is gone."

On Wednesday, the theme was Financial Wellness and a table was set up in Daly's Dining Hall with pamphlets about how to handle stress associated with debt.

"Financial Wellness can have a strong impact on overall wellness, including stress and emotional health," said Carter.

"Credit card debt, loans or even trying to balance a job or two with being a student can be a lot to handle, and can affect your health. The financial wellness programs, in collaboration with Student Financial Services, are geared to help students think long-term and hopefully avoid some additional stress."

The events are sponsored by the Health and Wellness Week Committee and are fund-

ed by the Mandatory Student Activities Fee.

"The Theme Weeks committee is given a budget through the Student Activities Fee; in addition they requested funding from the Finance Board this semester to offer larger programs," said Carter.

The last event scheduled for the week is Wellness Bingo in Daly's Board Room at 10:00 p.m.

SECURITY BRIEFS

Return to Sender

After receiving a summons for parking in the fire zone in front of Kroner on Thursday, a male resident student approached the officer who was on traffic enforcement. He motioned for her to roll down her window so he could talk to her. When she did, he threw the summons into her vehicle. He was charged with disorderly conduct and is still responsible for the ticket.

Playing in the Snow

A male resident student was driving recklessly in the O-Lot on Friday, Feb. 24. He was doing doughnuts with his vehicle in front of the snow plow equipment as a Facilities staff member was trying to plow the lot. The staff member called Security and said that Facilities attempted to stop him but were unable. The student made an obscene gesture at the staff member, which a security camera observed. Security then located him in the student parking lot and asked for his identification as well as his visitor's. They were finally able to obtain the identifications and the student was charged with reckless endangerment and failure to comply.

Flyer Fire

An unknown suspect set fire to papers on a bulletin board in the first floor lobby of Lincoln residence hall. On Thursday, Feb. 24, at 11:21 p.m., Security was dispatched after the audible fire alarm sounded and an evacuation was in progress. The fire was extinguished and the Lawrence Police Department (LPD) was notified. Anyone with information is asked to contact Security at x. 5029.

Anger Management

A fire extinguisher was thrown through a second floor hallway window in Hill by an unknown suspect on Sunday, Feb. 27, around 2:30 a.m. The estimated cost of replacing the damaged window is \$110.

Information provided by the Director of Safety and Security, Vickie Weaver.

Correction

In the Feb. 25 issue, in the caption entitled *Strengthening the Sanda Connection*, Sanda University President Ji Yuan was pictured on the right and Vice President Xianhong Jin was pictured on the left.