

Lincoln girls' basketball may dribble into schools

By Dianne Barry

They want to play basketball and represent their high schools in interscholastic play. This goal shouldn't be difficult to attain, since almost every Nebraska high school has a basketball program.

However, in the Lincoln Public Schools this has been difficult, at least for girls.

The Lincoln schools currently have no girls' interscholastic basketball program, but the situation looks as though it will change, perhaps as soon as next year.

At a Tuesday Lincoln Board of Education meeting, about 75 persons—most of them high school girls—supported a student-parent request to form a committee to draft a proposal for girls' interscholastic basketball.

The request was granted, and a committee comprised of students, parents, coaches and board members will be announced at the Dec. 11 board meeting, president John Lux said.

"Of all the expansions for girls' programs, basketball is one of the most difficult, but that doesn't mean it's impossible or that we shouldn't work on it," Superintendent John Prasch said. He said some girls had approached him earlier about a girls' basketball program, but that he "didn't encourage them much."

According to Christie Oswald, a Lincoln High Senior, there are 66 Nebraska high schools that now have such a program.

But it was only a few years ago that the Nebraska State Activities Association (NSAA) wiped out a rule which outlawed girls' basketball programs.

Many of the girls at the meeting already play or have played basketball for city business teams, but they said there are more advantages in playing for high schools.

Sarah Boslaugh, Lincoln East senior, said a school-supported team could take over many of the expenses private team members have had to pay.

Boslaugh, a former member of the Roberts Dairy team, said when she played, team members had to drive to games and practice sessions, which were held

in Omaha because the team was unable to find gym space in Lincoln. They had to pay for their own uniforms and had no team insurance, she said.

"In Lincoln, the recreation league has gym space, but it's blocked up, and you can't use the school gyms unless you pay," she said.

Why don't the Lincoln public schools have girls' interscholastic basketball now?

"Apparently, they thought the interest wasn't there," she said. She has been playing girls' basketball since ninth grade.

"I just put up a notice on the bulletin board and got people out of the physical education classes to join," she said.

The Roberts team finished sixth in the national tournament last year. The tournament was won by a Mississippi girls' boarding school team that practiced three hours a day, she said.

If the girls played for high schools, she said, they couldn't play in the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU).

"A disadvantage might be that it would pit schools against each other in a new area, while now there is no pressure there," she said.

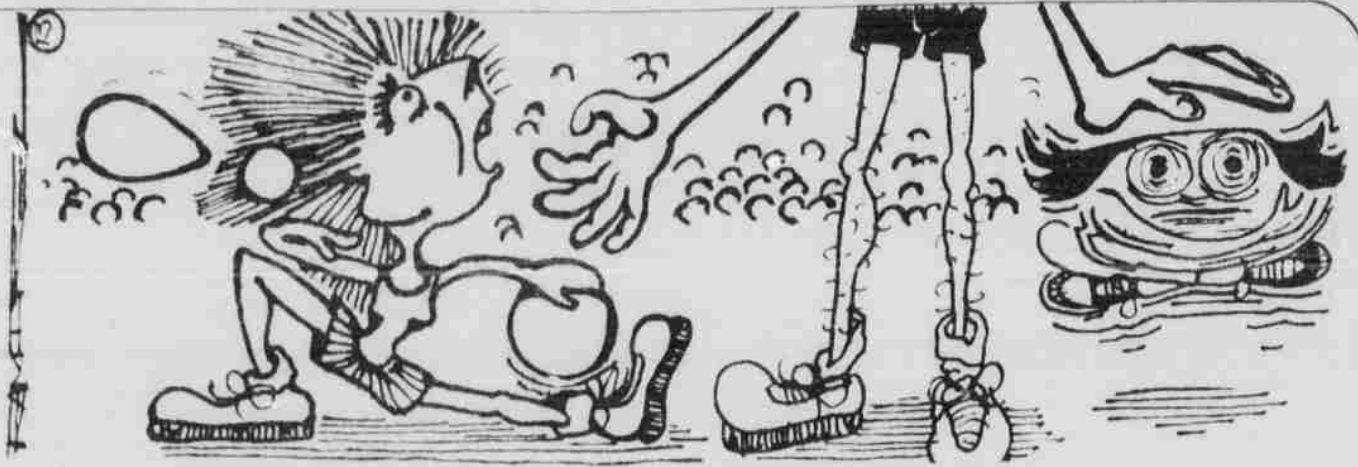
"As a senior, I won't get anything out of it. I don't even have a sister I can watch play, except I would like to be a coach sometime," Boslaugh said.

Girls' athletic programs now exist in gymnastics, swimming, track and field and volleyball in Lincoln public schools.

In the girls' list of demands at the board meeting, they asked for a full program to begin next fall with varsity, reserve and sophomore teams, including enough money for a qualified coach, equipment and gym time.

The committee formed will provide the board with the proposed program and budgeting data in time for board consideration in the drafting of the 1974-75 budget.

"Basically, all we want is to have our chance to use the facilities of the schools, just like any other team," Boslaugh said.



The girls had taken surveys at the high schools. At Lincoln High alone, 180 girls said "yes" to a question asking if they would try out for a girls' basketball team. Only 12 members are required for one team, Boslaugh said.

The girls said they asked the National Organization of Women (NOW) for help in setting up their request for a committee.

Local NOW representative Ellie Shore said in researching for the girls, she came across a case involving setting up a girls' golf program at Norfolk High School.

Debbie Reed, a senior, and her father were plaintiffs vs. the NSAA. The plaintiffs asked for an injunction to allow the girl to play on the boys' golf team.

According to the plaintiffs, the issue was not whether the girl had a "right" to play golf, but whether she should be treated differently from boys in an activity provided by the state.

"The state affords interschool competition and instructors at some expense and effort, and the defendant thinks the program is of benefit to participate," said U.S. District Judge Warren Urbom.

"If the program is of value for boys, is it not of value for girls?" he asked, and granted the injunction.

"This is what we're asking," Boslaugh said.

If the public schools are found to be discriminating, they can lose all federal funds.

The girls said that more than 50 per cent of Nebraska high school students are girls, but a larger percentage of money is spent on boys' athletic programs.

"In Iowa, they've got girls' basketball up to such a level that they're better than anybody else. People come to watch the girls. They go home when the boys come on," Boslaugh said.

The girls said they someday would like to see girls' sports reach that level in Nebraska, but for now they'll settle for a full basketball program next year.

why does a man join Maryknoll?

There are probably as many answers as there are individual Maryknoll priests and Brothers. Some men are deeply moved when they hear of babies dying in their mother's arms because of hunger or disease. Others are distressed by the growing antagonism and separation between the rich and the poor nations. More are concerned about the great injustices that have been inflicted upon the poor by those who possess wealth

and power to an excessive degree. Others look to learn from peoples who have grown up with a different mentality than that which is theirs. All feel that the only solution to the crises that threaten to split men asunder is the love of God as shown in the life of His Son, Jesus Christ. This love of God urges men to go forward and be missionaries so men can love one another. What could be your reason for joining Maryknoll?

If you keep saying you want to do something with your life — here's your chance to prove it



I do want to do something.

For information, write or phone to: MARYKNOLL MISSIONERS, 2101 EAST 7th AVE., DENVER, CO. 80206 (303) 322-7778. DNE

Dear Father:
Please send me information about becoming a Maryknoll Priest Brother Sister

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Age _____ Phone _____

Free Gasoline . . .

Would be nice, but at today's prices a small discount is nice. See a station which is still on the January 15 price base not the inflated May 15 prices.

Save 2¢ A GAL

M'Gill's



17th at "Q"

UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES INFORMATIONAL MEETING GET THE FACTS WHAT THE UNION CAN DO FOR YOU

December 6th, 7:30 PM

Lincoln Labor Temple 4625 "Y" St.

The University of Nebraska non-academic workers are organizing. Local 1827 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) is involved in an organizing drive. The university workers are seeking an election in which workers may choose the union to bargain for a contract. Thirty per cent of the workers must sign authorization cards in order to petition for that election. The effort is well on its way; however, more signed cards are needed.

University of Nebraska workers are underpaid, have poor working conditions, and little or no job security. Signing these cards is a step toward a position of strength rather than weakness.

For more information attend this important meeting. There will be NO solicitation of membership.