

# Title IX vague, but schools comply

By Theresa Forsman

Colleges have until June 24, 1979 to comply with Title IX, and although most Big 8 schools aren't sure what to make of the law, they seem to be doing their best to comply with it.

Marianne Washington, women's athletic director at the University of Kansas (KU), said KU will take an in-depth look at all its athletic programs to determine what changes are needed.

"There cannot be continued discrepancy in athletic programs," she said. Areas with discrepancies between men's and women's sports programs include financing and the use of equipment and building, Washington said.

In addition to state funds, KU allocated \$132,000 this year for women's athletics, she said, compared with more than \$2 million budgeted for men's athletics. In 1973, KU's women's athletics programs received \$9,300.

The school is going to have to find additional fees somehow, Washington said, since the student fees, which now partially support the women's programs, "could be here today and gone tomorrow."

### School concerned

The school has been sensitive to her concerns, she said, and added she has tried not to be overwhelming in her demands. Washington said she thinks the cooperative attitude of KU's administration may be due partially to KU's "very competitive women's team," which are "some of the most well-rounded in the country."

Judy Akers, women's athletics director at Kansas State University (KSU), said it is wrong to

judge progress in terms of budget growth over the past few years. Although budgets have been increased for most women's athletic programs, she said they still receive inadequate funding.

"I'm looking at what we need and at what we have—which is nothing," Akers said.

Akers suggested increasing funds in addition to shifting them around. Men's programs should not

suffer in order to finance women's programs, she said. More universities will have to go out and raise money, Akers predicted.

UNL's women's athletic department is trying to generate its own funds for their programs, according to Jay Davis, women's sports information director.

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## Coaches examine Title IX: New law difficult to decipher

Though the Health, Education and Welfare Dept.'s (HEW) Title IX law is designed to end sex discrimination in school athletics programs, it is doubtful any clear consensus on the law's meaning will be reached by the schools expected to comply with it.

Jay Davis, UNL's sports information director, said Title IX stipulates equal opportunity for men and women.

Marianne Washington, Kansas University's women's athletic director, said she isn't sure Title IX means equal. "Everyone's trying to determine what the law is all about," she added.

"As Title IX is written," Davis said, "I doubt if anybody can understand it." Some lawyers can't even interpret the law, she said.

Women's athletic directors at Iowa State (ISU) and Oklahoma State (OSU) universities are turning to their affirmative action programs for inter-

pretation of the law, according to Ruth Lauver of ISU and Janice Thompson at OSU.

Some women's athletic directors aren't even hazarding a guess about Title IX's meaning.

Marilyn Markell of Missouri University said she doesn't know how the school finally will interpret the law, so right now she "doesn't know what to make of it."

"Since there is no national interpretation," said Judy Akers, head of women's athletics at KSU, "I can't tell you how we'll interpret the law."

Most Big 8 women's athletic directors agreed that the courts will have to provide meaning for Title IX.

Lauver compared the law to recent civil rights legislation. "What it says on the books and how it's enforced are two different things," she said, adding that "we'll get what we need if they rule in favor of the girls."

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