

# PWSA'S SECOND QUARTER SCORES

## And in this Corner . . .

### Sammi Kisto Fights for Victories in the Ring and on the Rez

by Jodi Powers

It would make sense that Sammi Kristo became a fighter. She has battled diabetes and trouble in the form of alcoholism - both of which present relentless left and right jabs to the Native American community.

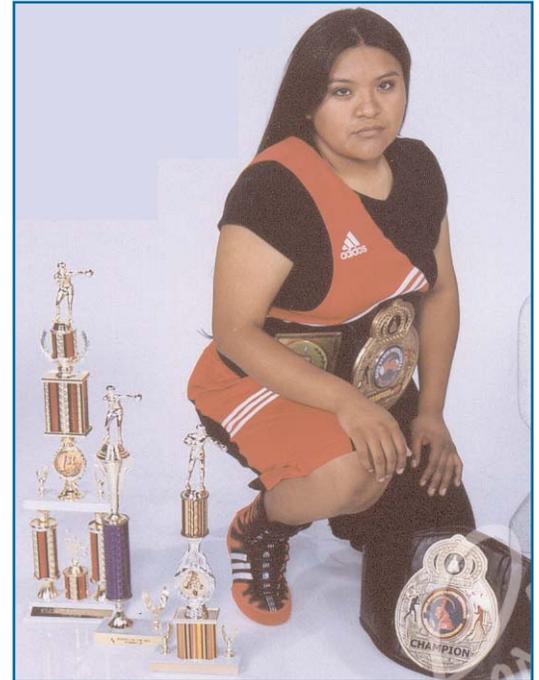
Pima Indians of the Gila River Indian Community near Phoenix, AZ, have the highest rates of diabetes in the world. "In 2003, the alcohol-related mortality rate among Native people was 49.3 deaths per 100,000" according to a June 2005 Arizona Department of Health Services' report on Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse in Native American Communities.

But Sammi, who lives on the Gila River Reservation in Sacaton, AZ, didn't want to become one of those statistics. So, the answer was a counter-

punch. "I started getting into trouble at school and home," admits Sammi, whose mother Vickie Enos, intervened. Virgil Brown, a friend of Vickie's was a trainer for the One-Two Boxing Club in Blackwater, AZ. "He thought boxing would be a good hobby for me," says Sammi. "He took me to one of their practices and, ever since then, boxing became a passion for me." She was 14 then. "Sammi has come a long way, having to deal with the reservation lifestyle of drugs, gangs and alcohol," says Vickie.

Now 19, Sammi never thought boxing would be one of her interests. "I didn't really know what to expect, I just thought I'd do it to stay out of trouble and not end up in jail."

Instead, she ended up in the ring. Fighting. Fighting to stay out of trouble



*continued on page 3*



### Sachs to be Inducted in Brazilian Confederation of Soccer

Alessandra Sachs will be honored for her contribution to women's soccer as a researcher, sports psychologist and former player when she is inducted into the Brazilian Confederation of Soccer in Miami on August 27. Alex considers her journey's greatest mark when the Brazilian Soccer team won the silver medal in Athens in 2004.

Born and raised in Brazil, "Alex" began her professional soccer career as a goalkeeper playing for Corinthians/Rivelino - Brazil's first professional soccer team for women. An avid player at five-feet tall, she played during the off-season for Banessa's Futbol league. She participated in the South American Championships in 1994 and 1996, before retiring in 1998 after suffering a serious knee injury.

She received her masters in sports psychology in 2000, and worked with sport psychology testing in the 2003 World Cup

and 2004 Olympic Games for the Brazilian Women's Soccer Team. She has also had the honor to work with Regina Brandao and Daniela Cury, both of whom are pioneers in the field of sports psychology and women's sports.

Alex is currently working as the health and PE coordinator for The Boys and Girls Club of Tolleson. She is also pursuing her Ph.D. at San Diego University in Integrative Studies.

Alex is very active in the PWSA, assisting with the development of various sports-related programs for girls. She serves on the Programs Committee and PR Committee.

"Without the vision and leadership of passionate athletes and volunteers like Alex, PWSA could not accomplish its goal of helping girls develop into strong, successful women through participation in sports," notes PWSA President Nona Lee.

# QUARTERLY

**Editor:** Jodi Powers

**Writers:** Lori Bamber, Stephanie Francis, Jessica Garcia, Jodi Powers, Alex Sachs, Carla Sulka, Kristina Walker

To speak to a PWSA representative, contact the following:

**President Nona Lee** - Leads the Executive Committee and connects with each EC Chair and subcommittee as appropriate and needed - [nonalee@cox.net](mailto:nonalee@cox.net)

**Vice President Annie Loyd** - Development - responsible for sponsorship/donors and fundraising - [annieloyd@cox.net](mailto:annieloyd@cox.net)

**Robin Hanson** - Governance - screens and refers potential board members; responsible for board education and drives the volunteer effort - [robinlhanson@hotmail.com](mailto:robinlhanson@hotmail.com)

**Victoria Wallace** - Strategic Planning - identifies organization efforts that connect to the mission of PWSA; partners primarily with Programs - [vewallace@cox.net](mailto:vewallace@cox.net)

**Felisa Benton** - Finance and Legal - oversees the financial health of PWSA  
[felisabenton@cox.net](mailto:felisabenton@cox.net)

**Jodi Powers** - PR - responsible for collateral material, pr and website maintenance  
[jpowers@dlrgroup.com](mailto:jpowers@dlrgroup.com)

**Stefanie Francis** - Programs - responsible for identifying programs that are consistent with the mission; creates and/or maintains partnerships with various organizations to partner on events - [stefrancis@msn.com](mailto:stefrancis@msn.com)

**Chris Haines** - At-Large - is the "go to" person for PWSA; identifies resources i.e., identifying local groups and/or events and/or individuals  
[chris.haines@smcmail.maricopa.edu](mailto:chris.haines@smcmail.maricopa.edu)

For more news, visit our web site at [www.phoenixwomenssports.org](http://www.phoenixwomenssports.org)

Helping

Girls and Women

Find **Their**

Through

Sports



## Contents Summer 2005

1-3

And in this Corner ...

**The Heavyweight Champion**

Sammi Kisto fights in the ring and on the rez

**Sachs to be Inducted in Brazilian Confederation of Soccer**

4-5

**Team Sports**

- the Outlaws
- the Blues
- the Greek National Softball Team

6-8

**Quarternotes - PWSA Programs**

- Tempe Youth Fest
- Mercury Basketball Clinic
- Go Girl Go !
- Hip Hop Mercury Squad

9

**Lee Promoted to Lead Counsel**

**Golf Tips: It Don't Mean a Thing if You Ain't Got that Swing!**

# Fighting for Victory in the Ring and on the Rez

continued from page 1

and fighting for championships.

She currently holds four Indian National Titles throughout the United States. She's been with the U.S. Boxing Association for the past four years; and she's the first Native American woman to hold the Gene Lewis Boxing Tournament championship from Gila River.

"I'm getting way more out of boxing than I expected," says the well-traveled boxer, who has traveled throughout the west coast, Minnesota, Kansas and Michigan. "I was also able to meet a lot of new people from all over, especially other natives and learning about their tribes and nation. But most importantly, I was able to prevent myself from becoming another statistic on the Gila River Reservation. Boxing has kept me in shape and healthy."

But when you ask her about her greatest accomplishments, she doesn't count her championships or specific bouts with other boxers. Instead, she says her greatest accomplishment is to have the opportunity "to be a positive role model for my family and some youth in my community." Her mother adds, "She's a role model for a lot of kids on the reservation including her little cousins. The reservation kids all look up to Sammi."

Despite her heavyweight clout (she boxes at 201 pounds+), Sammi's mother Vickie has kept her teenage daughter in line. From that, Sammi has nothing but respect for her mother. "She has always been supportive. And when I got out of line, she gave me that swift kick in the butt to get back on track. She's my inspiration, my life instructor and my best friend. I am very grateful to have her in my life."

Other sources of support are Sammi's family, friends and the Gila River Indian Community. "Knowing they are behind me 100 percent encourages me. People telling me how proud they are of me gives me confidence to continue competing and giving it my all."

In addition to honing her boxing skills, the sport has improved her mind and concentration. And "it has made



## WINNER!

*Kisto (left) wins her match against Kari Kennedy of the Seneca Nation Boxing Club from Steamburg, KY*

me a better person," she says. The knowledge she has gained, she passes on.

When Sammi's father, Gary Kisto was training her, he made Sammi realize "you have to work for what you want. You must have the discipline and determination to achieve the goals you set in life," she says.

In addition to the possibility of pursuing a professional boxing career, Sammi's "life-long dream" has been to work as a nurse. "I enjoy helping other people and making them feel better."

Sammi graduated in 2004 from Casa Grande Union High School, where her favorite subjects were math and creative writing. She has her CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) certificate from Central Arizona College. She plans to go back to school to finish up her nursing education.

For now, Sammi continues to train and she is providing care for her grandmother.



## Just Do It

When asked what advice she'd offer other girls who are interested in taking up boxing, she admits it takes "a lot of work, time sweat and some blood." She adds, "In order to make it in the ring, you have to have that determination to train twice as hard as your opponent. You have to be prepared for anything. And if you want to box, you have to want it for yourself because no one is in the ring with you but your competition. It's up to you on how bad you want that victory. So when you do it, do it for yourself. No one else."

# Blues into 8th Year; Placed 2nd in 2004-2005 Season

by Jessica Garcia of the Blues

Legend has it that William Web Ellis created rugby in 1823 when he picked up the ball during a soccer game and ran it down field.

Rugby is the third most played sport in the world. It's the fastest growing women's sport in Canada and England and arguably the fastest growing women's sport in the USA. It's played in 97 nations, and 60,000 play it in the USA.

The US is the reigning Rugby Olympic champion, winning the Gold in 1924. The Olympic committee once again rejected entry of rugby into the Summer Olympics this year, instead accepting squash into the Games.

Women's Rugby in the US is said to begin in 1972 with college teams adopting the sport; and the Southern California Rugby Football Union (SCRFU) was the first rugby union to accept the sport.

The first Women's Rugby World Cup was played in 1991, and the USA Eagles won.

There are three Women's Rugby College Sides in Arizona, with teams at NAU, U of A and ASU.

Formed in 1998, the Scottsdale Lady Blues became the first and only senior women's rugby side in Arizona.

The Scottsdale Lady Blues is a member of the SCRFU and has finished in the top four of the SCRFU since 2000-2001, placing second in the 2004-2005 season.

The Scottsdale Lady Blues is comprised of professional females from their 20s - 40s, living in the Phoenix and Tucson areas. The Blues have 36 registered USA rugby members, two head coaches and social members. The majority of the team was active in rugby during college, but the sport is open to anyone, no matter age or body type.

The Scottsdale Lady Blues team members are actively involved with charity work with "at-risk" kids and are currently working with the Arizona Youth Rugby Union to promote rugby to kids.

The Scottsdale Lady Blues are



Blues players Dorothy Watkins (left) and Hannah Rufener sprint to advance the ball.

always in need of new team members, financial donations/support, and spectators. The Scottsdale Lady Blues game sched-

ule and contact information can be found on their website: [www.ladybluesrugby.com](http://www.ladybluesrugby.com)



Wells (standing, third from left) and her Greek team smile during a press conference in Greece on August 8

## Wells' Coaches Greeks to Silver in 2005 European Championships

PRAGUE, (Czech Republic) – Greek National Team Head Coach Linda Wells, ASU's former softball coach, has just returned from Prague, where her Greek softball team placed second behind Italy during the 14th European Championship Women's Fastpitch Softball Tournament, which was held August 1- 6. The Greek team played nine games during the six-day tournament, shutting out three of its opponents. Italy won its first game against the Greeks, 7-4. Greece came back to win 2-1 in Game 45. Italy won the final

game, 5-0.

Listed below are Greece's game results:

Game	Date	Score
Game 3	8-1	<b>Greece 8</b> , Belgium 0
Game 8	8-2	Netherlands 1, <b>Greece 2</b>
Game 12	8-2	Spain 1, <b>Greece 6</b>
Game 17	8-3	<b>Greece 8</b> , Russia 0
Game 33	8-4	Great Britain 0, <b>Greece 4</b>
Game 38	8-4	Italy 7, <b>Greece 4</b>
Game 41	8-5	Czech 1, <b>Greece 9</b>
Game 45	8-5	<b>Greece 2</b> , Italy 1
Game 47	8-6	Italy 5, <b>Greece 0</b>



by Stephanie Francis

Go Girl Go ! is an eight-session psycho-educational program created by The Women's Sports Foundation (WSF). The curriculum is based on research that proves that active girls are more likely to have a positive body image, confidence and self-esteem than inactive girls. Simply moving and playing can reduce a girl's risk for obesity, cancer, alcohol, tobacco and illicit drug use, osteoporosis, unintended pregnancy and more. Each session has a theme (leadership, confidence, goal setting, etc.) and begins with a short biography of a professional athlete. The bio illuminates the session's take-away message and shows how successful women have overcome similar obstacles that the girls face.

PWSA's pilot Go Girl Go ! program is currently being held at Girls Ranch, a privately owned group home for teenage girls. With a capacity of 12 girls, Girls Ranch felt so strongly about the power of Go Girl Go ! that it wanted all their girls to partake. The program will run July 15th - August 19th and is being facilitated by Nicole Harguindeguy, a Xavier College Preparatory and Seton Hall alum, where she competed in volleyball.

Atkinson Middle School is set to run Go Girl Go ! in one of their girls' PE classes in the August/September school term. Once successful, physical education teacher, Brenda Brown, is committed to launching the program for all the school's 300 seventh and eight grade girls.

Initial meetings were held August 3rd to get the Go Girl Go ! program into Thomas J. Pappas school.

PWSA has been attempting to get volunteers signed up who are interested in facilitating a Go Girl Go ! group. The campaign has been initially successful and there is now a pool of willing volunteers to run a group once a match is made with an existing girls' group.

Long term goals for PWSA and Go Girl Go ! include creating a 'Train the Trainer' program that will enable many more young girls to be impacted by the program. By recruiting existing leaders in the social service, sports and/or non-profit sectors, PWSA will be able to train the staff who are already working with the girls to run Go Girl Go !. This will better assist the WSF's goal of getting one million girls active in a three-year time period.

More information about Go Girl Go ! can be found at [www.gogirl-go.com](http://www.gogirl-go.com).



Sara Hanson, daughter of PWSA Board member Robin Hanson, flies down field

## Celebrating Women in Sports

### Arizona's #1 Fashion Show

### Benefits Athletic Girls in Valley

Scottsdale, AZ - Femme Athletic, a local clothing line started at ASU, celebrated the strength of women by raising money to support underserved girls who cannot afford sports camps this summer with Arizona's number one fashion show: Fashionably Athletic at Axis/Radius, which was held June 4.

Femme Athletic celebrated its one-year fitness boutique anniversary with local celebrity emcee, Terri Oullette from "On the Go with Terri O," and a performance by Bethany Wright, Arizona Idol winner. Local professional athletes were present and local celebrities and reporters sported the newest collection by Femme Athletic on the runway with special performances by the Danz Co. and FA Fit Team.

"Femme Athletic's support has been phenomenal," said PWSA President Nona Lee. "They understand the importance of girls' and women's participation in sports and fitness. With their help we were able to send several Phoenix area girls to summer sports camp on scholarships in 2004."

Femme Athletic is the industry leader in activewear for women, producing apparel for the Arizona Cardinal cheerleaders, Arizona Rattlers cheerleaders, Harlem Globetrotters, as well as local spas and boutiques, including Gainey Village. Proceeds from Fashionably Athletic will go directly to the Phoenix Women's Sports Association (PWSA) and to make an instant impact empowering girls in sports camps Valley wide.

PWSA received \$2,156 from money raised from the auction according to Christine Bartlett.

#### About Femme Athletic

Started by ASU Alumni Brian Hill in 1997, the mission of Femme Athletic is to provide a full collection of quality activewear for athletic women. Femme Athletic is dedicated to designing activewear that addresses the unique needs of athletic women worldwide.

---

## Tempe Youth Fest - March 5, 2005

by Stephanie Francis

Tempe, AZ - The Tempe Youth Fest was PWSA's first outreach event after the annual February awards dinner. The Youth Fest was held at Kiwanis Community Park and Recreation Center from 11am - 4pm. In addition to a PWSA information booth, staff members organized physical fitness activities, handed out free, healthy refreshments and gave away sports equipment as prizes. PWSA's booth was next to the event's honorary chairs **Misty Hyman** and **Gea Johnson's** autograph booth. Hyman won the gold medal for the 200-meter butterfly in the 2000 Olympics games while Gea Johnson has been an international contender in bobsledding, heptathlon and weight lifting. Event organizers estimated that 4,000 people attended the Youth Fest. PWSA invited former Mercury All-Star **Jennifer Gillom**, whose presence attracted kids from the Youth Fest to play games on the Phoenix Suns Hummer that PWSA President Nona Lee secured.

# PWSA Helps Outlaws Make it to the ASA Nationals

The Phoenix Women's Sports Association helped to sponsor the Arizona Outlaws Softball team with \$500 toward expenses to compete in the Hall of Fame Softball Tournament in Oklahoma. Through their participation, the Outlaws won a berth to the ASA Nationals in Owensboro, KY. "Out of 24 teams from all over the country, only the top eight get the berth to the Nationals," noted Dorie Saucier AZ Outlaws - Sara Team Manager. When the Outlaws competed in the ASA Nationals in Kentucky, they came in 33rd out of 119 teams. "That's not as good as we had hoped," admitted Saucier, "but it was a great experience for the girls." The girls played the best 14U teams around the country and held their own. I am very proud of these girls. They never gave up. We have to thank the PWSA for their contribution to help make this happen."

The Outlaws start a new season in September. "The girls don't get much of a break, but most of the girls are die-hard softball players and we are the exhausted parents."

Head Coach Sara McMahon attended and played softball for two years at North Central

Missouri College, MO, and two years at Quincy University, IL. She has been coaching the Outlaws for two years. You can keep track of this team, by following them on their website: [www.eteamz.com/azoutlaws-sara/](http://www.eteamz.com/azoutlaws-sara/)



Arizona Outlaws. Top row (left to right) Vail Bradley, Janna Frandrup, Terah Blackwell, Judy Estrada, Andrea Saucier, Christina Tyler. Middle Row: Asst Coach Larry Blackwell, Cecilia Kolesar, Head Coach Sara McMahon, Samantha Maltese, Asst Coach John Maltese. Bottom Row: Brandi Duron, Alleson Copsey, Melissa Loesing, Kyla Christmas, Andrea Gomez.

## Keys to Investing in Your Child's College Fund

Children can learn the importance and value of investing

by Kristina Walker

Saving for your children's college fund can seem like an overwhelming task unless you understand the three keys to its simplicity:

- Take action to start saving immediately;
- Invest it in the proper vehicle for maximum tax benefits;
- Include your children in the whole process.

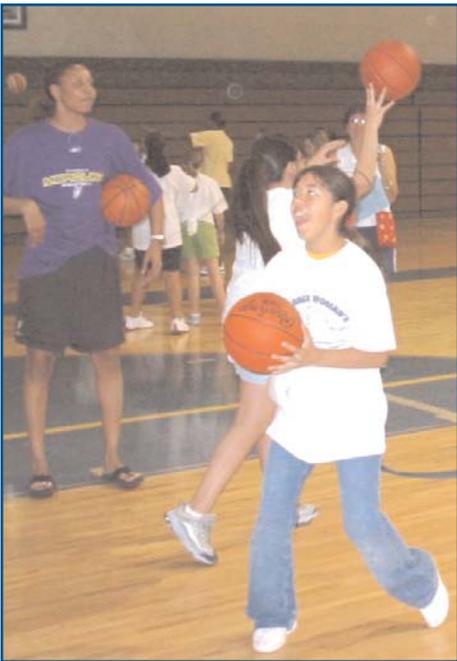
**Taking Action** - Most parents want to wait until the "right time" to start investing for their children's college fund. In reality, whether it's \$50.00 a month or thousands of dollars per year, the earlier you begin to save, the more compound-

interest can grow their accounts. So, take action immediately, no matter what the budget affords. Remember, anything is better than zero.

**Proper Investing** - One of the best vehicles for saving for education is the 529 plan. The IRS allows for 529 plans to receive tax advantages such as tax-free growth and distributions on all qualified educational expenses. And, if your child receives a full scholarship, the plan can be passed on to another child, used for your own higher education or given to any person you deem to utilize it for educational expenses.

continued on page 8

page 5



## Mercury Basketball Clinic

PWSA and the Phoenix Mercury partnered to offer a low-cost clinic to young, disadvantaged women on April 23. Thanks to donations and sponsors, PWSA offered the clinic for only \$3 a person.

Mercury Assistant Coach Michelle Timms conducted the clinic with help from several Mercury players. The event was held at South Mountain Community College and the school's women's basketball team was in attendance as volunteers. Over 125 signed up for the clinic and received T-shirts commemorating the day and a pizza lunch. Goodie bags, provided by PWSA, were a huge hit.

The grand finale was a raffle/contest in which one participant was chosen to shoot a free throw to win an autographed Phoenix Mercury basketball. Phoenix Mercury players stayed until each girl received an autograph from the players. Phoenix Councilwoman Peggy Neely sent her film crew to the event to capture video and to obtain clips for her television show, *On the Issues*. PWSA President Nona Lee was a guest on the show the second week of June.

Youth groups that were included in the clinic were The Boys and Girls Club, A and A Cottages Group Home, the Murphy School District, Phoenix Youth at Risk, Garcia School and The Stardust House Community Center.



## Hip Hop Mercury Squad - -June 13 - August 19th

With a grant from The Kellogg Foundation, PWSA, The Phoenix Mercury and the Stardust House have partnered to offer the second annual Hip Hop Clinic. The eight-week program culminates with the group performing at the Mercury game on August 19th at 7pm. Thirteen youth are participating in this year's clinic which practices twice a week for a 1½ hours. Mercury Hip Hop squad member Saza leads the girls during practice and teaches them the latest hip hop dance steps. Saza also weaves life sessions into the clinic and helps the girls understand what they're learning in class can be applied to other aspects of their lives. She emphasizes goal setting, inner strength and confidence. All participants in the clinic must maintain at least a C average.

As part of the program, participants will receive an outfit to perform in at the Mercury game, four tickets to the performance for their family, a \$75 gift bag and flowers after their performance.





## Phoenix Mercury Plan-It League

Closing ceremonies were held August 1st at the Phoenix City Hall for participants, coaches, referees and supervisors, who participated in the ninth season of the Mercury PLAN-IT league in partnership with the City of Phoenix.

The PLAN-IT League was formed in 1997 for girls between the ages of 9 - 14 with a twist. These young athletes are coached and officiated by high school girls preferably junior and seniors, who give the girls opportunities to focus on character, self-esteem, leadership skills and understanding career development. The league's philosophy is to provide a recreational basketball league that emphasizes basic skill development, knowledge of rules, teamwork and the opportunity to play.

This season the league drew 220 participants from the Boys and Girls Club of Metropolitan Phoenix and City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Community Centers playing in two divisions for five weeks. These divisions were divided into the Solar Division for girls 9 - 11 years old and Universe Division for girls 12 - 14 years old. The teams played in three different facilities depending on their club location. The athletes played one of their five games at the America West Arena prior to a Phoenix Mercury home game.

## Family Fitness Day: October 2005

As part of the Kellogg Grant mentioned on page 7, PWSA will host a Family Fitness Day for the South Phoenix Community. PWSA will coordinate the food, speakers, fitness equipment and activities. JD Durso, director of Scottsdale's BOOTCAMP Group Fitness and Nutrition Program, will be the lead presenter for the day. PWSA hopes to draw 100-300 members from the community.

## Game Face - March - May 2006

PWSA's programs committee will play a large role in the programs component of Smithsonian's Game Face exhibit, which will be at the Burton Barr Public Library in mid-2006.

## Investing in Your Child's College Fund

*continued from page 5*

Please see a registered financial advisor to determine if the 529 plan is best for your family.

**Including Children** - One of the most important keys to saving, and often overlooked, is including your child in the process of saving and investing for college. This provides education in investing for their own future as well as a respect for the hard earned dollars you contribute to their education. Make college investing a family event and have the children track the funds and report back to you on a monthly basis. Don't be afraid, even if the fund won't cover the entire cost of college, your child will learn the importance and value of investing, which is an important education all in itself.

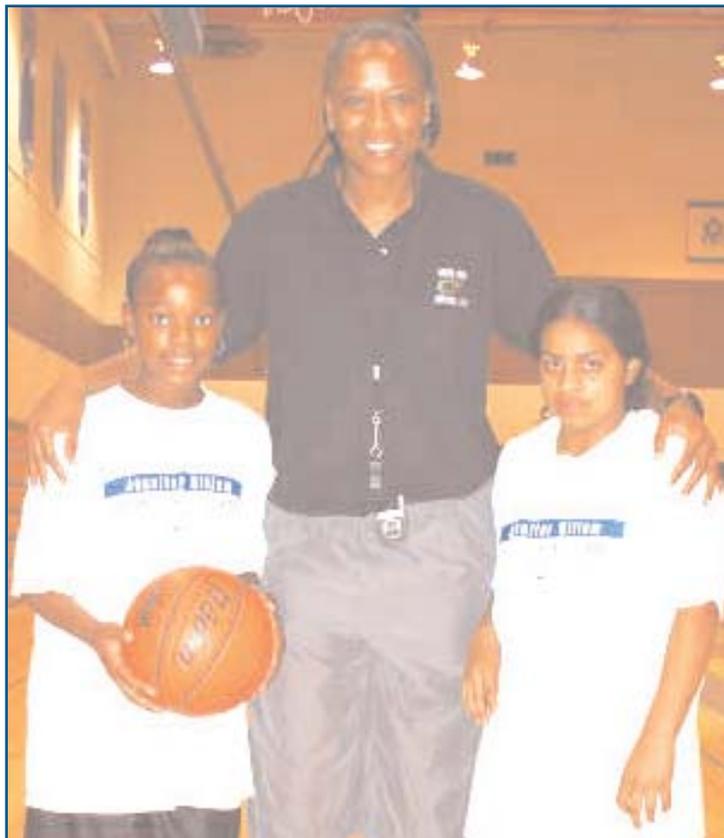
So now what's stopping you from starting your child's college fund? Go to it and enjoy the process together.

*Kristina Walker, a corporate executive with a knack for finance, has spent more than 15 years helping companies improve their bottom lines. She coaches individuals, particularly women, on simple methods of improving their financial lives. Kristina's passion for helping others translates into her personal goal of helping people create abundance for themselves and their families.*

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

### Jen Gillom Basketball Clinic

Five girls, ages 8-17, were awarded scholarships to Xavier College Preparatory's summer basketball clinic run by Jennifer Gillom, former Mercury player and currently head coach for the varsity girls' basketball team at Xavier College Prep.



# Golf Tips: It Don't Mean a Thing if You Ain't Got that Swing

by Lori Bamber

Good golf fundamentals are key to making a good golf swing. That is true for the more experienced player as it is for those who'd like to break 100.

Fundamentals that are inconsistent lead to shots that are inconsistent.

Experienced players have a pre-shot routine that they follow before each shot.

The less experienced players should develop their own routine that includes the grip, stance / posture, alignment and ball position.

For right handed players, the grip should be taken by placing the pad of your left hand on top of the shaft of the club. Wrap your fingers around the shaft. Place the lifeline of your right hand into the left thumb. At this point, you have three options for finishing out your grip. The first is the overlapping grip where the little finger of the right hand rests over the top of the index finger of your left hand or slips between the index finger and the middle finger of your left hand. The second is the interlocking grip. This style is taken by slightly wrapping the index finger of your left hand and the little finger of your right hand around each other. The third option is the 10-finger grip in which all 10 fingers wrap around the club.

To take your stance/posture, you should start by having the inside of your heels directly below your shoulder sockets. Flex your knees a little and bend enough at your hips that your arms hang freely. The rest of your posture should be taken by pushing your buttocks slightly out and thinking of your back as flat. You should feel in balance with your body and relaxed.

Alignment is accomplished by your shoulders, elbows, forearms, hips, knees and feet pointing in the same line parallel to your target line.

Ball position is managed in one of two ways. The first is by playing the ball in the same position every shot. The ball slightly forward of the middle of your stance (to the left if you're right handed). This keeps the ball in the same relationship to your body on every shot and helps keep your head behind the ball. The second would be to take practice swings and place the ball exactly where the divot taken begins.

Remember, good fundamentals lead to good shots.

*Lori Bamber is manager and head training professional at Palo Verde Golf Course in Phoenix. Bamber took up golf at 18 and played college golf at Glendale Community College in Glendale, AZ and at the United States*

*International University in San Diego, CA. She was named First Team Junior College All State 1976 AZ and Central Division amateur champion 1976 AZ*

*Lori was an assistant golf pro with American Golf at Glen Lakes GC in Glendale, at London Bridge GC on Lake Havasu and at Villa de Paz in Phoenix. She was also the head golf pro at Morro Bay GC in Morro Bay, CA.*

*Bamber has been at Palo Verde since 1992.*

## PWSA Founder Lee Promoted to D-Backs Lead Counsel

by Carla Sulka

Nona Lee, founder and president of the Phoenix Women's Sports Association, was recently promoted to vice president and general counsel of the Arizona Diamondbacks. Nona's promotion and her continued work with the PWSA have cemented her place in the upper echelons of Phoenix's sports world.

Prior to joining the Diamondbacks, Nona worked for a local law firm, specializing in civil litigation and medical malpractice. While the work was interesting and challenging, something was missing. Shortly after the inception of the WNBA, the opportunity presented itself for Nona to work for the firm that represented the Diamondbacks, and she jumped at the chance. Realizing she desired a way to merge her career with her lifelong love of sports, she again switched jobs when offered the position of associate counsel for the Suns, Diamondbacks, Mercury and Rattlers.

Working for many of the biggest names in Phoenix sports, Nona made invaluable connections that have helped her to start and grow PWSA. In 2001, after becoming involved with the Women's Sports Foundation, Nona realized that it was critical to have a vehicle in Phoenix for passing on WSF's message and to educate parents and girls about the benefits of participation in sports. Nona, who played basketball collegiately at Pepperdine University, believes she wouldn't be where she is today without the life lessons she learned while participating in sports.

Women's professional sports leagues have enjoyed varying degrees of success in recent years. An important element of Nona's role as president of PWSA is to stay well informed about the current state of affairs in women's sports. For instance, the recent decision by the International Olympic Committee to withdraw softball from the Olympic Games beginning in 2012.

According to Nona, "The argument is that baseball and softball are not global sports - that baseball is the 'American pastime', and softball is also primarily a U.S. phenomenon, as demonstrated by the U.S. Women's team's repeat gold medal performances since softball became a medal sport in 1996. The inequity lies in the fact that men will continue to have the opportunity to grow baseball at an international level through MLB. How can softball grow in global appeal if people do not have exposure to the game at an international level?"

As Nona continues to ascend the ranks in a male dominated field, she will undoubtedly continue to preach the benefits of involvement in sports, as well as doing all she can to ensure women's sports receive the recognition and respect they deserve.





## PENDING PROGRAMS

Phoenix Women's Sports Association (PWSA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed in August 2001 to help girls and women find their power through sports. PWSA is modeled after the Women's Sports Foundation's (WSF), which was founded by Billie Jean King in 1974. Led by its founder Nona Lee, who is also a WSF Board of Trustee member, PWSA presents a Women's Sports Foundation Community Action Program designed to raise awareness of the importance of girls' and women's sports at the grass roots level.

## PWSA's Vision

Girls and women in Arizona will embrace sports and fitness as a tool for developing critical life skills to enhance the quality of their personal and professional lives.

## PWSA's Mission

PWSA's mission is to help girls and women in Arizona build successful lives through participation in sports and fitness, by forming key partnerships to provide education, programming and economic support.

### Lacrosse Clinic: Fall Date TBD

PWSA has been working with local women's lacrosse coach Jessica Livingston to obtain a U.S.A. Lacrosse grant to run a clinic for underserved girls. Atkinson Middle School has agreed to allow us to use their facilities and equipment.

### Softball Clinic: December/January Date TBD

Initial discussions with the Arizona Baseball and Softball Commission's Softball Committee have occurred. The Commission is looking into hosting a day-long clinic with USA head coach Mike Candrea and Chicago Bandits All-Star Jennie Finch. The Commission is hoping to partner with PWSA to broaden the scope of the clinic with increased marketing and depth of activities (i.e. general fitness, health education, and empowerment activities).

### Partnership USTA Southwest Division

PWSA has met with the local USTA to discuss possible partnerships. At this time the USTA is determining if they want to collaborate on a one-day Tennis Extravaganza or be a part of a PWSA/ASU Women in Sports Week event.

### Partnership with North Scottsdale Polo Club

PWSA will likely be a beneficiary of the inaugural Women's Western Polo Tournament schedule for Spring 2006. Discussions have also begun about offering a polo and/or horse clinic in the future for underserved girls.

**SAVE THE DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2006**  
**PWSA'S 2006 AWARDS DINNER SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 11**



Olympian soccer star Julie Foudy (left) was the 2005 keynote speaker. Donna Rossi (right), reporter for Channel 5, was the MC.

PHOENIX, Arizona -- Imagine a room full of hundreds of female athletes and their supporters, all of whom share a common passion and purpose -- women's sports and fitness. Imagine having an opportunity to help raise money to help girls and women in Arizona get active -- and stay active -- in sports and fitness. That is the goal of Phoenix Women's Sports Association (PWSA), which will host its Third Annual Celebration of Girls' and Women's Sports Awards Dinner on Saturday, February 11, 2006 at the Arizona Biltmore Hotel. The only awards celebration of its kind in Arizona, the PWSA Awards Dinner recognizes outstanding female athletes and coaches at the high school, community college and university levels, as well as the community and corporate leaders who support them, and outstanding journalists who cover girls' and women's sports.

A parade of elite athletes will dazzle the crowd with their celebrity and accomplishment. To get involved in the 2006 dinner, contact Annie Loyd at 602/999-2424 or [annieloyd@cox.net](mailto:annieloyd@cox.net).