SPORT AT THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY: SPORT AS AN EMPOWERMENT PLATFORM FOR WOMEN

VAL ACKERMAN, Commissioner, Big East Conference

MAY 31, 2017

If you have other inspiring stories of athletes, sports teams or organizations that are championing equality for women and sport, we would love to hear from you! Please share your stories and photos with us at:

info@wsf.org

Challenges for Women in Sport

- Wage discrepancies for professional athletes
- Sports. They are forced to prove their value over and over again.
- Every day for equality, whether in their home, in the workplace or in public roles.
- Women in sports leadership positions can only help increase societal involvement.
- We celebrate and honour those who work tirelessly to ensure that all girls, no matter their background, have the opportunity to participate and be involved at all levels of sport.

AMBASSADORS FOR CHANGE

One such woman is Val Ackerman, who was named a Champion in Sports Business by Sports Business Journal. In 2010, she was named an inductee into the Basketball Hall of Fame and in 2014 she was privileged to have been named a Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame Designer in women’s basketball. Val was one of several women’s sport advocates who used their influence in the world of sport as a tool to empower and inspire others. She is a strong voice for gender equity and rights for women and girls.

The Women’s Sports Foundation (WSF), in collaboration with three international organizations (UNESCO) the purpose of the Charter is to promote gender equality in sports. It is the relentless drive of these organizations that their wages and treatment are not on par with their male counterparts.

In the mid 1970’s the Women’s Sports Foundation (WSF) was established with the goal of promoting women’s participation in sports and creating opportunities for them to compete and succeed. The WSF works to ensure that all girls, no matter their background, have the opportunity to participate in sports.

SPORT AT THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY: CONFERENCE

In May we celebrated Mother’s Day, and in doing so, we recognized and honoured all that women do for us with their kindness, courage, compassion, unwavering love and commitment. But beyond the traditional role of “nurturer”, we must also recognize and celebrate the other important roles that women have played in our lives. They are athletes – strong, driven and capable. They are leaders, mentors, role models and diplomats.

But we are inspired by the many bold, courageous women that are using their influence in the world of sport as a tool to empower and inspire others. They are role models for younger generations who can look to them and say “This is what I can do.”

The Women’s Sports Foundation is also committed to creating programs designed to bring sport to all girls and women. One such program is the Women and Sport Program at the University of Central Florida. The program aims to increase the participation of women in sports and to provide them with the necessary tools to succeed.

Set a target of 50% of those in leadership positions in sports organizations but also by competing elite athletes in all sanctioned basketball competitions. The Women’s Sports Foundation is committed to creating programs designed to bring sport to all girls and women. One such program is the Women and Sport Program at the University of Central Florida. The program aims to increase the participation of women in sports and to provide them with the necessary tools to succeed.

Moving Forward

- Identify elite role models and shared stories which can be used to offer examples within communities, role models that their wages and treatment are not on par with their male counterparts.
- Begin these changes in schools.
- Identifying and promoting elite female athletes.
- Use the newly adopted references is as follows “Equal rights of others she creates hope and progress in the struggle for truth.”
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