Battling for the Hardwood
The Early History of Women’s Basketball at Indiana University, 1890–1928

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ABSTRACT: This article examines the creation and development of women’s athletics, specifically women’s basketball, on the Indiana University campus and assesses the role of pioneering staff and faculty—particularly Juliette Maxwell, the director of women’s athletics from 1896 to 1928. Maxwell and her colleagues actively pursued the development of women’s physical education as more than an elective and created a department that facilitated a wide variety of athletic opportunities for collegiate women.

KEYWORDS: women’s basketball, collegiate athletics, Indiana University, Title IX

In contemporary America, collegiate athletics is most frequently associated with national championships, such as the NCAA Final Four in basketball, and the commercial hype surrounding matches and games. The humble beginnings of collegiate athletics have been forgotten over time, as tournament wins and records, news of recruits, and coaching changes dominate the current discussion. Furthermore, collegiate athletics remains a gendered concept, as men’s and women’s sports have yet to reach the equality promised by Title IX in 1972. This gender difference persists in

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various types of athletics, but my research focuses on one women’s sport that has remained hidden from the historical record at Indiana University.

Around the country, people recognize Indiana University by the men’s basketball team. IU is a basketball school, yet we know very little about the other basketball team on campus. The women’s team has a rich history, just like the men’s program, and in several recent seasons, the women’s team has been able to advance into conference playoffs and tournaments further than their male counterparts. My passion for uncovering the history of the women’s game was driven by the gaps of knowledge in the historical narrative. Men were always allowed to play; it was believed to be natural for them to possess competitive drive, endurance, and physical strength. For generations, women fought to exhibit these same qualities in the public arena. Those pioneers who first championed women’s athletics, as well as the many long-forgotten team members, stand as role models, their ranks filled with All-Americans and record holders. Unveiling their stories ensures that the narrative of Indiana basketball is not limited to only one side.

This article does not seek to offer a detailed history of women’s collegiate athletics. Rather, while studying aspects of the evolution of collegiate athletics, I concentrated my research on how Indiana University created and developed a women’s basketball program beginning in 1890. The history of this specific process offers an interesting perspective on the development of women’s basketball on one college campus, on methods of training, and on the staff and faculty who supported collegiate women wanting to participate in basketball.

I set out to construct a timeline of Indiana University women’s basketball because basketball is the oldest team sport played at the university. I found timelines for the men’s teams; portions of their history even appeared on the University Archives chronology.1 At the onset of my research, I found no information on women. In this absence, I began by asking the following questions: who were the early leaders in women’s athletics at the university; when did women start participating in sporting events at IU; when did women first play basketball; what did the players wear; what were their rules and how did they differ from the men’s game?

I went to the IU Archives hoping to answer these questions. I thought to find reference files, letters, and papers referring to the development of

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1 The “IU Chronology” is online at https://libraries.indiana.edu/iu-chronology. The chronology has since been updated to include women’s athletics information and accomplishments.
the game. Instead, the reference file for women’s basketball contained only a few photocopied newspaper clippings; the only slightly fuller women’s athletics file provided some initial information. I combed every Arbutus, the university’s yearbook, for mention of women’s athletics. I tracked the terms associated with women and sports. I scanned photos that appeared, and constructed a list of names of the players I found. I read old copies of the Indiana Daily Student (IDS) looking for any stories related to women’s athletics or basketball. While women’s sports would appear occasionally throughout the Arbutus and the IDS, historically, as in the present, the subject received scant attention.2

Over several decades, IU faculty members—including Edna Munro, Isabelle Hutchison, and Barbara Hawkins of the School of Public Health—have attempted to chronicle the history of women’s athletics.3 In her recent dissertation, Elizabeth Gregg discussed the origin and development of competitive athletics for women at Indiana University Bloomington from 1965 to 2001.4 She examined the Department of Physical Education in its later stages of facilitating women’s athletics on campus, as well as the cultural shift in acceptance of women’s participation. Piecing together these accounts, I constructed a more complete and comprehensive narrative of women’s basketball at Indiana. Adding materials from the archives, the Arbutus, and the IDS, and undertaking several interviews with faculty and staff, I compiled the segmented stories into a unified timeline.

While all of these women contributed to the construction of a historical narrative, their primary focus was on the growth of the Athletic Department and the assimilation of women into the department after the passage of Title IX. The early years of basketball and the larger formation of women’s athletics remained in the background. I became interested in Juliette Maxwell’s early leadership and how the women’s gymnasium program grew from a single-staff office to a fully staffed, operating academic department by the

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2 The full run of the Arbutus, beginning in 1895, is available in the Herman B Wells Library, IU Bloomington. The Indiana Daily Student is available on microfilm at the Wells Library.

3 Munro served as director of the Department of Physical Education for Women from 1928 to 1958, Hutchison as the Athletic Director for Women’s Sports from 1979 until 2000. See Munro, Edna F., box 187, Indiana University President’s Office Correspondence, 1913–1937, Subject files 1913–1937, Indiana University Archives, Bloomington; Barbara Hawkins, Mohammed Torabi, and David Skirvin, A Legacy Transformed: The Story of HPER and the Birth of the School of Public Health-Bloomington (Bloomington, Ind., 2016).

time of her retirement. Examining the early years of women’s athletics and particularly women’s basketball at Indiana, I offer a fresh view on the longer narrative of women’s athletics and those responsible for its creation and expansion. My research was not directed at the historical development of the national game nor at the sociological influences and effects of women and sports; it was intended to provide an impetus for further study of one university and one sport in particular. Previous research into Title IX and its effects should be reconsidered in the context of the pioneering women who created the platform later used in the 1960s and beyond.

Creating an Access Point to Women’s Athletics: The 1890s

Indiana University president David Starr Jordan was an advocate of the student-athlete and healthful lifestyles for students. His affinity led to the creation of a men’s and women’s physical education program in the early 1890s. By the late nineteenth century, exercise theory promoted students’ vigorous exercise to balance the rigorous mental activities of college life. This theory of mental and physical balance contributed to President Jordan’s appointment of two athletic directors, one for men and the other for women, and the establishment of an Athletic Committee, which facilitated a new access point to athletics. The creation of a Department of Physical Training for Women as a division of the Liberal Arts College was especially significant, as Indiana became one of the earliest higher education institutions to open a women’s gymnasium with regularly scheduled classes of activity. Leading the development of the women’s gymnasium was Mrs. Harriet Saunderson. As the only staff member of her department, she created and facilitated the first physical education programs offered to collegiate women at Indiana.

During Saunderson’s brief service as director, athletic classwork was held in the basement of Wylie Hall. This location was not conducive to athletic endeavors, as Wylie Hall also served as the chemistry building at the time. Women had to persevere through less-than-favorable conditions, such as noxious fumes from the labs above, low ceilings, and an unheated gymnasium. In spite of this, female students continued to participate in the women’s gymnasium program and helped to encourage its expansion.

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5 Hawkins et al., A Legacy Transformed, 4.
6 Edna Munro, History of the Department of Physical Education for Women At Indiana University (Bloomington, Ind., 1971), unpaginated pamphlet.
7 “Women’s Athletics,” Arbutus (Bloomington, Ind., 1920).
Indiana University Ladies’ Gymnasium, 1896. IU established the Department of Physical Training for Women in 1890, making the university one of the first to establish regularly scheduled physical education classes for women. Courtesy, Indiana University Archives

Wylie Hall, 1889. For several years, the women’s gymnasium was located in the basement of Wylie Hall, also the home of the Chemistry Department. Courtesy, Indiana University Archives
The inaugural year of the program would not have included basketball, as Dr. James Naismith did not invent the sport until the following year. The women’s original athletic equipment included Swedish stall bars and ladder, Sargent pulley weights, German horse, flying rings, mats, dumbbells, wands, and Indian clubs. Other less cumbersome equipment was added in the years to follow, including handballs (used on two handball courts), basketballs, and medicine balls.  

By 1892, Senda Berenson of Smith College had adapted basketball for women’s play. The game was greeted with much enthusiasm on Indiana’s campus, but IU women had to play a less rigorous version due to their basement gymnasium’s ceiling—so low that many players could almost reach the baskets. Despite these conditions, the first interclass basketball games took place, and during the last years of the century, a growing

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8 Munro, *History of the Department of Physical Education for Women at Indiana University*.

9 Senda Berenson is considered the mother of basketball for women. She adapted Naismith’s original thirteen rules of basketball for nineteenth-century women, and considered basketball to be the game that helped develop women’s athletic spirit more than any other. Senda Berenson, “Basket Ball for Women,” *Physical Education* 3, no. 7 (1894).
number of undergraduate women participated in the thriving Physical Training for Women program.\textsuperscript{10}

The Immediate Success of Women’s Basketball

Juliette Maxwell became an instructor at the IU women’s gymnasium in 1893. Her efforts to expand athletic opportunities for women became the leading factor in the growth of the program. Maxwell had long been associated with the university: she was the daughter of David Maxwell, then the president of the IU Board of Trustees, and the granddaughter of James Darwin Maxwell, considered the “Father of IU.”\textsuperscript{11} In her own right, she earned a bachelor’s degree from Indiana in 1883 before continuing her education at Harvard University’s prestigious Sargent Gymnasium. She joined Saunderson in the Department of Physical Training for Women in 1893, and in 1896 succeeded Saunderson as director, a position which she held until her retirement in 1928. Largely due to Maxwell’s efforts, the women’s program made several moves to larger gymnasiums, developed wider course offerings, and created competitive athletic opportunities which included the expansion and development of women’s basketball as the leading sport among collegiate women at Indiana.

In 1896, the department moved to Mitchell Hall, which provided a larger, more accommodating space for women’s athletics to flourish. While the gymnasium was an improvement from Wylie Hall’s basement, women still had to adapt to unfavorable conditions. The lower floor of Mitchell Hall housed the women’s gymnasium, while the upper floor contained dressing rooms. To avoid using the unheated corridors, the ingenious athletes cut a hole into the ceiling and used a pole to access the gym level. The women still had to refrain from agile play due to six ceiling support pillars obstructing the court: “basketball had to be played slowly and cautiously to prevent any player’s being injured by too hard contact with a pillar.”\textsuperscript{12} Basketball was now officially the first athletic activity in the women’s program, even though women had been playing interclass games unofficially for several years.

During the department’s tenure at Mitchell Hall, Hoosier women began to play public basketball games for the first time. According to the

\textsuperscript{10} “Women’s Athletics,” \textit{Arbutus}, 1920.
\textsuperscript{11} Munro, \textit{History of the Department of Physical Education for Women at Indiana University}.
\textsuperscript{12} “Women’s Athletics,” \textit{Arbutus}, 1920.
Juliette Maxwell, 1928. Maxwell served as director of women’s athletics at IU from 1896 until 1928 and was responsible for a major expansion in facilities and programming during her tenure.

Courtesy, Indiana University Archives
1901 *Arbutus*, women had played a competitive basketball game every spring for a number of years without a public audience, but in 1897 fans, male and female, were charged to watch the undergraduate women battle on the court. By 1899, the women’s game became an annual tradition and took place in the men’s gymnasium to accommodate the large crowds. All proceeds of the women’s championship game went to the Women’s League and the Y.W.C.A.  

Those who attended women’s games would have noticed dramatic differences between the men’s and women’s playing style and athletic attire. Female athletes dressed conservatively in full bloomers worn to the ankles, black serge blouses, and long black stockings with high-laced tennis shoes. Additionally, the women played a modified game designed to avoid over-exertion and extreme competitiveness. Following Berenson’s 1892 adaptations, the court was divided into three equal sections. Players could not move from their position and section. For the first decade and more of the women’s game, only five players per side took the court. Rules also limited potentially aggressive contact: a player could not take the ball from an opponent’s hands. Finally, due to the assumption that dribbling made the game too individualistic, female players were limited to three bounces. In 1910, dribbling was banned; the move was reinstated in 1913 but contained to a single dribble per player. Despite these physical restrictions, by the turn of the century, women’s basketball had taken over Indiana University as the most desired athletic endeavor for women on campus. 

Interest had spread so greatly that by 1902 the department arranged a girls’ basketball championship among teams representing a variety of campus women’s organizations. Several sororities, as well as non-Greek organizations, fielded representative teams. This championship was separate from the interclass competition that had been in existence for several years, but the more advanced players who had been nominated to the varsity team coached the organizational teams. In the 1902 competition, the Thetas, Delta Gammas, and Pi Phis succumbed to the superior speed of the Kappas.

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14 Munro, *History of the Department of Physical Education for Women at Indiana University*.
15 Prior to 1905, the rules allowed only five players on a side; in 1906, nine players were permitted on each side of the court.
16 Unlimited, continuous dribbling, as seen in the present women’s game, did not reappear until 1966.
A diagram of the standard three-section women’s basketball court, created in 1892 by Senda Berenson of Smith College. To avoid over-exertion, each player was assigned to one section and prohibited from moving to another.

*Spalding’s Official Basket Ball Guide for Women, 1916–17*
The championship game featured the Kappas vs. the Unorganized team, the Unorganized team winning 9–8.17

In 1902, as interest in women’s athletics continued to grow, Maxwell hired Mary Roddy as an assistant to coach various teams, including women’s basketball.18 As the curriculum continued to enjoy a large following among undergraduate women—the 1902–1903 school year saw 117 women enrolled in basketball and tennis courses out of a total of 748 students—the department worked to accommodate the growing demand for class sports.19 The women’s department lacked sufficient funds and staff to meet the increasing need, and Maxwell wrote many letters to the Board of Trustees requesting budget increases. In 1903 she wrote to ask the board to provide a raise for Roddy, who still worked as Maxwell’s assistant but had also taken on “more hours of teaching” due to “the increase in size, also in the number of classes.” In March 1906, Maxwell asked for Roddy’s title to be changed from “assistant” to “instructor,” elevating her academic status within the department and school.20

The growing interest in women’s athletics also resulted in a name change: in 1904, the university recognized the Department of Physical Training and Athletics. By 1906, the department moved to the newly opened Student Building, which allowed for an additional expansion in program offerings. The new gymnasium measured 80 feet by 50 feet, with a balcony on three sides. It was equipped with Swedish, German, and Sargent apparatuses, and the women had their own locker and dressing room.21

The Student Building also had a swimming pool, which allowed swimming to be taught for the first time as a class. The interclass basketball competition underwent a reboot that same year in a joint effort by Maxwell and the senior class girls, who had not won a championship in six years. The *Arbutus* recorded that the sophomores “put up a stubborn fight, but the more experienced Seniors defeated them by a score of 7 to 2. The teams were

18 Munro, *History of the Department of Physical Education for Women at Indiana University*.
19 Juliette Maxwell to the Indiana University Board of Trustees, June 13, 1903, box 82, Series: Correspondence, 1902–1913, Indiana University President’s Office Correspondence, 1902–1913, IU Archives; “University Institutional Research and Reporting,” University Institutional Research and Reporting, https://uirr.iu.edu/.
20 Juliette Maxwell to the Indiana University Board of Trustees, June 13, 1903 and Juliette Maxwell to the Indiana University Board of Trustees, March 23, 1906, box 82, Series: Correspondence, 1902–1913, Indiana University President’s Office Correspondence, 1902–1913, IU Archives.
coached by Miss Juliette Maxwell, Director of the Women’s Gymnasium, and Miss Mary Roddy, Assistant in Physical Training.” With a larger gymnasium, the department also began to offer volleyball and folk dancing. In 1911, Maxwell and her staff added field hockey, when the women were given permission to use the adjacent Dunn Meadow as an athletic field.

Some years of the *Arbutus* offer little information on women’s basketball, listing only members of the honorary varsity team, made up of the best athletes across the classes. Many other years, the yearbook editors included the names of the players on each team, the game scores leading up to the championship game for the interclass title, and interclass team pictures. Departmental budgets from the teen years also offer information

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about the continued growth of interest in athletic activities among university women. By 1912, Maxwell had hired additional instructors to help provide programming for all interests. In her budget report that year to the Board of Trustees, she recorded the salaries for six instructors:

- Miss Maxwell - $850.00 + $66.67
- Miss Roddy - $288.50
- Miss B - $800.00
- Miss G, aiding instructor - $350.00
- Miss H, instructor of swimming - $100.00
- Miss Fickle - $100.00

24 Juliette Maxwell to the Indiana University Board of Trustees, June 3, 1912, box 82, Series: Correspondence, 1902–1913, Indiana University President’s Office Correspondence, 1902–1913, IU Archives.
For the upcoming year, she requested full-time pay for three positions, adding two instructors for swimming and another instructor, all three to be hired for $100.00 each:

- Miss Maxwell - $1,000
- Miss Roddy - $850.00
- Miss B - $800.00

The department’s overall budget for 1912 was $2,488.50 plus $361.50 in expenses to cover replacing old equipment. Maxwell’s budget reveals that the necessary equipment for the women’s gymnasium consisted of four rowing pulley weights ($130.00), one sliding pole outfit ($70.00), two and one-half dozen barbells ($12.50), one hosting fixture ($2.50), and one basketball outfit ($9.00). She asked for additional equipment including Swedish bars, chest bars, flying rings, triplex weights, a wrist roll, balance boards, a jump stand, hitch and kick, and indoor baseball outfits. Requested funds totaled just under $600 for the year.25

Maxwell also established an elective program of sports and activities on campus and created a curriculum for physical education/training and for hygiene. These programs became a regular part of collegiate life from 1912 until 1920, as the university required freshman to include two periods of activity and one period of hygiene in their weekly schedule, and required two periods of activity for sophomores.26

The IU women’s athletic program was also affected by national trends, in particular a movement away from competitive sports—like basketball—for women. The effects can be seen on many college campuses, including IU, with the emergence of Play Days. The Department of Physical Education for Women began hosting Play Days in 1928, which allowed women of any skill level to participate in athletic opportunities. This informal competition emerged as a growing number of colleges were adopting specialized programs of competition for women and many physical educators feared that women would follow the professionalization of men’s intercollegiate athletics. This fear led to the formulation of “a new athletic philosophy for women based on securing the greatest good for the greatest number”

25 Juliette Maxwell to the Indiana University Board of Trustees, June 3, 1912.
26 Munro, History of the Department of Physical Education for Women at Indiana University.
which de-emphasized competition of highly skilled women. Play Days, however, did have the positive effect of encouraging all collegiate women to engage in physical activity and to improve their health.  

In 1913, a group of undergraduate women at IU organized a Women’s Athletic Association (WAA), which relied on a point system to determine membership. The organization was built around its undergraduate members, but it also extended associate memberships to graduate students, former students, and faculty through an annual due. The WAA’s self-proclaimed purpose was “to promote interest in gymnastic and athletic activities among the young women of the University”; its ideals consisted of “physical efficiency, scholarship, and good fellowship.” At the group’s onset, its point system was based upon earned hours of participation in activities such as basketball, field hockey, and baseball. To be considered a full member of the WAA, an undergraduate needed to obtain 100 points under the system. By the end of the association’s first year, 96 members had joined. In the following years, the association added other incentives and rewards. Women who exemplified the values of the WAA, served in various leadership positions, and obtained 1,100 points earned an Indiana letter sweater. Additionally, Maxwell established an annual medal in honor of her grandfather. The James Darwin Maxwell Medal was given to an undergraduate woman who demonstrated high scholarship, participated in a variety of campus activities, and exhibited “manners, neatness, speech, principles, sincerity and sufficient attainment in physical training to have won an I.U. sweater.”

As undergraduate women athletes began to differentiate themselves based on skill level, the department developed three athletic platforms—the interclass competitions, intramural programs, and Play Days. Differentiated by skill level and competitive drive, each program offered collegiate women an access point to the athletic competition she preferred. Most women wanted a more competitive option than the Play Day format. Basketball still held “first place in the hearts of coed athletes [as] was amply proved by the turn-out of candidates in January for positions on the four class teams.”

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28 Munro, *History of the Department of Physical Education for Women at Indiana University*.


30 Munro, *History of the Department of Physical Education for Women at Indiana University*.

For decades, rules for women’s collegiate basketball involved extensive restrictions on movement, including rules for how to pass the ball from one section to another.  
*Spalding Official Basket Ball Guide for Women, 1916–17*
In 1922, the majority of women in the freshmen class turned out for the basketball tryouts, with two hundred reporting for the class team. Over the course of the school year, nearly one hundred freshmen continued to report for practices, which led to strong competition and the development of some clever players and speedy teams.

In 1917, the sustained rapid growth of women’s basketball and women’s athletics at Indiana and many other universities led to the development of an athletic conference for collegiate women. Indiana sent delegates to the University of Wisconsin to take part in the national organization of the Atlantic Conference of American College Women. The new organization made arrangements “for sectional and national conferences by means of which college women can be brought together to discuss problems of vital importance to women’s athletics.” One year later, the first national conference took place at the University of Chicago, where it was announced

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32 “Women’s Athletics,” *Arbutus*, 1922. In the fall of 1922, there were 2,956 students enrolled in classes at Bloomington. Women constituted 43.8% of the student body, or 1,295 students.

that “to Indiana University falls the honors of the next national conference which will come in 1921.”34

The Atlantic Conference followed the national trend of the early 1920s, encouraging a less strenuous version of competition for basketball. The Association of Directors of Physical Education for College Women, the American Physical Education Association (APEA), and the National Amateur Athletics Federation (NAAF) all supported the “new” philosophy of restricting the competitive nature of basketball for women.35 The Atlantic Conference reverted to the three-line game, which meant, as the Arbutus described it: “the playing floor [was] divided into three parts, the centers playing in the middle section, and the forwards and guards occupying their respective positions at the ends of the floor. These rules, while making the game less strenuous for women, make it less interesting to players and spectators.”36

THE END OF THE MAXWELL ERA

On June 6, 1922, Juliette Maxwell became one of two women to be promoted to the rank of full professor at Indiana University. At the time, there were 17 women serving as faculty members out of 192 full-time positions.37 Maxwell’s promotion signified a new era for women at IU. Her tireless work as director of the Department of Physical Education for Women had helped elevate the status of women on the campus as students and faculty members. Four years after this achievement, Maxwell’s department awarded its first Bachelor of Science degree to Martha Carr, marking another milestone. By offering Bachelor of Science degrees, the department expanded academic horizons for women on campus. The Arbutus expressed the excitement felt amongst women who wanted to pursue physical education as their major: “No longer need she camouflage behind romance language and

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34 “Women’s Athletics,” Arbutus, 1920.
35 Hutchison, History of Women’s Athletics, 70.
36 “Women’s Athletics,” Arbutus, 1920. For a short period of time, women played basketball in a way more similar to the men’s game. The conference changed the rules back to the 3-line game to make the women’s game less competitive and more ladylike.
home economics. Her’s is at last a warranted art, for physical education is now a major department, offering a B.S. degree.”38

With each passing year, the faculty continued to build its curriculum and expand its recreational program:

Hockey, soccer, tennis and archery in the fall, basketball and swimming in the winter, baseball and tennis again in the spring and dancing all year constitute the curriculum of major sports in the women’s physical education department. Besides these there are the less strenuous activities of hiking, rifle work, etc. With so many sports, the Indiana university coed never wants for a game to play or athletics in which to participate.

Basketball season opened after Thanksgiving break and remained very popular with men and women. The 1927 Arbutus reported that “[practically] every organization had a team entered, and there were many close games. The same was the case with the interclass tournament.” The chief honor of any female athlete at the time was to be named a member of the varsity team. Like their predecessors, the varsity team remained a team in name only. The women were selected after the interclass tournament; the best women across the classes were nominated for a spot on the varsity squad.39

After thirty-five years of service, Maxwell retired as director of the Department of Physical Education for Women in 1928, marking the end of the first era of women’s athletics at Indiana. Her perseverance to increase the budget for the women’s gymnasium, grow the department to meet students’ needs, and encourage women to embrace their physical health through sports created a foundation for women’s athletics on the Bloomington campus in the years following her retirement. When she left, the department had increased from one to five full-time faculty members and one half-time member. Faculty members such as Mary Roddy and Clara Felder had begun as assistants and eventually became full professors. Felder went on to achieve her master’s degree at Columbia University, marking the first master’s degree faculty member in the department. New director Edna Munro described Maxwell as someone whose “faith in the inherent educational and health value of physical training and her vision in

38 “Coed Athletics,” Arbutus, 1928.
developing a department of progressively meaningful activity experiences for women—a program which laid the foundation upon which the future of the Department was built—bears testimony to her wisdom and leadership over so many years.”

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40 Munro, History of the Department of Physical Education for Women at Indiana University.
By 1928, women’s athletics, including women’s basketball, occupied a well-established place in the university’s curriculum. Some changes had come to the game. Women’s basketball uniforms had become less restrictive, with more closely fitting knickers, a tucked-in blouse with short sleeves, low tennis shoes, and ankle socks. Significant rule changes would not occur until the 1950s, when the women’s game finally included more freedom and movement on the court and the ability to take the ball away from an opposing player.

Maxwell’s pioneering efforts provided the foundation for later faculty members to spearhead the campaign for women’s athletics to become a financially supported aspect of the IU Athletic Department. Her role in the development of women’s basketball is paramount to understanding the creation of the modern women’s team.

**Suggestions for Further Research**

My research focused on the first director of the Department of Physical Education for Women, Juliette Maxwell, who served Indiana University from 1893 to 1928. Her successors helped build bridges to wider platforms for women’s athletics, with extramural activities and teams that resemble the current structure. Edna Munro served until the late 1950s, where the history of IU women’s athletics becomes sparse. Information about the missing years between Munro’s departure and the onset of Title IX would significantly add to the history of women’s basketball, helping historians to understand how Title IX came to be and to identify the faculty members who worked to create more equal opportunities for women at Indiana University.

Additionally, some of the best women’s basketball teams to represent IU were teams from the early 1970s. Researchers have compiled some information about these years, recognizing former players and coaches, but there are holes in the narrative, missing information that would greatly contribute to the records of IU women’s basketball. For example, Leanne Grotke and Isabelle Hutchison played significant roles in moving women’s sports from their own academic department into the larger IU Athletic Department. The incomplete history of IU women’s basketball provides ample research opportunities from which to consider the history of the sport on campus, the larger history of the university, and, finally, historic national trends in women’s basketball and women’s athletics.

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