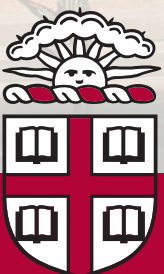


PEMBROKE CENTER

A Brief History of Women's Sports at Pembroke College and Brown University



Sayles Gymnasium, now Smith-Buonanno Hall.



1897

Mabel Potter, Class of 1897, persuades President Andrews to purchase gymnastic equipment for women, and she becomes the first physical education instructor for students of the Women's College in Brown University. The Department of Physical Culture, which organizes interclass competitions for students, is established.

1900

The first women's tennis team begins to compete against other colleges.



A photo from the earliest days of women's basketball

1903

Women's Basketball competes against Radcliffe College.

1905

A competitive field hockey program and women's varsity baseball are inaugurated.

1906



A rope and ladders exercise in Sayles Gym.

Frank Sayles, Class of 1890, contributes \$50,000 for the construction of Sayles Gym, to be used for women's athletics. The facility included a running track, basketball court, locker room space, and two bowling alleys. The gym remained active until the 1990s, when it was remodeled for classrooms and renamed Smith-Buonanno Hall.

1913

After the sinking of the *Titanic*, Brown initiates a mandatory swim test for men as a graduation requirement. It was not until 1931 that women were required to pass a swim test.

1924

The Pembroke College student government bans women from wearing bloomers, knickers, and sneakers (sports uniform) in classrooms on the main campus.

1926

Marjorie Brown '21 becomes the Director of Physical Culture. The Smith Swim Center was named on March 24, 1976, for Marjorie Brown Smith and her husband H. Stanton Smith '21.

1928

Albina Osipowich '33 wins two gold medals in the Olympics in Amsterdam, Holland. In 1930, Osipowich becomes the first woman permitted to swim an exhibition in the Colgate-Hoyt Pool on campus.

The Pembroke Center Associates thank Arlene Gorton '52 for her invaluable research and guidance in developing this timeline.

1930

Bessie Rudd begins her 31 years of service as Director of Physical Education for Pembroke College, bringing a determined commitment to the value of sport participation for women, and advocating for instructional, intramural, and intercollegiate programs.



Physical Education staff from the 1950s (l-r) Sharon Seif, Royce Mason, Bessie Rudd, Augusta Chapman, Barbara Underhill

1932

Helen Johns '36 wins a gold medal as part of the 100 meter freestyle relay team at the summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

1961



Pembroke Physical Education Associates, 1973 (l-r) Arlene Gorton, Jean Quattrocchi, Jacqueline Court

Arlene Gorton '52 is named Director of Physical Education at Pembroke College and Professor of Physical Education, a tenured position. In 1968, Gorton is named Assistant Director of Athletics for Brown University, in addition to her position at Pembroke College, creating a combined administration of Pembroke and Brown's overall program.

1964

Women's Ice Hockey begins and becomes the country's first intercollegiate program in women's ice hockey. To raise funds for equipment, the women's team sells hockey rule sheets at men's games. The team is named the Pembroke Pandas.

1969

Not until the appointment of Jacqueline Court did the Athletic Department have any minority instructors/coaches. Court also started and coached Women's Gymnastics until her retirement in 2001.

1972

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 are passed by Congress. The law prohibits any recipient of federal funds from limiting, on the basis of sex, any person's participating in or benefiting from any education program or activity. This law is applied to all aspects of school curriculum, including sports and athletics. The law paves the way for women students to fully participate in the University's athletic programs.

1974

Official Ivy competition begins in women's sports, 32 years after men's competition began, although the women's competitive teams had existed since 1903. Women's Crew wins the first Ivy Championship in the sport.



Basketball was one of the sports that began official Ivy competition in 1974

1975

Brown names Rose Gatti to be the Director of Sports Information. Gatti is the first woman to hold this position in the Ivy League.

1978

Outdoor Track and Field wins its first Ivy League Championship – in the team's second year of varsity competition.

1980

Brown Women's Soccer wins the Ivy League Championship, and would win the championship every year for the rest of the decade, except for 1981 (when they finished second).



1989

Brown Field Hockey wins the Ivy League Championship, under the leadership of three sisters: Joann Monteiro '88, Natalie Monteiro '90, and Christine Monteiro '93.

1991

Suzanne Bailey '91 is named All-American for both soccer and lacrosse, a very rare accomplishment.

1992

Brown students sue the University for violating Title IX after the University had announced the previous year that it would eliminate funding for four varsity teams: Men's Water Polo and Golf and Women's Gymnastics and Volleyball. The University settles in 1997 and restores funding to Women's Gymnastics and Volleyball and elevates Women's Crew, Water Polo, and Equestrian teams to varsity status, adding a total of 60 varsity places for women. Equally important, the budget increases significantly.

Suzanne Bailey '91

1994

Brown Women's Hockey becomes first Ivy League team to win an Eastern College Athletic Conference Championship.

1997

Liz Chace '59 and Malcolm Chace endow the Liz Turner '98 Coaching Chair for Women's Basketball – the second such position established in the nation. Vernon Alden '45 endows another chair serving Brown women athletes – the Alden-Rothenberg Men's and Women's Cross Country/Track and Field Coaching Chair in 2006.

1998

Katie King '97 and Tara Mounsey '00 help the U.S. Women's Hockey team win Olympic gold in Nagano, Japan.



1999

Brown Women's Crew wins the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Championship, Brown's first NCAA Championship in any sport – for men or women. The team wins the title again in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2007, 2008, and 2011.

Olympians Tara Mounsey '03 and Katie King '97

2000

Women's Golf added as Brown's 37th varsity intercollegiate sport.

2006

Brown Women's Basketball Head Coach Jean Marie Burr and former player Tammy Sanchez '95 are inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame.

2012

Kia Mosenthal '12 wins gold in the slalom at the U.S. Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association National Championship, leading Brown Women's skiing to the slalom team title.