



**Smithsonian Institution**

*National Museum of African American History and Culture*

## **National Sports Vol. VII No. 7**

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## FILMY NYLON STOCKINGS AND SHORT DRESSES MUST GO

### BASKETBALL AUTHORITIES DECLARE WAR ON "GLAMOUR GIRLS"

TWO provincial basketball associations have declared war on "glamour girls" who are defying association rules by wearing short dresses and filmy nylon stockings.

Armed with tape measures, association officials pounce on players whose frocks do not appear to reach within eight inches of the ground when kneeling, or whose stockings are not regulation black wool or lisle.

First to take this stand was Canterbury Association who found 23 girls with too-short dresses on one recent Saturday. The Wellington Association immediately announced that it, too, would take a new strong line.

But some quarters predict that such a strict policing will result finally in a revision of the rule book rather than surrender by the "glamour girls."

A Canterbury official said that some of the dresses seen were so short that "they revealed a good proportion of bloomers at the slightest movement. These are the gym-tunics which completely disappear beneath blazers and give the impression that the girls are not wearing skirts at all. On bicycles especially, the effect is devastating."

### SHORT TUNICS

An Englishman who watched games in Christchurch said: "I could hardly believe my eyes. When I first came here I thought they were going to dance the can-can."

Miss N. Kelly, secretary of the Wellington Basketball Association, said that players would not be forbidden from playing in their short gym-tunics, but the Association might impose a small fine-perhaps 2s 6d (Rs. 1.69).

Miss Kelly said that the regulations concerning stockings-black wool or lisle-were uncompromising, but heavy nylon would probably be allowed. But she added: "I do not think the girls look too decent in those silky nylons, but as yet the Association has not decided to take action against them."

The Auckland Association has said that it will not undertake a "blitz" on its members for wearing non-regulation dress, although Mrs. A. Larsen, the Secretary, said that offenders would be told that regulation hose and longer skirts were preferred.

In defence of the "glamour girls," the Christchurch evening newspaper "Star-Sun," asked: "Are the administrators of basketball tiresome, old fashioned people?" "In that event, would it be too daring to predict that the administrators will be found to be fighting a lost cause" it added.



Quoting the cause of the tennis star "Gorgeous Gussie" Moran, the 'Star Sun' said that wherever girls invade sports, and they now invade most of them, some glamour is bound to creep in.

"The modern girl," it continued, "is unlikely to be impressed by the fact that basketball players of yesterday tended to be drab, or impressed by the tradition that conflicts with the feminine urge to seep expression in fancy finery."

Pointing to the rapidly-increasing popularity of marching] as a girls' sport in this country, and the imagination and glamour shown in marching girls' uniforms, the writer suggested that the general result is "far from displeasing."

The new look is something that women have sought throughout the ages, and official prohibitions are likely to be no more successful than was the command that an early English king uttered against the tide.

Delhi won the junior Inter-State Lawn Tennis Championship held recently at Trivandrum. The photograph shows Ratan Thadani (left) and Primla Lal (right) with Ranbir Singh, Manager and Coach, who accompanied the team to Trivandrum. Both girls are trainees of the Rajkumari Sports Coaching Scheme.

[[Image]]

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#### CRICONTROL ACCEPTS LALA AMAR NATH'S PROPOSAL TO SEND YOUNG CRICKETERS TO ENGLAND

[[Image]]  
Lala Amar Nath

The working committee of the Board of Control for Cricket today welcomed a suggestion made by Lala Amarnath, Chairman of the Board's Selection Committee, for sending a team of young cricketers to England on a short tour in the summer of 1958 and authorised the President to raise the necessary funds.

Lala Amarnath had proposed that a team of 14 to 15 youngsters, preferably under the age of 20 should be sent to the U. K. on a three-month tour to play matches against minor Counties, Universities and if possible against the M.C.C. Such a tour, in his view would help in building up a team for the future.

The Committee also accepted another suggestion of Lala Amarnath that matches be arranged this winter at two or three centres between cricketers now being trained under Rajkumari and other schemes and University or other teams specially selected by the Board. This would enable the Board to judge how far coaching has benefitted trainees.

The Committee unanimously ratified the recommendations of the Ranji Trophy sub-committee for conducting this year on a League basis upto the zone levels.

The Committee also gave its approval to the efforts of the Board to secure the services of Ray Lindwall on a short-term assignment in India to train potential fast bowlers.

The Committee also accepted adjustments in boundaries of State Associations, necessitated by the reorganisation of States, as recommended by the Boundaries Reorganisation Committee.

The Committee granted permission to Sunder Club of Bombay to send a team to East Africa on a goodwill visit.

The Committee decided to appeal to the West Bengal Government to give up the proposal to construct a composite stadium at Eden Gardens and reserve the Eden Gardens, "one of the finest cricket grounds in the world", for cricket tournaments.

[[Image]]

CRAPP

"WORLD'S OUTSTANDING FIGURE FOR 1956"

Lorraine Crapp, 18-year old Australian Swimmer, has been chosen the "world's outstanding sporting figure for 1956" by the Christopher Columbus Committee backed by the Italian Olympia Committee. Miss Crapp won two gold medals and one silver medal at the Melbourne Olympic Games last-year. Previous holder was Toni Sailer, the Austrian champion.

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