



Joan C. Banfield Foundation (JCB) Informational Outline

Mission Statement of Foundation:

In mid 2004 we started the Joan C. Banfield Foundation as a charitable organization that is dedicated to building an endowment to enrich the quality and support of athletics, health and fitness for females ages K to 12th grade in Dexter. There are five keys initiatives that support accomplishing our mission:

1. Actively participate in the community to raise awareness regarding the importance of involvement in female athletics, identify and address barriers and establish additional programs. This is accomplished through:
 - Close communication with the athletic organizations, current and past athletes/coaches and parents in the community with regards to issues and needs
 - Research and communicate information on the benefits of athletic participation and current issues faced in the community
 - Develop programs that foster female fitness and injury prevention
 - Active participation and membership on community committees that create solutions to address the needs and challenges facing the female athletic community.
 - Partnering with other organizations (both for profit and non profits) to implement and fund programs and initiatives that address the needs of the female athletic community
 - Using the JCB website for communication of athletic opportunities
2. Organize and implement opportunities for athletic participation for female youth's athletics (K to 12th grade age groups) in the community either through sponsorship grants or direct support
3. Provide recognition to female athletes, businesses, coaches and volunteers that have made significant contribution and impact to the female athletic community
4. Provide funding support through grants and sponsorships for programs that support the youth female athletic community.
5. Organize fund raising events that will provide grants, scholarships and opportunities for female youth athletic programs and teams

Who was Joan C. BANFIELD?



- Played High School Basketball at Remus High School, graduating in 1936
- Was a standout player at Central State Teacher's College (now CMU), with a high game of 29 points (Team total was 31)
- Was an avid fan of all sports and held U of M season tickets to both Football and Baseball
- Broke her wrist playing tennis at the age 73
- A person who knew the value and importance of sport, athletics and physical fitness.

Why are sports important to young females?

Business and Career

- **Article from "Prevention" Magazine**
 1. 41% of the those women making more than \$75K/year described themselves as athletic, vs. 17% in the entire population.
 2. 80% of female leaders in Fortune 500 companies participated in High School athletics
- **Oppenheimer Funds Study**
 1. Of 401 successful women in business, 82% said involvement in sports helped them succeed in competitive work environment.
 2. 86% said it made them more disciplined
 3. 81% said better function as a "team player"
 4. 69% said it helped to develop their leadership skills and contributed to their professional success
 5. 68% said it helped them deal better with failure
- More than 4 out of 5 executives businesswomen played sports growing up – and vast majority say lessons learned on the playing field have contributed to their success in business (Game Face, From the Locker Room to the Board Room: A Survey on Sports in the Lives of Women Business Executives, Feb. 2002).

Fitness/Health/ Self-esteem data

- Teenage female athletes are less likely to use marijuana, cocaine or “other” illicit drugs., less likely to be suicidal, less likely to smoke and more likely to have positive body images than females non-athletes (The Women’s Sports Foundation Report: Health Risks and the Teen Athlete, March 2001)
 - Teenage female athletes are less likely to smoke than female non-athletes (Women’s Sports Foundation 2001)
 - Girls in grades five to twelve are at significantly higher risk than boys to suffer depressive symptoms and that girls lose their self-confidence as they mature, in contrast to boys, who gain in self-confidence as they grow older (Harris, Commonwealth Fund’s Survey of the Health of Adolescent Girls, 1997)
 - Half of all girls who participate in some kind of sports experience higher than average levels of self-esteem and less depression (Colton & Gore, Risk, Resiliency, and Resistance: Current Research on Adolescent Girls, Ms. Foundation, 1991)
 - Teenage female athletes are less than half as likely to get pregnant as female non-athletes (The Women’s Sports Foundation Report: Sport and Teen Pregnancy, May 1998)
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- Women who are active in sports and recreational activities as girls feel greater confidence, self-esteem and pride in their physical and social selves than those who were sedentary as kids. (Miller Lite Report, 1985; Melpomene Institute, 1995)
 - Participation in physical activity has shown a to decrease a young women’s chance to become overweight and developing obesity-related illnesses, and sports participation is also associated with lower prevalence of depression, pregnancy, sexual activity, smoking and drug use (Keeping Score: Girl’s Participation in High School Athletics in Massachusetts; Harvard School of Public Health, Feb 2004)

Educational

- High school girls who play sports are more likely to do well in science (Hanson, S. L. and Kraus, R.S., 1998; Sociology of Education)
- Female student athletes also have higher grades and graduation rates than their non-athlete peers (Keeping Score: Girl’s Participation in High School Athletics in Massachusetts; Harvard School of Public Health, Feb 2004)
- Rural female athletes are less likely to drop-out of high school and more likely to attend a four college than their non-athletic peers

(Empowering Women in Sports, The Empowering Women Series, No. 4; A publication of the Feminist Majority Foundation, 1995)

Funding and Issues

- Depending on ethnic background, 18% to 33 % of female athletes say their families cannot afford to pay for equipment or lessons (Wilson Sporting Goods Co & The Women's Sport Foundation, 1998)
- While on the average, 1/3 of the females participate in freshman athletics, the number drops to 17% by their senior year (Zimmerman & Reavill, Raising Our Athletic Daughters: How Sports Can Restore Self-Esteem and Save Girls' Lives)
- Since 1982, there has been a 21% plunge in the number of teenagers who exercise regularly (Zimmerman & Reavill, Raising Our Athletic Daughters: How Sports Can Restore Self-Esteem and Save Girls' Lives)
- *I have stayed away from Title IX discussions, because the issue is not how the pie should be split, it's the whole pie is too small and is frequently the first item to be placed on the chopping block when budget cuts are needed.*

In summary, enhancing athletic opportunity for young women and girls is of vital importance because of the significant physical, psychological, and sociological benefits those opportunities provide. A number of studies have recognized the role that athletic opportunities for women provide in promoting greater academic success, responsible social behaviors, and increased personal skills (Title IX: Gender Equity in College Sports: An AAUP Position Paper, June 2003)

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