hello, dolly

New Athletic Trophy at OSU
Is Awarded Winners Of
Women's 'Buckianna Games Week'

Lounging conspicuously but prettily in a showcase at one of the women's dormitories on the Ohio State University campus is a four-foot-high trophy unlike any of the conventional awards presented in sporting competitions.

It has the traditional inscription spelling out its winner. But the writing is not etched in silver or gold on a metal blank. The words are embroidered instead on a crinkly starched apron. The apron is tied around "Buckianna" — a slightly pudgy but smilingly proud Raggedy Ann doll.

An unusual trophy, surely. But then, baby Bucky was presented for a rather unusual sporting endeavor, unusual especially at Ohio State with its traditional image of basketball and football played by big burly males.

Whether the doll was named for the event, or vice versa, nobody knows for sure. Whichever, "Buckianna Games Week" was staged on campus for the first time this year.

And the surprising success has its co-sponsors, the Women's Recreation Association and Women's Physical Education Department, beaming with confidence and sure it will become an annual affair, generating as much enthusiasm among participants and backers as an Ohio State-Michigan football game. Enthusiastic queries from other universities throughout the country hint the idea may spread.

The Buckianna games offered a full week of competition in 11 sports. These included badminton, bowling, fencing, gymnastics, swimming, diving, volleyball and basketball from among those sports in which girls usually take part. Then there were others which raised an eyebrow or two—judo, rifle shooting and pool.

Next year, field and track events in French Field House may be included, and entries are expected to increase substantially.

This year, there were 550 formal entries from town girls, sororities, dormitories and off-campus rooming houses, representing about 30 teams. There were some late scratches, but Phyllis Bailey, co-ordinator of recreational activity for the Physical Education Department,

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Fencing

The Columbus Dispatch Magazine—June 7, 1964
"Buckianna" is a trophy presented to winning team of unusual sports event.

Gymnastics is one of 11 sports in which girls competed in the "Buckianna Games Week" at Ohio State University.
suspected this was a case of the event's being “something new and the girls not really sure of what was going to happen.”

And what did happen?

Well, press coverage wasn't exactly easy. The games were decided on a man's land. For some tragic reason, miles on campus, who most certainly would have relished ogling the costumes if the competition, were not welcomed as spectators.

Security checks were needed for clearance for this reporter-photographer. Even then, more than once the suggestion was offered to "check before you open any doors. They may lead to the locker room."

Only women planned the games. Naturally, only women participated. Women did the judging and officiating and even took the pictures and reported for the student newspaper.

At least two of the judges had some impressive qualifications other than their being female. They were Mrs. Bertha Hanson, a visiting lecturer from Denmark who took fourth place in the 1969 Olympic diving events, and Mrs. Carolyn Bowers, OSU physical education instructor who was an alternate to the United States gymnastics squad the same year.

Notes taken by a sports writer may have recorded these features and sidelights:

- Basketball free throw—Unorthodox styles of shooting would be more apropos to a modern dance class... not of Jerry Lucas style... but Big Jer never filled out a uniform like some of them... results not bad... in fact remarkable... winner plopped in 29 consecutive shots before missing.
- Fencing—Darn masks cover their faces... match stops when one girl gets scratched on leg... contest resumes after she rubs it.
- Judo—Would be criminal if she does not wear a new boy friend... they sure make a lot of noise when they hit... all the students seem to be leaving the library in the next room... find out what “Shai” means... ask if it is “He-in” for men... inquire how Tonomomo is executed but don’t volunteer for demonstration.
- Badminton—One of the winners is crying... not because she is happy over victory though... her elated partner just whacked her in the nose with a racket.
- Pool—Have not seen anybody chalk her fingers instead of cue stick yet... girl drops pocketbook on table and rearranges some balls... opponent does not seem to mind... one in brown skirt just ran six in a row... one in white slacks has not run any in a row but who cares?
- Rifle Shooting—ROTC instructor turns red when he barks out command about something a gun and anatomy have in common... he has the one in blue sweater closes both eyes before she squeezes... a target check leaves another girl looking like she does not believe anything came out when she fired... winner scores 292 out of 300... check that... it can’t be right... it is?
- Gymnastics—Dressed in those tights they don’t have to be good... judge says contestants can have spotter... that does not mean somebody who watches... they’re supposed to catch contestant if she falls.

Actually, considering that the only experience some of the girls had was perhaps one physical education class, they were amazingly proficient. Even those who were not displayed admirable sportsmanship—or sportsmanship if you will. And it was of a variety not frequently seen, for instance, along the sidelines of a football field.

The strongest words of protest or discontent with a bad shot or execution was something on the order of “son of a gun” or just “golly.” Even these mild outcries were repeated sweeterly. The contestants readily and willingly applauded and congratulated one another. No tears, just cheers.

Casualties throughout the week of competition were never anything more serious than an adhesive bandage could treat. Nobody, however, recorded how many split fingernails there were.

West Baker Hall, one of the largest women’s dormitories on campus, got custody of Buckiana with a 59-member team which edged two sororities by just a hair.
Basketball (two styles of shooting a basket)

Judo

Rifle Shooting

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Judging (Bertha Hanson and Carolyn Bowers)

Badminton
(The End)