

## Andrea Seger



The term "Title IX" was still years away from being part of the sports vocabulary in this country. But that didn't stop Andrea Seger from competing in athletics while at Norwalk High School in the mid-1960s.

In fact, from 1964-67, "Andi" Seger was one of the most active female athletes at NHS, participating in as many as five sports: basketball, volleyball, track, softball and field hockey.

To put that in perspective, consider that prior to 1972, the year Title IX, the federal law that assured gender equality in athletics, was adopted, it was tough for girls to play one sport, let alone five.

But Seger played them all, including more than one sport in a season on a few occasions.

Following her graduation in 1967, Seger's passion for athletics followed her to Cortland State University in upstate New York where she majored in Physical Education and played field hockey and volleyball.

Seger graduated in June of 1971 and one year later, on June 23 1972, Title IX was signed into law by President Richard Nixon.

But while it was too late for Seger to realize the full impact of Title IX as a high school and collegiate athlete, the new public law did benefit her during the next 30 years.

She was able to witness the transformation in female athletics first hand as she returned to Norwalk High and taught Physical Education from 1971-74 while also serving as the head girls volleyball coach.

Seger would leave her alma mater in 1974, however, to become a graduate teaching assistant and assistant volleyball coach at Indiana State University for one year. She earned her Master's degree in Physical Education with Specialization in Athletic Training at ISU in August 1975, and that fall went to Ball State University in nearby Muncie, Ind., where she became an assistant professor and assistant athletic trainer.

Then in March 1983, Seger was appointed Director of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women under Ball State's split athletic department system. After a 12-year tenure heading the women's athletic program, the Division I-A university combined its men's and women's athletic programs and selected Seger as its Director of Intercollegiate Athletics in 1995.

At the time, Seger was one of only four women in the country to head a college athletic program that played major college football, and in 1998 she was named one of Street & Smith Magazine's "Super 50 Women Sports Executives."

It's easy to see why she was selected. During Seger's tenure, the athletic program at Ball State won 16 Mid-American Conference championships while boasting graduation rates in the top-10 in Division I-A. In addition, under Seger's leadership, BSU was recognized as a Division I-A "Champs Program of Excellence."

Besides her duties as athletic director, Seger served for eight years on the NCAA Committee on Athletics Certification and four years on the NCAA Division I Management Council.

After 27 years at Ball State, the last seven as the overall athletic director, Seger retired in June 2002 with the title Director of Athletics Emeritus. At the time of her retirement, she was one of only 17 women athletic directors among 305 Division I-A colleges and universities in the nation.

But Seger is still very much involved in college athletics. In 2004, she joined Alden and Associates, Inc., an athletic search and consulting firm, as a senior associate counsel and works with college athletic programs all over the country.

In 2001, Andi Seger returned home to Norwalk to be installed on the Norwalk High School Alumni Association Wall of Honor. She has also been inducted into both the Cortland State Hall of Fame and Ball State Hall of Fame.

In 2010, Seger received a Lifetime Award from the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators, while in June of this year she was inducted into the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics.

Seger, who grew up around the corner from the old Norwalk High School, now resides in Raleigh, N.C. She remains active by playing golf and is a past president of the Raleigh Chapter of Executive Women's Golf Association.