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Address at the Eastern College Athletic Conference Convention, October 8, 1991

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It is certainly a great pleasure - and a great honor - to accept your recognition of Eleanor Snell for her many contributions to women's athletics during her forty years at Ursinus College. I realize that the reason for my being here is purely geographical - I happen to live on the Cape! So - my presence has its basis on chance - as did my original connection with Eleanor Snell. I started my four years at Ursinus as an English major - but by the end of my sophomore year I realized that I would rather play in games than write about them..... and I was more interested in athletic activities than in the English Club. How lucky for me that Eleanor Snell was there! She was my teacher - my coach - and my inspiration as I changed my major - with her help - to Physical Education - and then spent 37 years teaching and coaching!

But neither chance nor luck were involved as Miss Snell compiled her record of outstanding achievements as a coach and professor at Ursinus College. Some of these achievements are a matter of statistics -

1. In forty years as a coach of Field Hockey, Basketball, Softball and Tennis she compiled a record of 674 wins, 194 losses, and 42 ties.

2. She helped produce more All-American field hockey players than any other college or university in the country.

3. During one ten year period - 1941 to 1951 - her softball teams lost only one game.

4. Her 39 year basketball record was 269 wins, 69 losses, and 13 ties.

5. She is one of only four women who have been inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports hall of Fame.
No statistics, though, can measure or explain the positive influence she has had on the hundreds of women she has coached, and on the growth and development of women's collegiate athletics. This positive influence didn't come about by chance or luck either - it was the result of an exceptional woman's devotion to athletics, and of the high standards of excellence which she set as a college coach. She demanded the best - from herself, and from her players. She was enthusiastic about life - every aspect of it!

She loved competition - and appreciated its value long before most women physical educators did. She hated to lose - but did so gracefully. She analyzed games before, during and after - and encouraged her players to do the same. Her thinking was critical, independent and creative - intellectualism did - and does - have a place in athletics!!

She knew each player - and cared about her - as a total person - where she came from - and where she was going. A player may have come from a background where a person would play good - and then lay down and rest! But by the time that player left Ursinus she knew that one might play well and then lie down - and all of the players whom she went on to coach would get frequent grammar lessons as well!

Eleanor Snell's outstanding achievements as a coach and teacher at Ursinus were recognized in 1988 when she received Ursinus College's highest academic award - the establishment of the Eleanor Frost Snell Chair of Health and Physical Education. She is the first woman Health and Physical Educator and coach ever to have a professorial chair established in her name at a liberal arts college.

The work which Eleanor Snell began in 1931, and continued for forty years, as a teacher and coach at Ursinus College, as an official of softball, basketball and field hockey, and as a leader in the development and spread of intercollegiate women's athletics, continues today.
Those whom she taught and coached have carried on her standards of excellence in their high school and college coaching, throughout the United States, and now their students and players are doing the same as they coach at the high school and college level.

So Eleanor Snell's legacy continues - it has done so for sixty years - and there's no end in sight! She was truly a pioneer - an innovator - and a cornerstone of women's collegiate athletics. I'm sure that I speak for all of Snell's Belles when I congratulate you on recognizing her outstanding role in the growth of women's athletics - and on her behalf I thank you for this recognition. I look forward to speaking with her this evening, and I know she will enjoy hearing all about this afternoon's events.

Thank you!

Jane E. Brusch '47

Other Ursus Grads attending meeting:
Ellen Staurowsky '77
Avery Haines '67
Andrew Wickerham '80