

## **Advocacy Update**

### **January 24 – January 28, 2011**

**Youth Training Program, 'Year Up' (January 24)** – This article covers an organization 'Year Up' that provides structured internship opportunities to underprivileged youth. The article is not exactly directly correlated to anything we're doing. However, I think there are a few interesting things to note. The unemployment rate amongst young adults (16-24) is almost 20%, with that percentage rising for minority youth. This Year Up program is designed to provide practical job training that will help young adults learn skills that will make them more marketable and successful in the professional world. As we discuss ways to incorporate student-athletes or young professionals into our programming, looking at some of these ideas might help us. [Read more.](#)

---

**Belmont Amends Anti-Discrimination Policy (January 26)** - In response to the recent controversy surrounding the departure of Belmont University Women's Soccer Coach, Lisa Howe, the university has added 'sexual orientation' to its anti-discrimination statement. [Read more.](#)

---

**English Sportscasters Fired/Resign over Sexist Comments (January 27)** – During a soccer match over the weekend in England, two sportscasters for Sky Sports made a sexist comment about the games female official. Sky Sports subsequently fired one of the sportscasters early this week and the other sportscaster resigned. Both men have expressed regret for the comments that they made and have apologized to the official in question. [Read more.](#)

---

**Getting in the Game (January 28)** – Deborah Brake recently published a book about Title IX: *Getting in the Game: Title IX and The Women's Sport Revolution*. In this piece, she answers some Title IX questions and talks about the book. Some interesting pieces that came out of the interview: Brake says that she is disappointed that Title IX hasn't evened out the amount of money spent on men's and women's sports. Overall, men's sports receive significantly more funding and have run up huge tabs in recent years.

Brake also talks about a disturbing trend in our elementary and high schools: as funding for these schools is cut, they often rely on cutting athletic teams and physical education programs to make end meet. Since this trend is happening more often to inner-city schools that already have tight budgets, this reduction of sport opportunities is disproportionately affecting minority girls. As we try to increase participation opportunities for minority women in college, this lack of opportunity at the lower levels will be a hurdle. [Read more.](#)

---

**Homophobia in Recruiting (January 26)** – This article will be appearing in the February 7, 2011 issue of ESPN The Magazine: The issue of negative recruiting in women's basketball has long been a source of frustration in the sport. The practice of discouraging players from playing for a 'gay program' is used frequently by coaches who promote their own programs as focused on 'family values' or 'healthy environments.' Programs that have been identified as 'gay' often have a significant recruiting disadvantage. This has led many female coaches and players to hide their sexuality for fear of jeopardizing the success of their program. Pressure to remain closeted has ultimately pushed qualified women out of coaching and has created hostile environments for lesbian student-athletes. [Read more.](#)

---

**Syracuse Women's Basketball Coach under Investigation for Sexual Harassment (January 28)** – Quentin Hillsman is under investigation by the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights after a former player

claimed that he inappropriately touched and texted players. Syracuse claims that an investigation was done after the complaint was filed by the student and there was no proof that the allegations were true. [Read more.](#)

---

**Florida Gulf Coast University Title IX Case (January 27)** – In 2007, Bonnie Yegidis, former Provost at FGCU was fired. She claims that she was terminated because she tried to bring attention to a Title IX complaint that had been filed against the University. Under Title IX, no employee can be terminated in retaliation for filing a Title IX complaint or in this case, bringing the complaint to the attention of the administration. The pre-trial hearing was held on January 27<sup>th</sup> and outlined the witnesses that will be allowed to testify. Ms. Yegidis is seeking monetary damages for her wrongful termination. [Read more.](#)