

M-CLUB MESSENGER

By Sharon Ocker

**“Winning has always meant much to me, but winning friends has meant the most.”
–Babe Didrikson Zaharias, U.S. women’s golfer**

The last issue of The Morningsider included a brief history of Morningside’s women’s athletics, highlighting some splendid accomplishments over the years. But there were lighter moments, too; here are some of those stories.

CAREFUL WITH THAT DOOR

Bob Edlund 1961, who was the husband of **Nita Harris Edlund 1959**, long-time teacher, coach, and director of physical education, tells a story that was a great one. The volleyball team was returning from a game at Buena Vista in a van. The players told Nita Edlund that the van side door wasn’t shut tight and that they were getting cold. The driver pulled over and she got out to shut the door tight. She swung it wide open to get momentum for a hard close, but the door slid off its track and went down in the ditch on top of about four inches of snow. She stood there, holding her empty hand in the air and said, “Oops!” They put the door back on as best they could, tied it to a seat with a jump rope and some towels and made it back safely without any further damage.

“YOU GOT ME”

There were several examples of practical joking. One of the best happened to coach **Sandy Winter 1981** in softball. One of the women joined a sorority, and other team members didn’t like the idea. Winter got a call that the players had gone to a formal sorority meeting and removed the team member bodily, chair and all. Winter talked to the team about this and said that they were out of line. She

thought that would take care of it, but the next day, **Dean Carolyn Rants** called and said there had been a food fight in the commons between the sorority and the softball players. She provided names of those involved. At the next practice, Winter pulled the players on the list into a separate room and yelled at them for about 30 minutes. Finally, one of them raised her hand and said, “April Fool!” Winter said, “But it’s March 30th.” “We knew you would never fall for it on April 1st,” they said. She countered, “But Dr. Rants would never have helped you.” “Yeah,” said the player. “We had to talk to her for days.” Winter sank into a chair and offered, “You did it – you got me.” Then the players said, “Coach, the rest of the team thinks it’s for real, so could you make us run extra?” “No problem,” she said, and they ran.

Coach Jamie Sale was another victim of practical jokes. One day before basketball practice for an important game, players said that **Autumn Bartel** had been to her optometrist, had her eyes dilated, and would have to wear dark glasses because of the situation. “Please don’t make fun of her because she is sensitive about this,” they asked. Well, Sale is a practical joker himself, so he walked out on the court with sunglasses on. Bartel had hers on, too, and Sale patted her on the back and told her not to be concerned. He and **Athletic Director Jerry Schmutte** were laughing about it off to the side. When it was time for practice to start, the players gathered with the coaches in a huddle and said, “We gotcha!”

DISCO IS STILL IN STYLE

Many athletes are quite superstitious, including the current women’s basketball team. They have a disco ball which they turn on in the locker room before the warm-up and leave running throughout the night until the game is over. It runs on batteries and flashes light all around the room. They forgot it at this past season’s game at Northwestern College, and they lost. At the 2005 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Division II national tournament, the batteries went dead. In a near panic, they sent a tournament volunteer to get new ones so they could make it work again. Of course, they won.

HOW TIMES CHANGE

Roberta Boothby 1964 recalls when **John Arnold** was women’s basketball coach and was making his first road trip to Minnesota for games against Mankato State and St. Cloud State. He discovered that he had not packed his dress shoes, and he frantically called that she wire him some money so that he could buy shoes and look presentable. She did—and he did. Now, of course, many of the coaches wear basketball shoes with their suits to the games—no doubt due to the deals they have with manufacturers.

Please visit the college’s Web site at www.morningside.edu for more stories.