



# The Faces Behind the Names

**Madeira City Schools**  
Celebrating 100 Years  
of Excellence in Education

## Nadine Wilson and the Amazons

Nadine Wilson was a Health and Phys Ed teacher at Madeira High School from 1968 - 1982. She coached girls volleyball, basketball, field hockey, softball, tennis, badminton, track and field, and golf. She is also the name behind the Madeira Amazons.

From the district's beginnings, all Madeira athletes were Mustangs. Prior to Title IX female athletics took a back seat to the boys teams, and often the only time they could get gym time to practice was late at night. In the early 70's the Madeira girls teams began to win, and win consistently. Some of the male athletes were jealous of the girls' successes and began to taunt the female athletes by trashing their locker room and calling them 'Amazons'. Coach Wilson called the girls together and told them Amazons were strong warriors who were courageous and fiercely independent; something the girls needed to be then. She decided they were going to make a positive out of the negative and proudly call themselves the Madeira Amazons. The girls' teams went on to achieve undefeated years in numerous sports, winning league and state championships. Coach Wilson turned a negative nickname into one of sportsmanship, pride, and respect and taught 'her girls' how to rise from adversity.



*Original and current Amazons in 2015*



Madeira was one of only two schools in the state with different nicknames for its boys and girls sports, but Mustangs was the only official school mascot. In 2014 Superintendent Steve Kramer wanted it decided once and for all if the Amazon name would become official, or if the girls' teams would be called a variation of the Mustangs. After months of collecting students' thoughts, holding meetings with parents and community members, and talking with some of the original 1970's Amazons, it became clear the Amazon name was a unique part of the district's history. On February 12, 2014, Superintendent Kramer announced it had been decided to adopt the Amazon name as an official school mascot for its female teams.

As part of a 2016 district rebranding, an Amazons logo was created, along with a new Mustang logo. A third logo combines the two into a united Madeira Athletics icon. The history and inception of the Amazon name, as well as the legacy of Nadine Wilson, is an integral part of the first 100 years of Madeira City Schools. A plaque will be hung in the entrance to the Madeira High School's gymnasium in Coach Wilson's honor during this 100th year.

