



Ruth Lowman Class of 2010

Ruth Lowman is a 1962 Oroville High School graduate who became a highly successful high school teacher, administrator, and coach. The majority of her 34-year career in public education took place at Sutter High School after initial employment at Marysville High School. While at Sutter High School, Ruth taught physical education, served as the physical education department head, coached for 20 years both junior varsity and varsity levels of field hockey, volleyball, basketball, softball, and track, and served as the club advisor for the Sutter Recreation Association (SRA) and the Ski Club. Ruth was instrumental in establishing female athletic competition in the North Section and was honored as its coach of the year. Her efforts helped transform girls' athletic competition from the Girls Athletic Association (GAA) intramural competition to the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF). Female athletes today have opportunities that would not have been available had teachers and coaches like Ruth Lowman not worked so hard to obtain gender equity in sports.

As a student at Oroville High School (OHS) from 1958 to 1962, Ruth was an outstanding student athlete. She was a GAA member all four years and the president during her senior year. She earned a Block "O" letter and GAA Outstanding Athlete pins in volleyball, basketball, and softball. Ruth was named the Best All-Around Athlete in 1962. She also participated in Associated Student Activities, including the Future Teachers Club, Racquet Club, Pep Club, and French Club.

Furthermore, she won the Bank of America Certificate Award in Visual Arts. While in high school, Ruth petitioned the school administration regarding equal athletic opportunity for girls. She was also instrumental in establishing the first teacher's assistant class at OHS.

After graduating from OHS, Ruth attended California State University, Chico, then known as Chico State College. As a college athlete, she played both field hockey and softball. She graduated in 1966, with a Bachelor of Arts and Masters in Physical Education with a minor in Life Science. Twenty years later, she completed a Master of Science in Pupil Personnel Services from the University of LaVerne.

As a teacher and coach at Sutter High School, Ruth built upon an existing successful GAA to expand its membership and to make it the most powerful and active organization at the school. Besides sponsoring year-round intramurals, this organization earned over a thousand dollars annually to pay for quality uniforms, equipment and awards for the interscholastic programs. She, together with her athletes and their parents, raised money to build the first varsity softball field at the school. After teaching and coaching for twenty years, she founded the first continuation high school within the Sutter High School District and served at-risk students for fourteen years as its administrator and teacher.