

Women from Florida State University formed the first gymnastic team from the south to enter the NAAU competition. Team members, Paula Rowe, Ann Tucker, Connie Holder, Frances Stokes, Dorothy Rich, Barbara Ann Vickers, Barbara Rynski, and Gladys Calavetti compete in a variety of events. With the use of hoops, they performed callisthenic routine routines “involving precision, judgement, poise, balance and ballet movements” (Florida Flambeau, 1 May 1953). The group won the drill team title, while Rich took fifth place in the balance beam event (Florida Flambeau, 5 May 1953).

A recommendation went out from Dr. Montgomery that the regulations concerning women’s participation in athletics be enforced. The regulations were interpreted to mean that:

“All women now under Dr. Price be forbidden to continue in this group. The Physical Education for Women’s faculty will be responsible for teaching, organizing and conducting, coaching and officiating all gymnastic activities at Florida State University.” (Mongomery, letter)