

Filipino Girls in Sports

By
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"MAN must turn to athletics and other forms of physical activity to protect himself from the social ills prevalent today." Dr. Jesse F. Williams, professor of Education of Teachers College, Columbia University, declared in a survey, "The Challenge to Health", made public recently.

When Professor Williams gave out this very enlightening statement he also had in mind the members of the weaker sex. For women today the world over are indulging in all forms of athletic pastime.

The Philippines started rather late but our modern girls have taken to sports like duck takes to water. Although our girls have indulged in different athletic pastimes, mostly of the less strenuous variety, it was not until recently that we have been developing com-

petitors of first class caliber. Today Filipina girls have invaded almost every popular sport. Tennis

volley-ball, bowling, track and field, swimming and basketball have filled the experimental stage.

ARE WOMEN GOOD SPORTS? By M. VICTORIANO

To the question "Are women as good sports in athletics as men?" my answer, based on past observations while writing sports stories for the newspapers, would be invariably this:

Women are not only as good a sports as men in athletics but, more often, better ones.

Women are generally idealists and possess what men lack—the motherly instinct of eternal understanding and tolerance.

How sporting women can be in sports was brought home to the spectators again and again in athletic competitions all over the world and of course, here.

In a recent women's tennis singles championship, the finalists, both young and eager, were playing stroke for stroke, matching skill for skill and temperament for temperament to the last and deciding set.

As almost every game was deuced and each point marked with long-drawn, thrilling rallies, the match up to the last crucial stroke remained a toss-off. At such a heartbreaking juncture, however, the umpire, for unknown reasons, erroneously (to impartial observers) several times called out footfaults against one of the players who was forced to doublefault in her services, worrying over her feet. The calls were apparently unjustified.

That occasion gave rise to one of the grandest gestures of sportmanship seen in local courts. With everything at stake, the other woman player subtly, without obvious attempt at grandstanding, disdained her advantage, throwing away subsequent points until the other had regained enough composure.

Then, they went again after each other with slash and smash and the best girl won.

In another women's championship the better player

apparently suddenly cracked up under the strain and although possessed of better strokes and experience, lost out to her rival.

A few, however, came in the know, so to speak and learned that she had deliberately allowed herself to be bested as her victory would have been heartbreak and misery for someone very close to her adversary and who had staked everything on the match in a blind faith.

Need more be said for women in sports?

Minda Ochoa, present national tennis "singles" champion and holder of the All-Corers and Metropolitan titles is perhaps one of the best net stars in the Orient today. With her sister, Aida Ochoa, they have cleaned up all opposition in the doubles. Daughters of a former champion racket-wielder, it is but natural that the Ochoa sisters take up the sports which has given their mother, Elisa Ochoa, fame and glory in the athletic field. Barely in their teens, the Ochoa sisters are destined to become more famous in the years to come.

To enumerate the achievements of the Ochoa family in the local tennis world would require a volume. Every sports lover is acquainted with their prowess with the racket. Besides the Ochoas, other lesser lights have forged ahead in this sport, among them being Belen Calma and Estrella Albuero, for-

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