

April 1, 2001

Dear Emmy,

Here are my responses to that great letter you wrote! It was so well organized that it makes me even more proud of you than I was before — and that's difficult to do. The best way for me to respond to your questions is for me to follow the outline you suggested in the last paragraph of your letter.

First, you asked whether I played any sports in school, and the answer is "yes," but only in physical education classes. After-school sports were mostly for boys then; sports for girls were very limited, and in some cases nonexistent. It wasn't until the Federal law, called Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, went into effect in 1975 that schools were required to offer similar services to students of both sexes. One of my roles when I worked for the University of California in the 1970s and 1980s was to be the University's Title IX Coordinator. In that role, I had to ensure that students on the nine campuses of the University offered athletic programs to men and women. It was an important job, and I took my responsibilities very seriously.

I did participate in all sports in summer camp during my teen years. Here's an award I received at camp in 1943, when I was 13 years old. I was very proud of this award, particularly since I received the "All Around Camper" award, which was the top honor for our group. I also received honors for softball, archery, basketball and volleyball. These are some of the sports you enjoy, too.

I also liked to swim, and I know you do, too. In fact, even today, Papa and I swim at least 10 laps every morning. That's 20 lengths; 30 meters each way. Some of the swimming awards I received in my teen years are shown below. The one I was the most proud of was my Senior Life Saving badge. Fortunately, I never had to save anyone, but even today, if I were called upon to save someone's life in our pool, I would know how to do it.

My favorite sport as a teen was tennis. I played at camp and at college. There's a picture of me below serving in a match while I was in college. In those days, we had to wear all-white outfits, which is not the case today.

