

The Margaret Wade Collection

Collection Number: M105

Inclusive Dates: 1972 – 1985

Bulk Dates: 1974 – 1976

Volume: 1 cu.ft.

Biographical/Historical Sketch:

Lily Margaret Wade proved to be a legend in her own time. She was team captain of Delta State College's first female basketball team in 1925. Margaret's stellar basketball career came to a screeching halt when the women's basketball program was eliminated in 1932. Ms. Wade did not let this setback deter her from her love of the game. She continued her basketball career playing semi-pro with the Tupelo Red Wings where she served as team captain and ultimately led the team to the Southern Championship. An unfortunate knee injury ended her playing career after only two seasons. Margaret Wade knew she would never be separated from the game; she would just have to engage herself in a different capacity. From this revelation, "Coach Wade" emerged. She coached high school basketball from 1933 to 1954 after which she went into a five year retirement.

Coach Wade returned to Delta State College in 1959 as Director of Women's Physical Education. In 1973 the women's basketball program was reinstated at Delta State and Coach Wade was appointed head coach by President Aubrey Lucas. Under the direction and leadership of Coach Wade, or "Aunt Maggie" as she is often referred to, along with a starting line up that included the likes of Lusia Harris (MS Sports Hall of Fame), Debbie Brock, Ramona Von Boeckman, Wanda Hairston, and Cornelia Ward, the Lady Statesmen won three consecutive AIAW National Championships breaking the previous record set by DSU's ultimate rival Immaculata.

Delta State University rode the Margaret "Wade Wave" until her retirement in 1979. She has left behind a trailblazing legacy that will never be forgotten: Margaret Wade Trophy created in her honor awarded to top women's college basketball player, first woman enshrined in Mississippi Sport Hall of Fame and Delta State University Hall of Fame, enshrined in Mississippi Coaches

Hall of Fame. Lily Margaret Wade died on February 16, 1995 at age 83; however her name remains synonymous with the “Rabbit Foot Squad” of DSU.

Scope and Content

The Margaret Wade Collection contains various items that Coach Wade had accumulated and retained over the years pertaining to the success of the DSU Women’s Basketball program. The content is separated into the following series: photographs, clippings, publications, awards, and miscellaneous papers. The material spans the course of Margaret Wade’s coaching career at Delta State.

Box Inventory

Box 1 of 1

Series: Clippings

Folder and Description

1 Clippings/Articles from various publications (undetermined dates)

2 Newspaper/magazine articles spanning from 1972 – 1975

3 Newspaper/magazine articles from 1976

4 Newspaper/magazine articles spanning from 1977 – 1978

5 Newspaper/magazine articles spanning from 1978 – 1980

6 Newspaper/magazine articles spanning 1982 – 1985

Series: Photographs

Folder and Description

7. Photos from 1975 Immaculata Championship game

8. Team/Group photos: 1952-1953 (Bolivar County Champions Delta Champions, Pat Narron – All State), 1973 – 1977 DSU Basketball Team

9. Photos from various games/tournaments, cheerleaders, players’ action shots

10 Photos of various banquets, team trip, awards ceremonies

Series: Miscellaneous Papers

Folder and Description

11 Resolutions/Endorsement from MS IHL, legislative resolution commending Lady Statesmen and Coach Wade, Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce Resolution, 1995 Resolution of MS Legislature expressing sympathy to Coach Wade's loved ones. Resolution from Board of Supervisors of Bolivar County

12 Miscellaneous papers and programs

Series: Awards

Folder and Description

No folder- Framed award from Mississippi Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, Special Alumni recognition to Coach Wade

Series: Publications

Folder and Description

13. December, 1984 Edition of Women's Court Magazine, Basketball, Basketball, Basketball, Basketball, Basketball by Margaret Wade and Mel Hankinson