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For Immediate Release: Sept. 19, 2016

2016 NFHCA Hall of Fame Profile: Judy Devine

CHANDLER, Ariz. – It would be hard to find a greater champion for student-athletes than Judy Devine, who led the charge for diversity and equality during her tenure as a coach and administrator at Kent State University.

Devine will be formally inducted into the National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) Hall of Fame on January 5. The induction ceremony will be held during the 2017 NFHCA Annual Convention from January 4-6 at Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club in Naples, Florida.

Devine starred in five different sports, including field hockey, at Colorado State University. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Health and Physical Education from the university in 1969 before moving on to Kent State to earn a Master's in the same major the next year.

Devine made her first impression in the Kent State athletic department as a coach, particularly in field hockey where she served as the head coach from 1970-80. The program won 66 games from 1975-80 and posted four winning campaigns in those final six seasons. Devine also worked as the women's basketball head coach from 1972-77 and was an assistant for both sports as well as softball before become taking on head coaching duties.

Devine also worked as the head women's athletic trainer from 1969-75 before making her move, and making her mark, on the administration of Kent State athletics. When the men and women's athletic programs merged in 1975, Devine was selected as assistant athletics director and coordinator of women's athletics and was elevated to associate athletics director three years later. While holding the assistant AD title, Devine also had responsibility for Men's/Women's Non-Revenue Sports (1981-83) and Sports Administration (1983-85). She next became the Senior Associate Athletics Director for Academic and Student Affairs in 1985, holding that role until 2000 when she retired following 31 years of service at Kent State and was given Emeritus status by the university's board of trustees.

Devine coordinated all student-athlete services including financial aid, housing, awards, academic performance, compliance and eligibility at the time of her retirement. But her role and lasting impact on student-athletes and diversity at Kent State went far beyond her professional responsibilities. During her entire tenure as an athletics administrator, Devine served on both the New Student Orientation Committee and Intercollegiate Athletics Committee. She also continues to serve on the Athletics Department Hall of Fame Selection Committee and was on numerous search committees and Title IX task forces across her years at Kent State. Her work on behalf of student-athletes also included time on the Scholarship Advisory Committee and as the Supervisor of the Champs/Life Skills Program as well as serving as a frequent speaker and program coordinator for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Devine also spent more than a decade as the Chair of the Monitoring Committee for the Athletic Drug Education and Testing Program and was the founder, coordinator and emcee of the Athletic Academic Honors Dinner for nearly 20 years.

Devine served on committees both in the Mid-American Conference and on the national level. In the MAC, she was the administrative liaison and chair for the field hockey coaches from 1984-86 and 1989-2000. She also had time on the conference's Television Committee, Compliance Committee, Legislation and Interpretations Committee and Equity Committee. With the NCAA, Devine was the Chair of the Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Subcommittee on Continuing Eligibility from 1997-00 and a member of the Division I Working Group to Study Basketball Issues from 1998-00. She also served on the Insurance Committee from 1982-87 where Devine helped develop the current catastrophic insurance program for all NCAA student-athletes.

Devine taught throughout her tenure at Kent State, serving as an assistant professor from 1973-2000 before receiving a Professor Emeritus designation. Devine continued to teach at Kent State after her retirement from the athletic department as an adjunct in both the School of Exercise, Leisure and Sport (2003-09) and the School of Foundations/Leadership/Administration (2009-16). Over the past 10 years, Devine also taught as an adjunct at Malone University in both the School of Business and Leadership and the School of Education and Human Development.

Devine was inducted into the Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Society and was awarded the National Association for Sport and Physical Education Inspiration Award in 1992. She received the Ohio House of Representatives Special Recognition Award (2000) and Ohio Senate Special Recognition Award (2000), was named the first female recipient of the Kent State Varsity K Alumni Association 'Person of the Year' (2000) and inducted into the Kent State Athletic Hall of Fame (2003).

In 2012, Devine was one of 25 candidates nationwide for the Title IX Trailblazer Award, which honored individuals who made significant contributions in the area of gender equity. In 2014, she was awarded Kent State's Diversity Trailblazer Award for her contributions of diversity to the university community and also became the first female administrator to be inducted into the MAC Hall of Fame.