No. 19-1392

# IN THE

# Supreme Court of the United States

THOMAS E. DOBBS, MD., M.P.H., STATE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, et. al.,

Petitioners,

v.

JACKSON WOMEN'S HEALTH ORGANIZATION, et. al.,

Respondents.

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

## BRIEF OF OVER 500 WOMEN ATHLETES, THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL PLAYERS ASSOCIATION, THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE PLAYERS ASSOCIATION, AND ATHLETES FOR IMPACT WHO HAVE EXERCISED, RELIED ON, OR SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO ABORTION AS AMICI CURIAE IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDENTS

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#### **INTEREST OF AMICI**<sup>1</sup>

Amici are over 500 current and former women<sup>2</sup> professional, collegiate, and high school athletes, coaches, and organizations including the Women's National Basketball Players Association (WNBPA), which is the players' union for the WNBA, the National Women's Soccer League Players Association (NWSLPA), which is the players' union for the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL), and Athletes for Impact, an inclusive, non-partisan global network of athletes committed to change.

Athlete Amici include 26 Olympians, 73 professional athletes, and 276 intercollegiate athletes. These athletes have, among other accomplishments, won gold medals in the Olympics, served as captains of U.S. women's national teams, hold world records and All-American titles, ranked first in the nation in their sport, and the list goes on.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1.</sup> Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 37.3, Amici Curiae certify that counsel of record for all parties have provided written consent to the filing of this brief. Pursuant to Rule 37.6, Amici also certify that no counsel for a party authored this brief in whole or in part and that no person or entity, other than Amici or their counsel, has made a monetary contribution to its preparation or submission. A complete list of Amici appears as Appendix A to this Brief.

<sup>2.</sup> Although the terms "women" and "female" are used in this brief, people of all gender identities can and do become pregnant and seek abortion services. Accordingly, Amici are current and former athletes who are, or were at some point, able to become pregnant—regardless of gender identity.

<sup>3.</sup> Athletes are identified in the Appendix according to the highest level at which they played their sport.

Among the over 500 individual Amici are: (i) Megan Rapinoe, Olympic gold-medalist and two-time soccer World Cup Champion and former co-captain of the U.S. Women's National Team (USWNT); (ii) Ashleigh Johnson, the first black woman on the U.S. Olympic water polo team and member of the gold-medal 2016 and 2021 Olympic teams; (iii) Diana Taurasi, the WNBA's all-time leading scorer, five-time Olympic gold medalist and nine-time WNBA All-Star; (iv) Becky Sauerbrunn, recently named captain of the USWNT in soccer; (v) Layshia Clarendon, a WNBA All-Star who serves as WNBPA Vice President; and (vi) Crissy Perham, double gold medalist and captain of the 1992 Olympic swim team.

All of the Amici have exercised, relied on the availability of, or support the constitutional right to abortion care in order to meet the demands of their sport and unleash their athletic potential.<sup>4</sup> Amici are united in their deeply-held belief that women's athletics could not have reached its current level of participation and success without the constitutional rights recognized in *Roe* v. *Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973) and *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833 (1992).

Amici believe that, like themselves, the next generation of women athletes must be guaranteed bodily integrity and decisional autonomy in order to fully and equally participate in sports. These constitutional protections supported the extraordinary accomplishment of American

<sup>4.</sup> Amici submit this brief solely in their capacities as private citizens. To the extent an Amicus's employer, institution or association is named, it is solely for descriptive purposes and does not constitute endorsement by the employer, institution, or association of the brief or any portion of its content.

women in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, where they won nearly 60% of Team USA's world-leading 113 medals.<sup>5</sup> Were these rights to be abrogated, Amici understand firsthand that women's participation in athletics would suffer, including because some women athletes would not be able to compete at the same level—or at all—without access to abortion care and without the knowledge that the decision whether to continue or end a pregnancy remains theirs.

#### SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

Athletics "have become part of the fabric of America." Nat'l Collegiate Athletic Ass'n v. Alston, 141 S. Ct. 2141, 2168 (2021) (Kavanaugh, J., concurring). Women's ability to "participate equally in the economic and social life of the Nation"—including through high school, collegiate, and professional sports—"has been facilitated by their ability to control their reproductive lives." Casey, 505 U.S. at 856 (plurality opinion).<sup>6</sup> Absent the right to access safe and legal abortion care, and the ability of "the woman to retain the ultimate control over her destiny and her body," *id.* at 869, women's sports would not be the enormous success they are today. Among other reasons, women's ability to participate and excel in athletics would decline, severely impairing the vitality of sports in the United States. Further, women and girls would be deprived of the

<sup>5.</sup> See Christine Brennan, US Women Dominated Medal Count at Tokyo Olympics in Ways They've Never Done Before, USA TODAY (Aug. 6, 2021), https://www.usatoday.com/story/ sports/christinebrennan/2021/08/06/us-women-dominating-menolympic-medal-count-like-never-before/5508989001/.

<sup>6.</sup> Unless otherwise specified, citations to *Casey* herein refer to the Court's plurality opinion, 505 U.S. at 843–911.

multitude of collateral benefits that result from athletic participation, including greater educational success, career advancement, enhanced self-esteem, and improved health.

Athletic prowess depends on bodily integrity. The physical body is a critical tool for athletes, and its condition determines elite athletes' futures and livelihoods. High school and collegiate athletes use their bodies not only to compete, but also to secure higher education through recruiting opportunities and athletic scholarships that may be otherwise unobtainable. Professional athletes use their bodies for their livelihoods, including to access lucrative sponsorships and advertising opportunities.

Amici depend on the right to control their bodies and reproductive lives in order to reach their athletic potential. Indeed, Amici are united in their belief that the physical tolls of forced pregnancy and childbirth would undermine athletes' ability to actualize their full human potential. Amicus Crissy Perham, an Olympic gold medal swimmer, wrote:

When I was in college, I was on birth control, but I accidentally became pregnant. I was on scholarship, I was just starting to succeed in my sport, and I didn't want to take a year off. I decided to have an abortion. I wasn't ready to be a mom, and having an abortion felt like I was given a second chance at life. I was able to take control of my future and refocus my priorities. I got better in school, I started training really hard, and that summer, I won my first national championship. My life would

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be drastically different if I had been pregnant and forced to sit that race out, because that race changed the course of my life. It opened up so many opportunities, and a year later, I made the Olympic team.

Even though it was nearly thirty years ago, I can count on one hand how many people I've told about my abortion. Until now. I made the choice that was right for me and my future, and I stand by my decision. That choice ultimately led me to being an Olympian, a college graduate, and a proud mother today. I'm finally speaking up and sharing my story because there shouldn't be a stigma surrounding personal healthcare decisions. Women know what's best for our own bodies and lives, and our autonomy needs to be respected.<sup>7</sup>

Another Amicus, an international athlete, shared:

I am now in my 60's, but back in the late 70's, I was participating in my sport at the highest level in college, and was also on the U.S. National Team. It took me over three months before I realized I had gotten pregnant.

<sup>7.</sup> This brief relies upon published statements by athletes, as well as individual personal statements and stories contributed by athlete Amici who are submitting this Brief, such as Ms. Perham. All statements shared by individual athlete Amici are attested to by the individual, and each individual Amicus has given authorization to communicate her story here, in some cases, anonymously. Some statements have been edited for length and spelling.

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Meanwhile, I made the National team and competed in the World Championships that summer. After I learned I was pregnant, I was thankfully able to access abortion services through my school's health plan. Had I not had access to those services and was forced to carry the pregnancy through, it would have derailed my education, as well as my goal of making an Olympic team. I ended up graduating and training through two Olympic cycles before retiring from competition. To me, controlling our own bodies is a human right, and the ability to choose is a fundamental right.

Pregnancy fundamentally transforms a woman's body, impacting and potentially hindering an athlete's access to higher education, elite competition, and a professional athletic career. Women athletes must have the power to decide whether and when to dedicate their bodies to athletics, pregnancy, or both. Women cannot make that decision, however, if the government were to decree "that a woman lacks all choice in the matter." *Casey*, 505 U.S. at 850. As one Amicus, an Olympic soccer player, explained:

As an elite athlete, I know I have a finite length of time to pursue my dreams in my sport. All the decisions I have made, the sacrifices I have made, and the time I have spent mastering my craft have been in the pursuit of excellence. I have honed my body and my mind through my efforts. To have any of that autonomy taken away, to have someone else make decisions for my body and my career, is to take away my life's pursuit. Similarly, another Amicus, a record-breaking Division I swimmer, explained:

I had only a few years to prove myself at the high school level and get the attention of schools, and then another narrow window to compete at the collegiate level and experience all of the social and emotional benefits of being on a college team. Because I was the only person in charge of my body and my mind in that time frame, I was able to excel in my sport and take advantage of educational opportunities I might not have otherwise had. My sport was the key to my education, and my education then paved the way to the friendships and the career that I value today. If I became pregnant as a young athlete and was forced to give up my sport for at least nine months, give birth, and then try to juggle being a student athlete and a mother, my entire future would have been derailed.

All athletes—men and women—have a narrow window of time to achieve their greatest athletic potential. This reality is magnified for women athletes for whom childbearing age coincides with their competitive peak in athletics. If the State compelled women athletes to carry pregnancies to term and give birth, it could derail women's athletic careers, academic futures, and economic livelihoods at a large scale. Such a fundamental restriction on bodily integrity and human autonomy would never be imposed on a male athlete, though he would be equally responsible for a pregnancy. Another Amicus, a professional soccer player, shared: Being an elite athlete my entire life, I know what having control over my body feels like. I've been putting blood, sweat, and tears into my sport since I was five years old, a sacrifice that I made in order to accomplish my dream of playing at the highest level. Once I became sexually active, I knew that a pregnancy had the potential to jeopardize that dream, so having access to an abortion was always the safeguard I had in case my birth control failed. Knowing I had the right and access to an abortion should I need it made me feel secure in myself as a woman athlete, and allowed me to pursue greatness on and off the field.

Amici believe that an athlete should not be forced to continue a pregnancy while pursuing athletic competition, as these two physical endeavors may often be at odds. Denying an athlete control over her body could jeopardize her competitive career and violates *Roe* and *Casey*'s basic guarantee that the "destiny of the woman must be shaped to a large extent on her own conception of her spiritual imperatives and her place in society." *Id.* at 852. One Amicus, a collegiate club lacrosse player, recently reflected:

Should I have become pregnant throughout my collegiate athletics experience and *not* had the option of an abortion, what would have been my choices? Leave school and move home with no degree to raise a baby I was not ready for? Leave my team and only friend group where I was on track to become a captain by senior year? Those are not choices. Those are forced decisions.

"Roe is an integral part of a correct understanding of both the concept of liberty and the basic equality of men and women." *Id.* at 912 (Stevens, J., concurring). Without the decisional autonomy and bodily integrity afforded to women by the Constitution to decide if and when to carry a pregnancy to term, as this Court has recognized in *Roe*, *Casey*, and the many cases in between and that followed, women will be unable to participate fully and equally in athletics or national life.

#### **ARGUMENT**

#### I. CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION FOR REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM EMPOWERS WOMEN TO COMPETE IN ATHLETICS AT ALL LEVELS, ENORMOUSLY BENEFITTING THEIR COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION

#### A. Women's Participation and Success in Sports Brings Vast Personal and Societal Benefits

Participation in sports generates myriad benefits for girls, women, and society at large. Athletic participation is associated with positive educational outcomes, including better attendance, higher grades, fewer disciplinary issues, a greater desire to go to college, and higher advanced placement enrollment rates.<sup>8</sup> Girls who participate in sports are more confident, have higher

<sup>8.</sup> See Women's Sports Foundation, Her Life Depends On It III & Academic Progress and Physical Activity and Sports (Sept. 19, 2016) at 1, https://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/ wp-content/uploads/2016/11/her-life-depends-on-it-academicprogress-brief-full-citations-final.pdf [hereinafter, "WSF Academic Report"].

self-esteem, and better body images.<sup>9</sup> These trends are "especially striking among girls from minority groups, who appear to experience greater social and economic mobility, more confidence, and even more personal safety if they have participated in sports."<sup>10</sup> Indeed, girls who participate in sports may realize even greater academic gains than do boys.<sup>11</sup>

An "overwhelming majority of women executives (82%) had participated in sport at one time in their lives beyond the elementary school level."<sup>12</sup> Olympic medalist Judi Browne Clarke has explained:

[T]he participation of women and girls in sport directly challenges gender stereotypes

10. Barbara Kotschwar, Women, Sports, and Development: Does It Pay to Let Girls Play?, PETERSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, (Mar. 2014) at 1, https://www.piie.com/ publications/pb/pb14-8.pdf.

11. WSF Academic Report, *supra* note 8 at 1.

<sup>9.</sup> National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education, *Title IX at 35: Beyond the Headlines* (Jan. 2008) at 7, https:// www.ncwge.org/PDF/TitleIXat35.pdf [hereinafter, "National Coalition"]; *see also* United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, *Women, Gender Equality and Sport*, (Dec. 2007) at 9, https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/public/Women%20and%20 Sport.pdf ("Participation in sport also enables women and girls to enjoy freedom of expression and movement and increase their self-esteem and self-confidence.").

<sup>12.</sup> Women's Sports Foundation, Her Life Depends On It III & Women, Sport, and Executive Leadership (Sept. 22, 2016) at 1, https://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/wp-content/ uploads/2016/11/her-life-depends-on-it-leadership-brief-fullreferences-final.pdf [hereinafter, "WSF Executive Leadership Report"].

and discrimination, and therefore can be a platform for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. This can, and ultimately will, reshape attitudes toward women's capabilities as leaders and decision makers, especially in traditional male domains ... I would not be the person I am today without the skills, training, and self-confidence I gained from my participation in sports.<sup>13</sup>

Women executives credit sports participation with preparing them for professional success, including being more disciplined than others (86%); having leadership skills (69%); having the ability to deal with failure (69%); and having a competitive edge (59%).<sup>14</sup> As Olympic swimming champion Donna de Varona emphasized: "Competition celebrating wins, surviving losses, requiring teamwork, rewarding persistence, resilience and discipline, these are the experiences we need in leaders and these are the experiences they gain in sport."<sup>15</sup>

Finally, "encouraging women in sports isn't just good for women and good for business, it's good for countries."<sup>16</sup> Not only is support for women's sports associated with stronger women—it is also associated with stronger economies. Research from the Peterson Institute found

<sup>13.</sup> Kotschwar, *supra* note 10 at 9.

<sup>14.</sup> WSF Executive Leadership Report, *supra* note 12 at 1.

<sup>15.</sup> Donna de Varona, *Amazing Things Happen When You Give Female Athletes the Same Funding as Men*, World Economic Forum (Aug. 25, 2016), https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/08/sustaining-the-olympic-legacy-women-sports-and-public-policy/.

"that investment in girls and sport has significant development payoffs and contributes to economic growth overall" and "if we were to empower women in our economies, according to McKinsey research, we could add an astounding \$12trn to the global economy by 2025."<sup>17</sup>

#### B. Women's Participation and Success in Sports Has Dramatically Increased over the Last Half-Century

Women's ability to participate and excel in athletics and to enjoy the enormous resulting benefits—has dramatically increased in the last fifty years. In 1971, before *Roe* was decided and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX") was enacted, *see* 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688, Pub. L. 92-318, Title IX (June 23, 1972), less than 500,000 girls participated in high school athletics, and well under 50,000 women participated in intercollegiate athletics.<sup>18</sup> By 2018, however, nearly 3.5 million women participated in high school athletics, and

<sup>17.</sup> Id.

<sup>18.</sup> See Maddy Ponts, Nearly 50 Years after Title IX, Girls and Women in Sports Are Still Chasing Equity, Ms. MAGAZINE (Feb. 5, 2020), https://msmagazine.com/2020/02/05/nearly-50years-after-title-ix-girls-and-women-in-sports-are-still-chasingequity/; see also National Coalition, supra note 9 at 8 (in 1971-1972, only 294,015 girls participated in high school athletics and 29,977 women participated in intercollegiate athletics).

over 200,000 participated in intercollegiate athletics.  $^{19}\,By$  2018, women comprised 44% of NCAA student-athletes.  $^{20}$ 

Women's increased participation in sports creates network effects at all levels of athletic competition. More women competing means more women pushing each other forward and raising the bar for athletic achievement. That, in turn, creates a wider pool of elite women athletes to represent our colleges and our country in sporting events. In the 1972 Olympics in Munich—before *Roe* was decided and Title IX took effect—"American women won 23 medals compared with 71 for the U.S. men. The women didn't win a single medal in gymnastics and had no golds in track and field."<sup>21</sup> By the London Olympics in 2012, women athletes "outpaced their male counterparts" for the first time, winning 58 medals compared with 45 for men.<sup>22</sup> The 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games were the third consecutive Summer

<sup>19.</sup> See Ponts, supra note 18. The Women's Sports Foundation has reported a ten-fold increase—from 4% to 40%—in the number of girls playing sports. See Women's Sports Foundation, Title IX and the Rise of Female Athletes in America (Sept. 2 2016), https:// www.womenssportsfoundation.org/education/title-ix-and-therise-of-female-athletes-in-america/ ("Before Title IX, one in 27 girls [4%] played sports. Today that number is two in five [40%].").

<sup>20.</sup> National Collegiate Athletic Association, Number of NCAA College Athletes Reaches All-time High (Oct. 10, 2018), https://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/media-center/news/ number-ncaa-college-athletes-reaches-all-time-high.

<sup>21.</sup> National Public Radio, U.S. Women Are the Biggest Winners at the Rio Olympics, (Aug. 21, 2016), https://www.npr. org/sections/thetorch/2016/08/21/490818961/u-s-women-are-the-biggest-winners-in-rio-olympics\_.

Olympics in which U.S. women won more medals than U.S. men, and in which women outnumbered men on the U.S. team.<sup>23</sup> Simply put, American women excel at the highest levels of athletic competition because of constitutional and legislative protections ensuring women's rights to equal opportunity and access to organized sports.<sup>24</sup>

Women's success in national and international competition in turn inspires more girls to get involved in sports. The vast increase in girls' participation in soccer is a powerful example: in 1971, only 700 girls participated in high school soccer programs.<sup>25</sup> By 2018, nearly 400,000 girls participated in high school soccer.<sup>26</sup> "In the United States, more women than men watch the Summer Olympics on television. Girls see role models to emulate, and success perpetuates success."<sup>27</sup> As David Wallechinsky, president of the International Society of

25. Drew Kann, Yes, the US Women's Soccer Team Is Dominant. That's because Most of the World Is Playing Catch-up, CNN (Jul. 5, 2019), https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/16/us/uswntdominance-womens-soccer-world-cup-history-explained/index. html.

26. Id. (in 2018, 390,482 women played high school soccer).

27. Jeré Longman, For Those Keeping Score, American Women Dominated in Rio, NEW YORK TIMES (Aug. 22, 2016), https://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/23/sports/olympics/for-thosekeeping-score-american-women-dominated-in-rio.html?\_r=0.

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<sup>23.</sup> See Brennan, supra note 5.

<sup>24.</sup> See *id.* (58.4% of U.S. medals in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics were won by women); *id.* (quoting tennis icon Billie Jean King: "If you give girls and women the same investment, opportunity and access, their potential, like all people, is unlimited").

Olympic Historians, explained, "You get on a roll. Girls are looking and saying, 'Wow, I can do that,' whereas 30 years ago, not so many American girls thought that. It builds and builds."<sup>28</sup>

#### C. *Roe* and *Casey* Played an Important Role in Increasing Women's Participation and Success in Athletics

Absent women's ability to control their bodies and reproductive decisions, the remarkable increase in women's participation and success in athletics—and the concomitant increase in women's ability to enjoy the physical, financial, social, and emotional benefits of sports—would not have occurred. *See Casey*, 505 U.S. at 856 ("The ability of women to participate equally in the economic and social life of the Nation has been facilitated by their ability to control their reproductive lives."). Women athletes rely upon their rights to bodily integrity and decisional autonomy to participate in athletics and push their sports forward.

The demands of athletics and pregnancy are physically and emotionally intense. If women were to lose the agency to make individual, personal choices as to if, when, and how to balance these competing demands, many will be forced to sacrifice their athletic aspirations and pursuits. Compelled pregnancies would allow the State to "conscript[] women's bodies into its service, forc[e] women to continue their pregnancies, suffer the pains of childbirth, and in most instances, provide years of maternal care." *Casey*, 505 U.S. at 928 (Blackmun, J., concurring). Often this will be at the expense of women's

<sup>28.</sup> Id.

athletic careers, as well as their educational goals and professional livelihoods. Such "governmental intrusion" is "unique to the [woman's] condition," *id.* at 851–52, as only women's bodies are essential for both athletic participation and pregnancy and childbirth. Depriving women of the opportunity to make autonomous choices about how to use their bodies—a matter "of the highest privacy and the most personal nature," *id.* at 915 (Stevens, J., concurring)—would gravely harm equality in athletics, and elsewhere.

*Roe* was decided at a time in the early 1970s when gender inequality emerged as a major public policy concern. *See, e.g., Reed v. Reed*, 404 U.S. 71, 77 (1971) (recognizing that unequal treatment of women could violate the right to equal protection). It was against this background that Congress enacted Title IX in 1972, which prohibits recipients of federal funding from engaging in sex-based discrimination. *See* 20 U.S.C. § 1681. As swimming gold medalist Katie Ledecky has observed, "Title IX has had a huge impact on women participating in sports and the evidence of that is clear with the results of women at the Tokyo Olympics."<sup>29</sup> But Title IX does not exist in a vacuum. Less than a year after its enactment, this Court recognized that constitutional liberty interests include the right to abortion. *See Roe*, 410 U.S. at 153.

Title IX was a congressional response to the same imperative—rooted in policy and the Constitution—that animated *Roe* and *Casey*: the pressing need to ensure women's liberty and equality. In enacting Title IX, Congress sought "to provide women with solid legal

<sup>29.</sup> See Brennan, supra note 5.

protection from the persistent, pernicious discrimination which is serving to perpetuate second-class citizenship for American women."<sup>30</sup> Similarly, in recognizing and reaffirming the constitutional right to reproductive freedom, this Court sought to safeguard women's fundamental right to privacy, *see Roe*, 410 U.S. at 153, and ensure "the basic equality of men and women," *Casey*, 505 U.S. at 912 (Stevens, J., concurring). Indeed, Title IX's implementing regulations directly connect reproductive freedom to gender equality. The regulations expressly prohibit discrimination based on "pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy or recovery therefrom," 34 C.F.R. § 106.40(b)(1), including for women athletes, *id.* § 106.41(a).

*Roe* and *Casey* strengthen the practical impact of legislative guarantees of gender equality, like Title IX. Without *Roe's* constitutional protection of women's bodily integrity and decisional autonomy, women would not have been able to take advantage of Title IX and achieve the tremendous level of athletic participation and success that they enjoy today. Continued protection of women's fundamental rights is crucial to women's continued success in sports, and in all areas of life.

<sup>30. 118</sup> Cong. Rec. 5803, 5806-07 (1972) (statement of Sen. Bayh); see Cannon v. Univ. of Chicago, 441 U.S. 677, 704 (1979) ("Title IX [sought] . . . to avoid the use of federal resources to support discriminatory practices . . . [and] to provide individual citizens effective protection against those practices.").

#### II. WITHOUT*ROE* AND *CASEY*, WOMEN ATHLETES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE FULLY AND EQUALLY IN ATHLETICS

For a female athlete facing the physical and emotional realities of pregnancy, the right to decide whether to carry a pregnancy to term is critical for her ability to "participate equally in the economic and social life of the Nation," including sports. *Casey*, 505 U.S. at 835. For example, in track star Sanya Richards-Ross' experience, women's track and field would look entirely different without that right: "Most of the women I knew in my sport have had at least one abortion."<sup>31</sup> Without the constitutional guarantee of reproductive freedom, many women athletes would be forced to sacrifice their athletic pursuits, and progress made toward gender equality in sports would be reversed.

#### A. Women Athletes Should Choose, for Themselves, Whether to Simultaneously Assume the Physical Demands of Sports and Pregnancy

A woman's body undergoes vast transformation throughout and following pregnancy. As this Court has recognized, the "mother who carries a child to full term is subject to anxieties, to physical constraints, to pain that only she must bear." *Id.* at 852. Bodily changes during and after pregnancy are particularly acute for athletes, whose ability to compete depends on their physical condition. The most minute physical variances can affect athletic performance and opportunity—including the grant or

<sup>31.</sup> Nick Zaccardi, Sanya Richards-Ross Reveals Abortion before Beijing Olympics, NBC Sports (June 6, 2017), https:// olympics.nbcsports.com/2017/06/06/sanya-richards-ross-abortion/.

denial of a scholarship or endorsement—and a pregnancy imposes enormous changes on a woman's body. For example, pregnancy "affects virtually all hormones in the body" and loosens a woman's joints and ligaments, putting her at greater risk of injury.<sup>32</sup> Athletes already push their bodies to extremes, and a pregnant woman's "heart must work harder" because her blood volume increases almost 50% during pregnancy.<sup>33</sup>

The physical realities of pregnancy inevitably affect women's ability to participate and excel in athletics for a minimum of nine months during pregnancy, as well as the additional time required to recover from giving birth and to breastfeed, for those who choose to do so.<sup>34</sup> The decision whether to take on the challenges of pregnancy and athletics simultaneously must be left to the individual

<sup>32.</sup> Raul Artal-Mittelmark, MD, *Physical Changes During Pregnancy*, MERCK MANUAL (May 2021), https://www. merckmanuals.com/home/women-s-health-issues/normalpregnancy/physical-changes-during-pregnancy?redirectid=197.

<sup>33.</sup> Id.

<sup>34.</sup> See, e.g., Brigid Schulte, et. al., Paid Family Leave: How Much Time Is Enough?, NEW AMERICA FOUNDATION (June 16, 2017), https://www.newamerica.org/better-life-lab/reports/paidfamily-leave-how-much-time-enough/ ("Although state, employer, and private temporary disability insurance typically cover up to six weeks for a woman to recover from a vaginal birth and eight weeks from a Cesarean section (C-sections make up about onethird of all U.S. births), a Minnesota study following more than 400 mothers for 12 months after childbirth found that women had a number of physical symptoms and illnesses that persisted long after six weeks, including respiratory symptoms, dizziness, hot flashes, hemorrhoids, constipation, fatigue, sexual concerns, and hair loss.").

athlete to determine, rather than to the State. One Amicus, a professional soccer player, shared:

I accidentally became pregnant in college due to a failure in my birth control. I went to Planned Parenthood to discuss my options, and I decided to have an abortion to ensure I could continue to pursue my collegiate and professional soccer career. I ultimately had a miscarriage a few days later and did not need abortion services, but knowing I had the option to control my body and my life, and to make the decisions that were best for me, is what gave me the freedom to pursue my dreams and attain my personal, educational, and athletic goals.

Further, for some women, the physiological changes associated with pregnancy and childbirth are anything but temporary. Some women face physical and mental health changes long after giving birth, placing their athletic pursuits in permanent jeopardy.<sup>35</sup> For example, after Kara Groucher, an Olympic and professional runner, gave birth, her doctor "told her she must choose: run 120 miles each week or breastfeed her son. Her body couldn't do both."<sup>36</sup> And she "has suffered from chronic hip injuries

<sup>35.</sup> See, e.g. Centers for Disease Control, Unexpected Pregnancy Complications: Allyson Felix's Story, https://www. cdc.gov/hearher/allysonfelix/index.html ("As many as 50,000 women experience severe, unexpected health problems related to pregnancy each year.").

<sup>36.</sup> Alysia Montaño, *Nike Told Me to Dream Crazy, Until I Wanted a Baby*, New YORK TIMES (May 12, 2019), https://www. nytimes.com/2019/05/12/opinion/nike-maternity-leave.html.

ever since she raced the Boston Marathon seven months after childbirth."<sup>37</sup> Serena Williams, one of the greatest tennis players of all time, nearly lost her life due to a "slew of health complications" in childbirth, reflecting: "I almost died after giving birth to my daughter, Olympia."<sup>38</sup>

The decision to become pregnant, thereby risking long-term health and career consequences, involves "the most intimate and personal choices a person may make in a lifetime, choices central to personal dignity and autonomy." *Casey*, 505 U.S. at 851. The decision belongs to the individual to make. Forcing athletes to bear the unknowable risk of when and whether their bodies will recover from pregnancy and childbirth would violate their most fundamental liberties. *See id.* One Amicus, a recruited collegiate soccer player, reflected on the difficult decision to take on these risks:

I almost died in childbirth. During my C-Section, I lost over half my blood volume and required sixteen transfusions. Ultimately, I had to undergo an emergency hysterectomy as a life saving measure. Physically, I recovered slowly. Emotionally—who knows? I never thought the decision of whether to have more children would be taken away from me. But I chose to get pregnant and have a baby. Can you imagine inflicting all of this on someone who did not want to put their body at risk?

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<sup>37.</sup> Id.

<sup>38.</sup> Serena Williams, Serena Williams: What My Lifethreatening Experience Taught Me about Giving Birth, CNN OPINION (Feb. 20, 2018), https://www.cnn.com/2018/02/20/opinions/ protect-mother-pregnancy-williams-opinion/index.html.

Even though some women might be physically able to return to their sport post-partum, the competing demands of parenthood can continue to impede their ability to pursue athletics. When reflecting on her choice to return to racing shortly after giving birth, Olympian Kara Groucher said: "It took such a toll on me mentally and physically, for myself and my child . . . Returning to competition so quickly was a bad choice for me. And looking back and knowing that I wasn't the kind of mother I want to be it's gut wrenching."<sup>39</sup> Kara Groucher made the difficult decision to try to meet the demands of parenthood and sport simultaneously, but not all women athletes want or are able—to make that same decision. One Amicus, a former Division I volleyball player, explained:

Had I become pregnant as a young athlete, I am confident I would have had an abortion. If forced to remain pregnant, I would not have been able to continue playing volleyball, the sport I love for some many reasons, nor would I have been able to take advantage of all the opportunities that came into my life, including my athletic scholarship. My pursuits of an undergraduate degree, post-graduate doctorate degree, and my career would have been over.

Without the option for an abortion in my scenario, I would probably be living as a single mom without an education or career to support myself and newborn baby—I would have had to depend on social services and my hard working immigrant parents to support me and my child. Thankfully, I was instead able to control my

<sup>39.</sup> Montaño, supra note 36.

life and pursue my goals, and I'm now a proud working mother to three children.

The availability of adoption does not change the fact that a compelled pregnancy would cause a fundamental, life-long change in an athlete's life, and would implicate her most personal decisional interests. As one Amicus, an Olympic diver, wrote:

I was adopted at two months old because my birth mother was too young to care for me. I have spent my entire life in sports, I was a diver growing up and competed at the NCAA Division I level, and now I am a coach. Having known my entire life that my birth mother was faced with an unexpected pregnancy at a young age has allowed me to see how important it is to have a CHOICE. I have had many discussions with family, friends, and now my birth mother about different choices people face when pregnant, and how there is no one-size-fits-all solution for everyone. I'm grateful for the choice my birth mother made, but that doesn't mean it would be the right choice for another woman.

Another Amicus, a marathon runner and running club member, shared:

I don't have the financial stability to pay the medical expenses of pregnancy, childbirth, or post-partum care, let alone the financial stability to raise a child. Running is so crucial to my identity, as well as my physical and emotional health, and I am not in a position to carry a pregnancy to term—which would require both financial costs, regardless of whether I chose adoption, and sacrificing my sport during pregnancy and while I physically recover from the trauma of childbirth. For peace of mind, I rely on birth control and the knowledge that I could have an abortion if my birth control failed.

In short, elite athletes—men and women—must dedicate tremendous time and physical and emotional energy to their sport. Pregnancy and parenthood require comparable dedication, if not much more. Not all athletes decide to do both at the same time—particularly because for many athletes, a pregnancy would upend their athletic careers. When discussing her decision to have an abortion, one athlete explained:

I knew life would be over for me doing what I wanted to do in my sport . . . You just couldn't do what I went on to do. The risks are very high in my sport. You're either in or out.<sup>40</sup>

The rigor of elite athletic competition, requiring constant training, with athletes pushing their bodies to new limits daily, is an all-consuming physical, mental, and emotional task. For women's athletics to continue to thrive, women must maintain the freedom to determine when and how to dedicate their physical abilities and mental energy—to sports, pregnancy, or both. Without "the right of the *individual*, married or single, to be free

<sup>40.</sup> Sonia Oxley, *BBC Women's Sport Survey: How Decisions* on Abortion and Starting a Family Affect Female Athletes, BBC (Aug. 15, 2020), https://www.bbc.com/sport/53628388.

from unwarranted governmental intrusion into matters so fundamentally affecting a person as the decision whether to bear or beget a child," *Casey*, 505 U.S. at 851 (citation omitted) (emphasis in original), women's ability to fully and equally participate in athletics would inevitably deteriorate.

#### B. The Ability to Control Timing of Pregnancy Is Critical for Athletes, Who Have Only a Limited Window of Time During which to Compete

All athletes have a narrow window of time in which they can perform at the top of their game and compete at the highest levels. This limited window heightens athletes' need for reproductive healthcare options. For athletes "who do decide to start a family during their career, there is meticulous planning involved to hit the 'perfect timing.' And of course, no guarantees."<sup>41</sup> Jodie Grinham, a para-Olympic silver medalist, explained the complexities of timing a pregnancy while aspiring to participate in the Olympic games, which occur only a handful of times during an athlete's career:

I don't get maternity cover for my career; noone is going to be able to go and compete and shoot for me.

In order to have a baby, I'd need to have it the year after a Games year, or going into the European year, so I can recover—because I need to be back the year before a Games year to win a quota place to then get ready for the Games.

<sup>41.</sup> Oxley, *supra* note 40.

The concern I've got is if I don't follow that structure and have a baby at the wrong point, then I'm showing that my career isn't the priority. Why would I be selected? If I was going out partying every weekend, I wouldn't be seen to be a committed athlete. For me, if I decide to have a baby a year before a Games, then I'm not committed to going to the Games.

We have four months and if we can't do it in four months then we wait four years!<sup>42</sup>

Another athlete shared:

If I go and have a baby and have nine months off, then I'm probably not going to be the best or the top. If you come back and want to be picked, you have to be the best, but that's just sport.<sup>43</sup>

The complexity behind the "right time" to have a child also arises for high school and collegiate athletes, since they have only four to eight years to take advantage of the immense benefits of organized sports. For a studentathlete, being pregnant, taking the necessary recovery period, and having likely-changed physical capacities as well as the realities parenthood would impose on a student—could easily derail not only her potential athletic career, but also her future educational and professional opportunities. *See, e.g., Casey*, 505 U.S. at 928 (Blackmun, J. concurring) ("Because motherhood has a dramatic impact on a woman's educational prospects, employment

<sup>42.</sup> *Id.* 

<sup>43.</sup> Id.

opportunities, and self-determination, restrictive abortion laws deprive her of basic control over her life."). One Amicus, a Division I track & field athlete, explained:

Had I become pregnant and not had the right to choose, I would have lost my senior season. I would never have made the all-time top 10 list in multiple events for my school. I would have had to forego my school's nomination for NCAA woman of the year. Plus, in addition to my athletic pursuits, I was also applying to graduate school to pursue a PhD, and it's unlikely that I would have been able to move across the country to continue my education if I had been forced to carry a pregnancy to term that year. My PhD has allowed me to continue to pursue my passion for sports by doing cutting edge research that supports collegiate athletes, Olympic medalists, and inspires the next generation of girls to get involved in STEM through sport.

The right to bodily autonomy affects not only those women athletes who directly exercise their right to abortion, but also those who have made life decisions in reliance on this right. As this Court has recognized, there would be significant "cost of overruling *Roe* for people who have ordered their thinking and living around that case." *Casey*, 505 U.S. at 856. One Amicus, a collegiate club squash player, emphasized:

I've personally never had an abortion, but I've made life decisions with the knowledge and comfort that I have access to reproductive healthcare should I ever need it. I've always made choices based on the assumption that I won't be forced to carry a pregnancy to term and raise a child against my will. If I didn't have that knowledge—if I had to be in a constant state of preparation for forced pregnancy and motherhood—I wouldn't feel the same level of connection to, and ownership over, my body. I wouldn't have the same relationship with sports and exercise, and I probably wouldn't have selected the same major or career path. If I became pregnant in college and had no choice in the matter. I would have had to make so many sacrifices that wouldn't have been in my best interests, or in the best interests of my child—including giving up being part of a team of strong women athletes, which was key to my physical health and emotional wellbeing in college.

If forced to carry pregnancies to term, many women would have no choice but to sacrifice playing their sport—a sacrifice not required of their male counterparts, despite their equal role in engendering a pregnancy. Absent the right to access safe and legal abortion care, women's ability to participate and excel in athletics would inevitably decline and the movement toward gender equality in sports would reverse course.

#### C. Forced Pregnancy Is of Special Concern to Women Athletes Who Become Pregnant against Their Will

The right to bodily integrity and decisional autonomy is of heightened concern for women athletes who become pregnant from sexual violence.<sup>44</sup> If forced to carry their rapist's child to term, these women would not only be forced to make the same physical, emotional, and athletic sacrifices that would be required of all athletes who would have to endure compelled pregnancies, but they also would be re-traumatized by the repeated deprivation of control over their bodies—not only by their assailant, but also by the government. This intrusion can be acutely devastating for an athlete, given that control over her body is inextricably linked to her identity, career, and educational pursuits.

The prospect of forced childbearing is particularly poignant for collegiate athletes, given that nearly one in five women are sexually assaulted during their time in college.<sup>45</sup> One Amicus, a Division I track and field athlete explained:

Access to abortion became a major point of concern throughout my time as a college athlete. Many female teammates shared their experiences of sexual assault and rape with me during my time on the team. These experiences had extreme consequences on their mental health, athletic performances, and seeped into all aspects of their everyday lives. For some of my teammates, the sexual violence they experienced was at the hands of our male

<sup>44.</sup> Mississippi's ban on abortion after 15 weeks includes no exception for rape or incest. *See* Miss. Code Ann. § 41-41-191.

<sup>45.</sup> Know Your IX, *Statistics*, https://www.knowyourix.org/ issues/statistics/ ("Approximately 19% of women will be sexually assaulted during their time at college.").

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teammates. Due to the nature of track and field competitions, men and women practice together in groups by event. These women had to face the recurring trauma of seeing their perpetrator every day at practice. If they were unable to access a safe and legal abortion after experiencing rape and were forced to carry a child to term, the burden would have been unbearable.

Access to safe and legal reproductive healthcare whether women actually use the services, or rely on the knowledge that they are there—can be critical to a woman athlete's ability to physically and emotionally recover from a sexual assault. One Amicus, a Division I field hockey player, shared:

As a victim of rape during my junior year of college, I was comforted in the fact that if I were to fall pregnant and need an abortion, I would have access to that service. Field hockey was a passion of mine that kept me mentally and physically healthy, and a pregnancy would have impacted my ability to play out my final two seasons and would have been damaging to my ability to pursue a career in the medical field. I also was not in a place financially or emotionally to bring a child into this world, so knowing that safe, regulated abortion would be an option of mine if necessary prevented some of the stresses that came along with being a rape victim. Another Amicus, a former club lacrosse player, recalled her experience:

Two months into my freshman year, I was raped by a man much older than me. Young and eighteen years old, I had no idea what to do, say, or think. I had to navigate uncharted waters on my own and I completely internalized being raped. I started to miss class, my grades dropped, and I was struggling deeply with my emotions. I suffered severe PTSD and became suicidal. Lacrosse was the only thing keeping me going. Between the structure, the physical activity, and the sense of being a part of something larger than myself, I found reprieve when playing. I can't even begin to imagine what my life would have looked like without lacrosse being a safe haven to turn to. Had I gotten pregnant from that rape, I would have aborted for my emotional and physical health. I emotionally and physically depended on lacrosse, and I wouldn't have been able to handle a pregnancy, school, and my sport at the same time. If I did not have the option to abort, I would have certainly taken my own life.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Women's increased participation and success in sports has been propelled to remarkable heights by women's exercise of, and reliance on, constitutional guarantees of liberty and gender equality, including the right to reproductive autonomy. Continued access to, and reliance on, those rights will empower the next generation of girls and women to continue to excel in athletics and beyond, strengthening their communities and this nation. If women were to be deprived of these constitutional guarantees, the consequences for women's athletics—and for society as a whole—would be devastating.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the decision of the court of appeals should be affirmed.

September 20, 2021

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Counsel for Amici Curiae

APPENDIX

# APPENDIX LIST OF 514 AMICI CURIAE WOMEN ATHLETES WHO HAVE EXERCISED, RELIED ON, OR SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO ABORTION<sup>1</sup>

#### **Elena Abel**

Water Polo, Intramural College

#### Sasha Abielmona

Cross Country, Track & Field, Division I American University

Carley Adamo Soccer, Club

#### Victoria Aiello

Tennis, Division III Middlebury College

#### **Margaret** Aker

Lacrosse, Club University of California, Santa Barbara

#### **Abigail Arens**

Swimming, International North Carolina State University

# Jenna Armstrong

Rowing, Division III

#### **Katherine Arnett**

Swimming, Division III Johns Hopkins University

# Athletes for Impact

All Sports, All Levels

#### **Heather Axford**

Lacrosse, Division III Vassar College

<sup>1.</sup> Amici submit this brief solely in their capacities as private citizens. To the extent an Amicus's employer, institution or association is named, it is solely for descriptive purposes and does not constitute endorsement by the employer, institution, or association of the brief or any portion of its content.

# Appendix

Sophia Ayubi Volleyball, Division III

Amy Bakker Soccer, Volleyball, Club

#### Sahar Bala

Cross Country, Track & Field, Division I University of San Francisco

#### Abigail Bannon-

Schneebeck Track & Field, Division III Trinity University

#### **Carolyn Barber**

Rowing, Tennis, Division III Princeton University

#### Leah Batten

Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Club

### **Carol Anne Beach**

Basketball, Soccer, Division III Colby College Amanda Beare Swimming, High School

Elizabeth Bejgrowicz Swimming, Division I University of Notre Dame

Alison Bell Ice Hockey, Division I Harvard University

#### **Kerry Berchem**

Basketball, Softball, Volleyball, Division I Yale University

Kate Bernyk Gymnastics, Rugby, Club

#### Sylvie Binder

Fencing, International

#### **Sue Bird**

Basketball, Professional Seattle Storm

#### Lulu Black

Cross Country, Track & Field, Division I North Carolina State University

# Appendix

Alana Blahoski Ice Hockey, Olympic

Lauren Blair Swimming, Division I University of Southern California

Hayley Blaser Swimming, High School

Laura Bligh Weightlifting, International

Kristen Blomstrom Equestrian, International Stanford University

Lane Bohrer Volleyball, Division III Washington University in St. Louis

Monica Bosiljevac Soccer, Division I

Pamela Boteler Canoeing, International Team USA Amy Botha Swimming, Division I University of Arizona

Anne Boucher Rowing, International

Nicole Bouker Tennis, Adult League

Alexa Bowerfind Rowing, Division III

Juliette Boyden Soccer, High School

Heidi Brackenridge Alpine Skiing, International Team USA

Elizabeth Bradley Swimming, Division III University of Mary Washington

Heather Branstetter Swimming, Division I University of Arizona

Elizabeth Breed Golf, Professional

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# Appendix

**Elizabeth Brenckman** Golf, Running, Swimming, Club

Leslie Brenner Gymnastics, High School

Erin Brewer Swimming, Division I University of Arizona

Cameron Brink Basketball, Division I Stanford University

Susan Bromberg Diving, Division I University of Illinois at Chicago

Jushunica Brooks Soccer, Semi-Professional

Natasha Brown Tennis, Division III

Noa Brown Volleyball, Club

Brooke Bullington Lacrosse, Division III Bowdoin College Rachel Burger Cross Country, Swimming, Water Polo, High School

Courtney Burke Lacrosse, Division I Bucknell University

Kristen Burke Soccer, Division I Harvard University

Virginia Burns Swimming, Division I

Madison Campbell Soccer, High School

Rook Campbell Cycling, Professional S.C. Michela Fanini Rox

Berkeley Cannestra Water Polo, Club

Jaclyn Cardillo Soccer, Division I University of Georgia

# Appendix

Angela Carola Rowing, Division I Fordham University

Leeja Carter Track & Field, Division I

#### Marian Catalan

Cross Country, Track & Field, Division I Michigan State University

# Nicole Cerulli

Soccer, Division I Columbia University

#### **Stefanie Chan**

Soccer, Division III Claremont McKenna College

Vix Chang Kickball, High School

Maria Chart Fencing, International

Stephanie Cheng Cheerleading, High School **Courtney Choi** 

Lacrosse, Club University of California, Santa Barbara

Joyce Chuinkam Rugby, Division I

**Dominique Clairmonte** 

Track & Field, Division I North Carolina State University

# Layshia Clarendon Basketball, Professional

Minnesota Lynx

# Shira Cohen

Soccer, Division I Columbia University

Lindsay Kagawa Colas Volleyball, Division I Stanford University

#### **Jane Collins**

Rowing, Division I Columbia University

#### Appendix

# Sierra Collins Cross Country, Track & Field, Division I North Carolina State

Caitlin Conn Volleyball, Division I

University

Emma Conover Rowing, Division III Bates College

Emily Conway Rifle, Division I Texas Christian University

Kara Cook Soccer, Club

Erin Cooper Soccer, Division I

JayCee Cooper Powerlifting & Curling, Professional

Madeleine Cousens Softball, Division I Princeton University Verónica Couzo Squash, Tennis, High School

Janet Crepps Hiller Track & Field, Division III College of Idaho

Leah Crockett Softball, Division I University of Michigan

Quinn Crum Fencing, International

Deanna Culbreath Cross Country, Division III

Andrea Cutler Ice Hockey, Division III Middlebury College

Caroline Cutler Squash, Club Bucknell University

Crystal Dangerfield Basketball, Professional

Kimberly Davidson Soccer, Club

#### Appendix

Cayla Davis Soccer, Division I Columbia University

Lucy Davis Volleyball, Division III

Suzanne Davis Swimming, Division I American University

Megan Dawe Lacrosse, Club University of California, Santa Barbara

Hanna Decker Rowing, Division I Fordham University

Claire Dees Field Hockey, Division I

Lucy Del Col Rowing, Division III Bates College

Liv Dellanno Lacrosse, Division I Siena College Kara Dempsey Rowing, Division I

Julie Denney Swimming, Division III Connecticut College

Susannah Dennis Soccer, Professional Atlanta Silverbacks

Melati Devi Tennis, International

Gabrielle Diaz Gymnastics, Division I North Caroline State University

Nicolette DiDia Soccer, High School

Meredith Doyle Soccer, Division III Claremont McKenna College

Alexa Droubay Tennis, High School Viewpoint School

Jacqueline Dubrovich Fencing, Olympic

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**Emily Duerr** Soccer, Division I

Abby Dunkin Wheelchair Basketball, Olympic Team USA

Lexi Dussi Soccer, Division III Endicott College

Shannon Dwyer Dance, Division I University of Kentucky

Grace Dzindolet Basketball, Division III Springfield College

Selina Eadie Lacrosse, Club University of California, Santa Barbara

Sarah Eadie Lacrosse, Club University of California, Santa Barbara

Autumn Eakin Volleyball, Division III Webster University Kaitlyn Eaton Wheelchair Basketball, Olympic

Amanda Eby Diving, Olympic

Kristi Edleson Swimming, Division I

Darcy Ellsworth Yow Gymnastics, Ultimate Frisbee, Club

Chloe Emch Volleyball, Division III Washington University in St. Louis

Talya Epstein Dance, Professional

Lindsey Ericson Volleyball, Club

Kathryn Espinosa Volleyball, High School

Annabel Evison Field Hockey, High School

#### Appendix

Nina Evison Rowing, Division I Yale University

Kathryn Ewald Rugby, Running, Division III St. Joseph's University

Sydney Fallone Swimming, Division III St. Lawrence University

Lindsey Farella Swimming, International

Jessica Farrell Track & Field, Division I Fordham University

**Kylie Farrell** Track & Field, Division I Fordham University

Marlena Fejzo Cross Country, Rugby, Club Alison Fisher Lacrosse (Coach), Division I Lafayette College

Rebecca Fitton Dance, Professional

Shelley Fluke Waterski, Club

Laura Flynn Soccer, Division I Harvard University

Kay Foley Swimming, Division I

Katie Friedlander Swimming, Division I

**Amy Friedrich-Karnik** 

Track & Field, Division III Pacific Lutheran University

Darah Fuller Equestrian, Club Rhodes College

# Appendix

Kim Galleher Swimming, High School

Colleen Garrehy Soccer, Division I Bucknell University

Jocelyn Getgen Softball, Club

Yasmine Gharbaoui Soccer, Club

Lauren Gilbert Lacrosse, Division III Kenyon College

Nancy Glass Basketball, Division I Furman University

Madison Glennie Golf, Division I

Alyssa Godesky Triathlon, Professional

Sydney Gonzalez Volleyball (Coach and Athlete), Division I **Tori Goyette** Softball, Club

Sarah Graddock Lacrosse (Coach), Division I University of Vermont

Laurie Grafmiller Swimming, Division I University of Arizona

Emily Grassett Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball, High School

Alexa Gray Soccer, Division I College of Charleston

Tracy Green-Frager Soccer, High School

Michelle Griglione Swimming, Professional

Brittney Griner Basketball, Olympic

Elise Grossfield Rowing, Division III Bates College

#### Appendix

Annie Grotophorst Lacrosse, Division III

University of Mary Washington

Elizabeth Gunther Bowling, Track & Field, High School

#### **Olivia Gunther**

Marching Band, Track & Field, High School

#### Sara Haefeli

Softball, Division I Seton Hall University & Pennsylvania State University

#### Anna Hagstrom

Gymnastics & Ultimate Frisbee, International

Michelle Haitz Dance, Club Bucknell University

#### **Katherine Hall**

Track & Field, Division I Princeton University Megan Hall Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Division I Harvard University

Jordan Hamilton Basketball, Division I

Whitney Hanson Tennis, Division III Middlebury College

#### Jzaniya Harriel

Basketball, Division I Stanford University

#### **Charlotte Hartman**

Cross Country, Track & Field, Division I Columbia University

#### Malak Hassouna

Swimming, International

#### **Ella Hayes**

Field Hockey, Division I University of Richmond

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#### **Alexandra Hays**

Cross Country, Track & Field, Division I Columbia University, North Carolina State University

#### Lauren Hazzard

Cross Country, Track & Field, Division I Bucknell University

Amaris Hemmings Soccer, Division I Columbia University

Ashley Henderson Swimming, Division I Bucknell University

Rebecca Henson Basketball, Division III Washington University

# Clare Hernandez

Cross Country, Division I American University

**Tracey Hessel** Tennis, High School Sarah Hickey Volleyball, Division I College of William & Mary

Emily Hickmott Soccer, Club

Alexandra Hill Rowing, Division III Bates College

Emitom Hillsman Tennis, High School

Sydney Hofferth Roller Derby, Club

Anna Hoffman Basketball, Club

# Michelle Hogan

Swimming, Division I University of Pennsylvania

# Jessica Hom

Softball, Division I Bucknell University

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#### **Elise Hooker**

Cross Country, Division I American University

#### **Emily Hooker**

Track & Field, Division I Miami University

#### **Julie Horn**

Ice Hockey, Division II Pennsylvania State University

#### **Claire Hoverman**

Cross Country, Soccer, Track & Field, Division III Swarthmore College

Jennifer Howard Soccer, High School

#### **Mariah Howlett**

Cross Country, Track & Field, Division I North Carolina State University

#### Kayla Hryn

Swimming, Division III Johns Hopkins University

#### Cynthia Hulse

Cross Country, Track & Field, Division I University of Akron, Ohio

Jane Hunter Rugby, Division I Princeton University

Lindsay Huston Softball, Division I Stanford University

#### Lucia Ianello

Cross Country, Track & Field, Division I American University

#### **Elizabeth Iannotti**

Soccer, Track & Field, Division III Bowdoin College

# Lauren Iannotti

Soccer, Division III Colby College

### Appendix

Lindsey Immel Swimming, Division I North Carolina State University

Meghan Ingrisano Field Hockey, Softball, High School

Laura Irei Tennis, High School

Yana Izrailov Tennis, High School

Lara Jackson Swimming, Professional

Janet Jakobsen Track & Field, Division I Dartmouth College

Erin Jankowski Track & Field, Division I Bucknell University

Paola Jaramillo Soccer, High School Ransom Everglades School Laura Jetter Volleyball, Club

Marcella Jimenez Softball, High School

Abigail Johnson Track & Field, High School Kent Place School

Allyson Johnson Field Hockey, Club Duke University

Amalya Johnson Soccer, Division I Columbia University

Ashleigh Johnson Water Polo, Olympic Team USA

Emily Johnson Field Hockey, Division I Bucknell University

Emma Johnson Cross Country, Rugby, Soccer, Club

#### Appendix

Victoria Jones Lacrosse, High School

Rebecca Jordan-Young Volleyball, High School

Emily Joselson Gymnastics, High School

Meagan Jurevicius Track & Field, Division I Princeton University

Grace Jurkovich Rowing, Division III Bates College

Ashley Kahler Basketball, Division III Emory University

Priyana Kalita Tennis, International

# Lena Kalotihos

Cross Country, Division III Sarah Lawrence College Samantha Kanekuni Lacrosse, Division I Binghamton University

Katherine Karustis Rowing, Division I

Kate Kasabo Volleyball, Division I College of William & Mary

Kelsy Kauffman Field Hockey, Division I Bucknell University

Ana Keene Cross Country, Track & Field, Division I American University

Alexis Kejas Soccer, Club

Madison Kejas Lacrosse, High School

Erin Kelly Field Hockey, Division I University of Pennsylvania

#### Appendix

Heather Kendall Swimming, Division I

Kate Kesselring Basketball, Track & Field, Volleyball, Club

Lee Kiefer Fencing, Olympic

Liz Kim Golf, Division I Ball State

Leslie Kimerling Squash, Division I University of Pennsylvania

Alix Klineman Beach Volleyball, Olympic

Susan King Soccer, Division II South Dakota State and University of Kansas

Julie Klaff Basketball, Golf, High School New Trier High School Celeste Kmiotek Cross Country, Road Races, Track & Field, Club Boston Road Runners

Susan Knox Cheerleading, High School

Emily Koe Soccer, Division I Columbia University

Jaclyn Kogler Dance, Club Hamilton College

Cynthia Koppe Dance, Professional

Breanna Kreutzer Lacrosse, Club West Virginia University

Avantika Krishna Tennis, High School

Gwin Krouse Tennis, Volleyball, Division III Franklin & Marshall College

#### Appendix

Elizabeth Kunkel Swimming, Division III Bryn Mawr College

Lindsay la Fleur Tennis, Professional

Alexandra Lafferty Volleyball (Coach), Club The Dalton School

Jessie Laffey Fencing, International

Emma Lalor Dance, Professional

Stephanie Lamarre Skiing, Club Princeton University

Anne Lang Adventure Racing & Ultrarunning, National

Deborah Larkin Tennis (Athlete & Coach), Club

Rachel Laufer Baseball, Softball, International Kathryn Laughon Distance Running, High School

Jesse Leener Softball, Division III

Casey Legler Swimming, Olympic

Carolyn Leslie Gymnastics, Division I University of California, Santa Barbara

Carol Levine Tennis, Professional

Andrea Lewak Tennis, Division II California State University, Northridge

Katey Lewicki Swimming, Division I North Carolina State University

Genevieve Li Dance, Professional

### Appendix

Rachel Licata Rowing, Division III Smith College

Meredith Lillie Swimming, Division I University of the Pacific

Lori Lindsey Soccer, Olympic

Margaret Liston Dance, Professional

Emily Long Soccer, Club

Kate Long Basketball, Lacrosse, High School

Sheila Lopez Soccer, High School

Clarissa Lotson Rowing, Division I Princeton University

Rebecca Luh Lacrosse, Club Carleton College Megan Lundy Soccer, Division III

Samantha Lutz Lacrosse, Club University of California, Santa Barbara

Heather MacCausland Swimming, Division I North Carolina State University

Katy Magill Track & Field, Division III Middlebury College

Gloria Mahbubani Volleyball, High School

Elena Malone Gymnastics, Club

Laura Mamo Soccer, Softball, Club

**Taylor Mann** Swimming, Division III

Patricio Manuel Boxing, Professional

#### Appendix

Maya Marder Soccer, Professional

Megan Margel Softball, Division III Middlebury College

Michelle Marion Soccer, Division III Western University

Merideth Marsh Basketball (Athlete & Coach), Professional

Hannah Marsing Rowing, Division I Bucknell University

Miranda Martin Tennis, Division III University of Mary Washington

Lisa Mason Mountain Biking, Snowboarding, International

Amanda Matthews Swimming, Division III Smith College Kelly Matthews Volleyball, Division I Princeton University

Katelyn Maylor Kickball, Club

Kayla McClellan Dance, International

Meghan McCormick Soccer, Club

Kaiya McCullough Soccer, Professional

Gabriella McDaniel Soccer, Club University of San Francisco

Alexandra McDevitt Volleyball (Athlete & Coach), Division III

Annie McGinn Swimming, Division III

Kate McGrath Track & Field, Division I Bucknell University

#### Appendix

Beth McKenzie Triathlon, Professional

Meagan McIntyre Basketball, Cross Country, Softball, Division III

Katherine Medved Skiing, Professional

Judith Merzbach Track & Field, Division III Colby College

Dianna Metzger Swimming, Division I University of Arizona

Amy Metzler Ritter Rowing, Division I Yale University

**Teagan Micah** Soccer, Olympic

Katherine Miceli Field Hockey, High School Henrico High School Maeve Mikulski Rowing, Division III Bates College

Caroline Militello Soccer, Division I Columbia University

Barbara Jane Miller Swimming, Olympic

Hannah Millner Tennis, High School

Chandler Miranda Swimming, Division III

Michele Mitchell Diving, Olympic

Clara Mokri Basketball, Division I Yale University

Heather Monty Rowing, Division III

Kate Moore Swimming, Division I North Carolina State University

#### Appendix

Marisa Morakis Field Hockey, Division I Bucknell University

Erica Moran Volleyball, Club

Katie Moran Lacrosse, Club University of California, Santa Barbara

Lisa Moran Soccer, High School

Sarah Moran Rowing, Division I

Sarah Moran Sailing, Volleyball, Division II Eckerd College

Risa Moriarity Rowing, Division I

Chris Mosier Duathlon, International

Maggi Muirhead Cycling (Athlete & Trainer), Tennis, Professional Lena Munzer Basketball, Division I

**Emma Muzzy** Swimming, Division I North Carolina State University

Nicolette Myers Softball, Division II Newberry College

National Women's Soccer League Players Association Soccer, Professional

Alanna Nawrocki Swimming, Division I

Mary Paige Nesfeder Track & Field, Volleyball, Division III Catholic University of America

Natalie Neshat Soccer, Division I Columbia University

Sally Ness Tennis, Club Tulane University

### Appendix

# Chiara Nevard

Basketball, Division III Kenyon College

Dana Nielsen Softball, Division I Bucknell University

#### **Eve Niquette**

Cross Country Running, Cross Country Skiing, High School Burlington High School

#### Paris Nix

Volleyball, Division III Washington University in St. Louis

Susan Northcutt Basketball, Club

# Wendy Northup Gymnastics, High School

Claire Maree O'Bryan Basketball, Professional

# Kathleen O'Day

Cross Country, Track & Field, Division III St. Olaf College

#### Meghan O'Leary

Rowing, Olympic Team USA

# Alison O'Neill

Diving, Field Hockey, Track & Field, Division III University of Chicago

#### Mary O'Neill

Diving, Swimming, Division I North Carolina State University

#### Marisa O'Toole Softball, Division III

#### Pegeen Oerter Swimming, Club

# Nneka Ogwumike

Basketball, Professional Los Angeles Sparks

#### Michaela Olson Volleyball, High School

# Sally Olson

Field Hockey, Division I Bucknell University

#### Appendix

Sophie Ossip Lacrosse, Division I

Kattarina Oswaks Lacrosse, Division I

Long Island University Brooklyn

Linda Paaymans Basketball, Lacrosse, Soccer, Division I Yale University

**Shannon Paaymans** 

Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball, High School Spanish Fort High School

Quinn Paige

Basketball, Division III Westminster College

Ritu Pancholy Soccer, High School

Madeleine Pape Track & Field, Olympics

Grace Parker Dance, Club University of Vermont Sarah Parker Softball, Swimming, Track & Field, High School

Kelsey Parsons Softball, Division III Carleton College

Molly Parsons Cross Country, Track & Field, Division I University of Richmond

Keelin Pattillo Soccer, Professional

Paige Patillo Cross Country, Track & Field, Division I University of Portland

Alexandria Patton Lacrosse, Club University of California, Santa Barbara

Bailey Peacock Soccer, Division I

Charlie Perham Baseball, Basketball, Youth

#### Appendix

Christine Perham Swimming, Olympic

Abigail Perkiss Adventure Racing, Cross Country, Swimming, International

Susan Petruccelli Soccer, Division I Harvard University

Alex Peyton Softball, Division I Princeton University

Kayla Pietruszka Rowing, Division I Loyola Marymount University

Kelsey Plum Basketball, Olympic

Emma Polaski Ice Hockey, Professional

Rachel Posner Soccer, Division I College of Charleston Rachael Potter Cross Country, Track & Field, Division I American University

Nzingha Prescod Fencing, Olympic

Sedona Prince Basketball, Division I University of Oregon

Molly Pritz Rowing, Division III Bates College

Greta Propp Basketball, Division III

Kim Quach Swimming, Water Polo, Club

Hannah Quinn Synchronized Swimming, Club Carleton College

Katrina Radke Swimming, Olympic

#### Appendix

Kavita Ramdas Track & Field, High School

Laura Rand Rowing, International

Robin Randolph Basketball, Club

Megan Rapinoe Soccer, Olympic Team USA

Niveen Rasheed Basketball, Professional

#### **Brooke Rauber**

Cross Country, Track & Field, Division I North Carolina State University

Will Rawls Dance, Swimming, Tennis, Professional

# Kylie Raymond Cross Country, Track & Field, Division I American University

Maya Reddy Golf, Professional

Courtney Resch Basketball, Division III Amherst College

Susan Rheingold Lacrosse, Rugby, Triathlon, Club Dartmouth College

Kate Richards Rowing, Division III Bates College

# Katherine Richardson Arnould Alpine Skiing, International

Sophia Rintell

Rowing, Division III Bates College

Megan Rispoli Volleyball, Division I

Gabriela Rivera Volleyball, Division II Life University

#### Appendix

Giselle Rivera Soccer, High School

Meredith Robinson Gymnastics, Division I

Olivia Rodriguez Rowing, Soccer, Club

Jacabed Rodriguez-Coss Basketball, Softball, Volleyball, High School

Liezl Romero Tennis, Club Miami University Middletown

Samantha Rosette Soccer, Professional

April Ross Beach Volleyball, Olympic

# Molly Roy

Ultimate Frisbee, Professional DC Shadow Ultimate Rachel Rubinstein

Track & Field, High School Newton South High School

Chrissy Rjiraorchai Golf, Karate, High School

Nicole Rupnik Field Hockey, Division I Bucknell University

Aisling Ryan Rowing, Division III

Cassy Sammarco Volleyball, Club

**Taylor Sandeman** Basketball, Division III University of St. Thomas

#### Julia Sands

Cross Country, High School Oceanside High School

Paola Santos Tennis, High School

#### Appendix

Rachel Santos Rowing, Soccer, Swimming, Division II

Becky Sauerbrunn Soccer, Professional US Women's National Soccer Team

Naomi Scharlin Water Polo, Club Wesleyan University

Sarah Schell Basketball, Division III

Lara Schenk Soccer, Professional

Jessica Schildkraut Soccer, Division I Columbia University

Sydni Scott Track & Field, Division I Columbia University

Jen Seehof Swimming, Division III Middlebury College Jasmine Sells Volleyball, Division III

Monora Seth Lacrosse, Club University of California, Santa Barbara

Payal Shah Rugby, Division I Swarthmore College

#### Lindsay Shaw

Softball, Volleyball, Club Campbell Hall High School

#### Sydney Shaw

Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Division I Stanford University

#### **Grace Sheble**

Swimming, International

# **Kate Shoemaker**

Soccer, Division III Bowdoin College

#### Hali Sibilia Lacrosse, Division I

#### Appendix

# Sophia Siegel-Warren

Ice Hockey, Club Carleton College

**Kyra Silitch** Tennis, Division III Bowdoin College

Alison Simmons Rowing, Division III Bates College

Sara Noonan Simonds Lacrosse, Soccer, Division I Harvard University

#### **Amber Sinicrope**

Basketball, Ultimate Frisbee, International

#### AJ Sion

Lacrosse, Division III Kenyon College

#### **Delia Sipe**

Track & Field, Division I Bucknell University

Abbey Skinner Basketball, Division III Amherst College Karen Smith Swimming, Division I University of Arizona

Lauren Snead

Soccer, Division II Central Washington University

**Marjorie Snyder** 

Field Hockey, Division III

Madelyn Son

Track & Field, Division III Kenyon College

#### Paula Sorić

Track & Field, Division III Kenyon College

#### Allison Spencer

Soccer, Division I Columbia University

#### **Jaclyn Spencer**

Swimming, Division I Columbia University

#### Appendix

Elizabeth Staebler

Endurance Running, Triathlons, High School

Alexis Stagnitta Cheerleading, Lacrosse, Club

Diane Stalder Tennis, Professional

Alden Standley Volleyball, Division III Washington University in St. Louis

Erin Steckler Lacrosse, Soccer, International

Kelly Stevens Soccer, Club

Harper Stewart Track & Field, Division I

Laurie Stewart Adventure Racing, Soccer, Ultra Running, Club Breanna Stewart Basketball, Olympic

Jazmyn Stokes Softball, Division I

Sara Taffel Fencing, International USA National Team

Clara Tate Diving, Swimming, Division I

Diana Taurasi Basketball, Professional

**Penny Taylor** Basketball, Olympic

Constance Thames Basketball, Golf, Track & Field, Club

Shannon Theisen Tennis, Division II University of California, San Diego

Ava Todd Tennis, Division I Davidson College

#### Appendix

Jaime Todd-Gher Gymnastics, Division I University of California, Santa Barbara

Carlisle Topping Soccer, Division I Columbia University

Bronwyn Towle Field Hockey, High School

Hillary Tribbs Soccer (Athlete & Coach), Semi-Professional

Kristen Tsutsui Track & Field, Division III

# Zoe Unruh

Basketball, Division III Washington University in St. Louis

#### Megan Uren

Basketball, Cross Country, Gymnastics, Soccer, Track & Field, Volleyball, Division III Rebecca Van Dyck Soccer, Division III

Jana Van Gytenbeek Basketball, Division I Stanford University

Eliza van Lennep Rowing, Division III

Bethany VanderPloeg Track & Field, Division I Smith College

Maya Virdell Track & Field, Division III

#### Sandra Vivas

Basketball, Volleyball, Division I Occidental College & University of Southern California

#### **Rebecca Waldo**

Rowing, Division III Bates College

#### **Ingrid Walla**

Basketball, High School

#### Appendix

#### Whitney Walton

Cheerleading, High School

Halsey Ward Basketball, International

Charity Warner Lacrosse, Division I University of Vermont

Rebekah Warner Lacrosse, Club Monroe Community College

Natalie Waterhouse Track & Field, Division I Bucknell University

Hillary Weachter Basketball, High School

Noa Weiss Dance, Professional

### Madeline Wendt

Nordic Skiing, Swimming, Division I Williams College (Athlete) & Harvard University (Coach)

#### Emma Wheeler

Rowing, Division III Bates College

# Joan Whelan

Soccer, Division I Harvard University

Maura Whelan Field Hockey, High School

#### Chelsea White Swimming, Club

**Kate White** 

Adventure Racing, Ultra Running, High School

Ashley Wigod Soccer, Professional

Amelia Wilhelm Rowing, Division III

### Appendix

Janine Williams Volleyball, Division I University of Florida

Jordan Williams Volleyball, Club Rutgers University

Lynn Williams Soccer, Olympic Team USA

Anna Wills Field Hockey, Division I Bucknell University

Kate Wilson Cross Country, Swimming, Division I Brown University

Amelia Winn Softball, High School

Meghan Winters Basketball, Division I Gonzaga University

Libby Woffindin Volleyball, Division II Chelsea Wolfe Cycling, Olympic Team USA

Women's National Basketball Players Association Basketball, Professional

Erika Wong Fencing, Division III Johns Hopkins University

Jessica Woods Running, Division III Carnegie Mellon University

Ashley Wynne Cheerleading, Club

Kellie York Field Hockey, Division I University of California, Berkeley

Danielle Young Soccer, Professional

# Appendix

# Lauren Young

Rugby, Division II Western Oregon University

#### **Ollie Young**

Rowing, Division III Bates College

#### Julia Zachgo

Track & Field, Division I North Carolina State University

# Sophia Ziemian

Cross Country, Track & Field, International

# Isabel Zimmermann

Cross Country, Track & Field, Division I North Carolina State University

# **Brittany Zoll**

Tennis, Division III Dickinson College

# Ashton Zuburg

Diving, Division I