

# The Telegram

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YOUR COMPLETE

NEWSPAPER

## 2 women coaches win sex bias case

By RICHARD PECK  
Telegram correspondent

Two Stratford women coaches have been awarded back pay and legal fees, according to a settlement of their sex discrimination suit filed recently in U.S. District Court in Bridgeport.

The Stratford Board of Education has been ordered to pay Lea Dixon, a gym teacher at Bunnell High School, \$1,571 and

Barbara Hall, of Stratford High School, \$1,234, and also pay \$1,700 to the Connecticut Women's Educational and Legal Fund Inc., which supplied the attorneys.

The suit was brought in 1976 by the two teachers, through their attorney Susan Merideth, the executive director of CWEALF, because they were being paid less than half the salary of male coaches in basketball, swimming and softball.

According to the settlement entered

before District Judge Jon O. Newman, the school board has agreed to pay coaches regardless of their sex, the same salary scale for comparable girls and boys sports.

The school board also agreed to establish equal terms and conditions of employment for coaches and girls' and boys' sports including areas such as use of facilities, scheduling, uniforms, use of equipment, and allocation of monies and

support services.

The court also ordered coaches to be hired and assigned on the basis of the individual's qualifications and not on the sex of the coach or the sex of the students to be coached. As a further stipulation, the assistant coaches would be hired on the basis of need for girls' teams on the same basis currently used for the boys'.

According to the CWEALF, the settlement will ensure equal terms and condi-

tions of employment and basis for assigning and hiring of coaches regardless of the group to be coached.

Joining the CWEALF as plaintiffs in the case was the Stratford Education Association, which was represented by its legal counsel Martin Gould. John Clancy of McNamara, Clancy, Kenney and Sullivan of Bridgeport represented the Stratford Board of Education.