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# NIAGARA ASSOCIATION of the AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION

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Water Polo—John Leonard  
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Women's Swimming—Bonnie Hager  
Weightlifting—Bill Deni

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Men—R. Heller; E. Webb  
Women—B. Dudley; M.J. Klier  
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Long Distance—Fred Hushla  
Synchronized—Don Kunzelman  
Diving, Men—Elwin Nichols  
Diving, Women—Betty Perkins  
Diving, Age-Group—Floyd Perkins  
Masters—Bernard White

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Jack C. Brueckman, Jr.

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Women—Jim Brown  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARK STERNIN, President of the Niagara Association of the Amateur Athletic Union, announces the appointment of Herbert J. Mols to the newly created position of Executive Director. Mols served the maximum term of President in 1960-62 and has been the Secretary since. Mols graduated from Buffalo Masten Park high school and Florida high school in Tallahassee. He earned B. S. degree and Master's degree from Cornell University in 1936 and 1937. He played football, basketball and baseball at Cornell. After 7 years with the U. S. Forest Service and 3½ years in Naval service in world war II, he returned to Buffalo in 1946. During this period he had been player-manager for Vermont state softball champions and his active playing continued with softball and basketball in service at Quonset Point and St. Simons naval air stations and in the Pacific theatre. He organized the Conference of Upstate Private Schools which flourished with as many as 6 schools in Upper New York State until 1971. He coached the baseball team to 10 CUPS championships. His football team garnered 13 titles, had an 87-39 won-lost record and included one winning streak of 28 games in a row. In basketball, he had 8 winners and 8 runners-up. In 13 years of track coaching his team won 8 championships and was runner-up the other years.

His alliance with the AAU began as an official in track, swimming, wrestling, basketball, boxing and volleyball. Appointed chairman of basketball, he revived these championships in 1954 and they have flourished to this date. He has been a regional chairman since 1958 and a national vice-chairman since 1962. In 1963 he was the manager of a basketball team composed of N. A. I. A. All-Americans which toured most of South America under the auspices of the State Dept. of Cultural Affairs. The purpose was to invade interior areas to indoctrinate the natives with the sport. Clinics were presented and were always climaxed with games, of which over 50 were played, by each five, and all were won. In Guayaquil, Ecuador, one game was abruptly terminated by the announcement of a revolution. In Colquiri, Bolivia, Mols officiated a game at 16,000 feet altitude, without oxygen mask.

Mols was appointed to the Olympic Basketball committee in 1960. In 1964 and 1968 he managed the AAU All-Stars in the Olympic trials from which teams came seven Olympic players.

In 1969 he was elected secretary of the Olympic basketball committee for this XXth Olympiad. Previously, the Pan-American and Olympic basketball squads had been selected by a weekend tournament. An Olympic Development program was inaugurated. Summer basketball camps were held at the Air Force Academy. Mols became the Operations Manager of the Camps. The best amateur players of the country were nominated for 2-3 weeks of training. Of the 44 players at the 1970 camp, 12 were selected to tour Finland, Poland and Russia. They had an 11-3 record with the youngest team ever to visit Europe. Julius Erving (now of Nets) Paul Westphal of Celtics, Chuck Terry of Milwaukee Bucks and Tom McMillen of Maryland were among these tourists. In 1971, 55 players tried out for the Pan-American team. Westphal and Terry were joined by Bob McAdoo (Braves) Dwight Jones (Atlanta) Jim Chones (Carolina) Brian Taylor (Nets) Luke Witte (Cavaliers) and Don Buse (Pacers).

In 1972, 67 players tried out for the Olympic team. Early draft choices from this squad included Doug Collins, Jim Brewer, Ed Ratleff, Mike Banton and Kevin Joyce. This team included Buffalo Memorial Auditorium in its summer tour prior to departing for Munich. Mols was elected manager of this team and an unforeseen task occurred after the infamous "three second" finale against the USSR.

He acted as the spokesman when the Jury of Appeals announced its decision. He was a member of the special delegation which appealed to Avery Brundage and the executive committee the following night. And he prepared the 34 page document, complete with affidavits of all of the principals who confirmed the illegal demand for an extra three seconds play, which was presented to the International Olympic Committee in February and unceremoniously rejected.

In the past year, Mols has been elected vice chairman of the Olympic basketball committee charged with selecting the Pan American and Olympic basketball teams for 1975 and 1976 at Montreal. He also continues as vice chairman of the National AAU basketball committee and North Atlantic regional chairman as well.

In 1971 Mols was instrumental in arranging for the Russian National team to invade upper New York as they began their U. S. tour with narrow victories in Canadagua and Williamsville against selected U. S. teams.

At the local level, Mols has not only officiated at many of the events sanctioned by the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) but he has organized and promoted many of the events on the 20 sport calendar.

When he instituted the Town of Amherst swim championships, he developed a team which opened up the Junior Olympic program in swimming and track to Erie County and eventually the 24 counties of western New York which comprise the Niagara Association. He organized the first summer of Olympic Development track meets and started the annual decathlon championships. Age group swim meets were pioneered in the indoor and outdoor pool co-sponsored by U. of Buffalo, NEWS and COURIER\_EXPRESS and recreation departments in Buffalo, Erie County, Amherst and Town of Tonawanda and City of Tonawanda and North Tonawanda and City of Niagara Falls.

He was a charter member of the Little League program in Amherst and in its third year, organized and was president of Connie Mack LL for 7 years. Its peak year occurred when its all star team reached the New York State finals, still the best record ever. He was a part of the Babe Ruth and American Legion programs which spanned the baseball age of 8 to 19. He helped organize the Junior football program and was President twice.

In 1956 he was appointed to the initial Town of Amherst committee for Recreation and served as Chairman for its 5 years of existence



The committee was disbanded in order to achieve Commission status but only after securing the appointment of a full time director and preparing plans for purchase of property for playground development and presenting plans for construction of facilities for pools and indoor ice arenas.

Mols was Chairman of Youth Activities for the A. A. U. nationally from 1961-3. Other National committee appointments have been to the Executive, Law & Legislation, Registration, Finance, Junior Olympics, Sullivan Award and Survey & Code revision.

He is a member of the Dunlop Amateur Award nomination committee for the past two years.