



LAURA GIBBONS IN ONE OF HER BEST EVENTS  
... goes up for big win in the high jump during meet

GOETHE

## Feminine Laura looks out of place in athletic world

By Bill Cotterell

(UPI)—Watching Laura Gibbons tape a lithe but mangled knee in Florida State's drafty Montgomery Gym, one wonders what a lousy joint like this is doing in a nice girl like that.

The blonde with the big turquoise eyes seems oddly out of place in the decidedly less-than-feminine world of women's athletics.

"I won't throw the shot put," said Gibbons, a 21-year-old physical education major from Miami. "That's one thing I just won't do."

What she will do is throw the javelin, spin the discus, dribble basketballs and spike volleyballs—and all better than any other women at FSU.

Laura attributes the rolled-up cartilage of her weakened left knee to an accumulation of several years of athletics, rather than any specific accident. Mostly, it was basketball, volleyball, "and all that jumping," she says.

The knee bothers her only a little in track, mostly toward the end of a long meet.

Laura holds the FSU records with the discus, a respectable heave of 111 feet, and the high jump (4'8") but says she has done better with both in practice.

She placed seventh among the nation's women javelin throwers with a 136-foot toss in the girls' and women's sports national finals at East Washington State University in Cheney, Wash., last year.

Her best effort with the javelin, not officially recorded, is more than 150 feet and her highest jump, also done in practice, is 4'11". Her relay team also won the 440 in state meets here and at the University of Florida, but she modestly forgets the official timing.

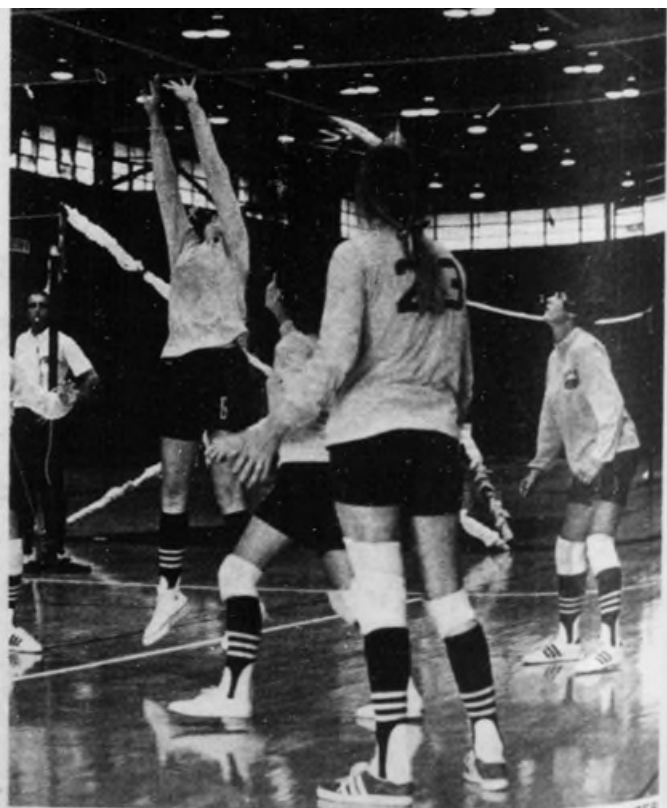
Laura figures she could have a shot at the Olympics if she got really serious about sports, but that takes too much time and more dedication than she's willing to put in. Plus, she prefers to keep her 5-10, 145-pound figure girlish, unlike many of her muscle-laden cohorts in the FSU division of girls and women's athletics.

"I don't know if I'm quite good enough," she said when asked about future athletic prospects.

"Maybe if I got into the top four with the javelin—but that's practice, practice, practice—you've got to be really dedicated and I've got too many other interests."

Between tennis, track, basketball and volleyball, Laura is not sure how many medals and trophies she has accumulated in her four years at FSU.

Offhand, she can remember six first place medals and two for second place in track events, four in tennis, and "a few more in basketball," but seems disinterested in the loot.



SHE EXCELS IN A LOT OF SPORTS  
... Laura (23) is a competitor, bad knee and all

HOLZER