

HE SHOOTS, SHE SCORES

- A Short Story of Transgender Individuals in Sport -

DAVE BOSSMIN

#250885684

EDUC 5499 - LGBTQ ISSUES IN EDUCATION
SUMMATIVE RAFT ASSIGNMENT

Contents

<i>Preface and Acknowledgements</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Prologue</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>He Shoots, She Scores</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Time to Get Going</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Snack Bar Patrons</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Dressing Room Occupants</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Reflections of a Doctor</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Journeys as a Parent</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Epilogue</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>References and Further Readings</i>	<i>23</i>

Preface and Acknowledgements

As part of my teaching philosophy as a social justice educator, my goal as a teacher is “to view my students’ learning abilities without prejudice towards their prior experiences, emotional or physical health, gender, race, religion, sexual or gender orientation, or socioeconomic background. At the same time, it is important to fully recognize the existence of these social groups in my classroom, so that my teaching can help counteract the socially-constructed barriers to their education.”¹

A key aspect of social justice education is continuous and critical self-reflection, in which the teacher takes time to understand their personal biases, stereotypes, and prejudices, and how these might affect the learning of their students. I entered the EDUC 5499 course (*LGBTQ Issues in Education*) aware of my biases and prejudices with regards to transgender individuals, and feel some relief that my understanding of the transgender population has since improved, and that many of my misconceptions have now been corrected. However, in my personal view an unsatisfying level of discomfort remains.

It is therefore in the spirit of confronting my remaining fears and misunderstandings that I chose to submit a short story focused on transgender participation in sport as my summative RAFT assignment. The issue of transgender individuals’ participation in gendered sporting events has been addressed in such organizations as the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). However, both the high-incidence of transphobia in our schools, as well as the debates regarding the installation of gender-neutral washrooms, suggest that widespread acceptance of the transgender community has yet to be found in our education system in general, or in school-level sports in particular. With this assignment I hoped to further educate myself with respect to transgender participation in sport, such that I am more comfortable with explaining and defending such participation to any unsupportive colleague, parent, or student in the education system.

With respect to the research conducted for this assignment, I wish to gratefully acknowledge the contributions of Dr. Christopher Richards-Bentley, MEd, MD, FRCPC. His expertise with regards to how a transgender youth might interface with the Ontario medical system provided this project with an important vantage point often overlooked in such discussions.

¹ The quoted text was submitted for grading, as part of course work required in EDUC 5007 (Social Foundations), on November 2, 2016

PROLOGUE

St. Joseph's Hospital, Ironhurst, ON
Emergency Department

February 8, 2011

RE: BECKER, Kyle
D.O.B.: January 23, 1998

TO: Dr. Matthew Langley
Family Physician, Ironhurst Family Medical Practice
#210-1042 Maple Drive, Ironhurst, ON

Dear Dr. Langley,

Your patient, Mr. Kyle Becker, presented to the Emergency Department on February 7, 2011. As you know, Kyle is a 13-year old male youth who lives with his mother, father and younger sister, and attends Grade 8 at St. Mary's Catholic Elementary School.

Kyle presented on February 7 after one of his teachers raised concern regarding dysphoric journal entries found in Kyle's notebook. Kyle tells me that these journal entries were part of a "religious reflection" assignment and were therefore meant to be personal in nature. However, the teacher grew concerned due to the passive suicidal nature of the entries, and referred Kyle to the school counsellor. Kyle was subsequently brought to the Emergency Department on an Emotionally Disturbed Persons form by local police. He was immediately certified under Form 1 of the Ontario Mental Health Act.

When seen in the department, Kyle described a two-year history of depressed mood, poor energy, appetite, and chronic anhedonia. Sleep has also been disturbed, as he tells me he has chronic nightmares as well as initial-night insomnia and early-morning waking. He experiences chronic thoughts of hopelessness, though denies any thought of suicide plan or intent, and there is no history of this. Screening for hypomania, mania and psychosis is negative, and there is no history of substance use disorder. Physical health is unremarkable, and there is no history of head trauma, seizure disorder, complicated substance withdrawal, or any other condition. He states that there is no known family history of psychiatric disorder (major depressive disorder, etc.), but it does not appear that the family is very psychologically-minded and open regarding discussing this.

Regarding mental status examination, he presented as a shy and diminutive young boy who appeared to be normal weight and height. Posture was poor and eye contact was minimal. He

appeared guarded around his parents, and was apprehensive to include them in the interview process. Mood was “not great” and affect was typically tearful when discussing what he vaguely articulated as his “stresses”, though became more euthymic as the interview progressed. Thought content was vague, though reasonably future-oriented. He spoke of enjoying hockey and English class. He mentioned briefly that the English teacher was quite supportive and encouraging, especially regarding his creative writing. Kyle was extremely guarded when invited to discuss other areas of his personal life, such as friend circles and sexuality. Most of his friends have started dating.

In summary, this is a 13-year old, shy young boy who has a history of low mood, generally worsening over the past two years. He appears to be quite socially withdrawn. While the parents certainly voice support and state that they encourage him to discuss his feelings, it would be important for him to have independence in how he navigates any mental health follow-up. It is my impression that an episode of short-term supportive psychotherapy would likely be beneficial, and that medications are not warranted at this time. We have referred him to our outpatient follow-up clinic, where his mood and possible depressive symptoms can be monitored more closely, and where I hope he will gradually develop increasing comfort in discussing his anxiety. The parents state that they will contact you in the near future to book a follow-up appointment.

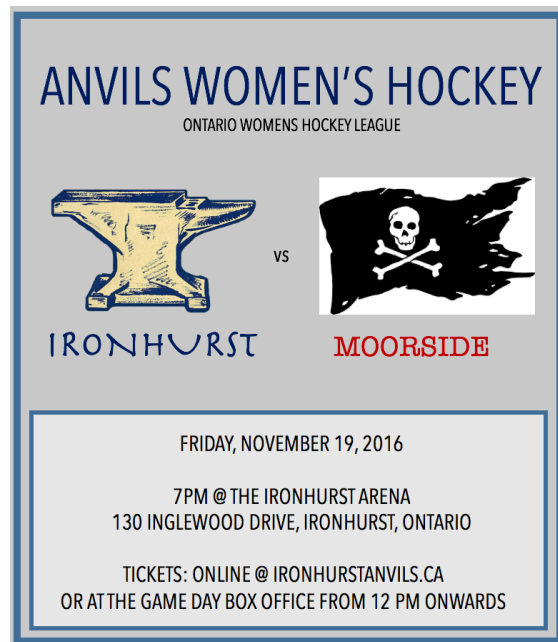
Sincerely,

Dr. Rose Kowalski-Michaels
MD, FRCPC

HE SHOOTS, SHE SCORES

TIME TO GET GOING

Katherine and Anita are passing through the mall together on their way to the morning skate; a part of their routine game-day preparation which also includes a team meeting over lunch, and a short afternoon nap. They come across the mall's community notice board, where they see a poster advertising that night's game stapled firmly to its centre.



"Wow, I'm getting kinda nervous about this game", says Anita. "It will be my first playing between the pipes, in front of the home crowd. The coach is putting a lot of faith in me, with it being the home opener and all. I don't want to mess this one up."

"You and me both", replied Katherine. Although Katherine wasn't just '*kinda*' nervous. She was an all-out bundle of nerves. For her, this will be the first game she plays as a female in front of her home town. All of the debates and discussion with the league and the arena, the hormone therapy, the doctor visits, not to mention the bullying and stigma she has endured throughout her transition. This is yet another step in her long journey. "Would this journey ever be done?", she wondered.

She was thankful that the first three games of the Anvils' hockey season were on the road. That way she could just play hockey with her new team as her true self, and not be distracted by the

stress of having to come out to the members of her community; to face everyone as the person she felt she always was, yet in a way, having to meet them again for the first time.

The hockey arena had always been her safe place, where her struggles with her gender identity were kept *mostly* at bay. Mostly, since scoring a goal or an assist meant hearing her birth name, “Kyle Becker”, announced over the arena’s sound system. Throughout her hockey life, the glow of the red bulb behind the net didn’t signal that she had scored a goal, but rather it served as a painful reminder of unfinished business.

Today that sense of safety and security would be tested once again. It was time. This would be her first game at home, wearing the jersey of the Ironhurst Anvils women’s hockey team.

Playing as Katherine.

“We’d better hurry up”, Anita says, interrupting Katherine’s train of thought. “You know how coach hates us being late for anything.”

SNACK BAR PATRONS

Rebecca and Monica are waiting patiently in line at the snack bar of the Ironhurst Arena. Their typical two-hour drive from Moorside had turned into a gruelling four-hour slog due to a semi-trailer rollover, and a pair of coffees would be just what they needed to erase their fatigue and focus their attention on their daughters' hockey game.

"What do you think of our girls' chances tonight against the Anvils?", asked Rebecca, fumbling through her purse for her wallet.

"It will be a tough game for our Pirates", replied Monica. "These Ironhurst Anvils are the best in the division right now, having won their first three games of the year. You can sure thank their goalie for that."

"Or you can thank that man they have playing for them", Rebecca scorned. "I mean, don't get me wrong, I treat everyone equally, but let's be honest. That forward of theirs, *Katherine* Becker, I heard that *she* played for the men's team last season and that *her* name was Kyle. He wasn't scoring that many points, so he just decides he can be a woman by changing his name to Katherine. He goes ahead and joins the Ironhurst women's team, and now he's one of the highest scorers in our league."

Monica is uncomfortable with the volume of her friend's voice, and so replies in a more hushed tone in the hopes Rebecca picks up on her cue. "I read in the newspaper that transgender, um, transsexuals? Gosh, I can never get that term right. But anyways, I read that trans people really get harassed at school, even physically. Do you really think that Kyle or Katherine or whatever you want to call him, would go through all of that trouble just to score a lot of goals in hockey?"

Rebecca, oblivious to Monica's lower voice, replies just as loudly, "Well, all I know is that I don't want my daughter on the receiving end of one of his body checks. You can see how much bigger and stronger he is on the ice compared to our girls. It's simple biology that everyone knows from elementary school – he has an unfair advantage. And is it really fair if Kyle gets into university on a women's sports scholarship because of his strength?"

"But what about that mandatory *"You Can Play"* workshop we had to attend at the start of the year, to inform us about the hockey league's new transgender policy? They said that after a year of hormone treatments, someone like Kyle has no competitive advantage over cisgender women. In fact, I think I remember them saying that there was a study that showed that they might actually be at a competitive *disadvantage*."

"Cis-what women?"

“Cisgender women. You know, a person who inside feels they are female, and was assigned that gender at birth by the hospital.”

“Look, no amount of hormones, or any type of surgery which changes whether Kyle pees standing up or sitting down, is going to change the fact that he is a man.”

Monica can't help but laugh at the visual of her friend's comment, and she feels that while Rebecca is a bit closed-minded on this topic, she admits she makes some good points. Kyle is just one player in the league so it really isn't a big deal right now. But what if tomorrow there is a whole team of Kyles? What then? And that doesn't even address the issue of men changing in the same dressing room as women. I'm sure that is just asking for trouble, Monica continues thinking to herself. Maybe the trans people should just have their own league and leave the normal girls alone?

DRESSING ROOM OCCUPANTS

The Anvil players enter the dressing room in their street clothes, and find Katherine already sitting there, fully dressed in her hockey equipment and ready to play. The team was still getting used to the new dressing room schedule set up by the Anvils coaching staff. This alternating schedule determined who (Katherine or the rest of the team) had first access to the dressing room prior to each game, and who had first access to the showers after each game. It was part of the league's new transgender policy, adopted at the start of the season, which was designed to provide all players equitable access to the dressing room space. Both the administration of the arena, and Katherine, agreed that a separate dressing room for changing purposes was the ultimate goal. However, the dressing room schedule had to be set up as an interim measure while construction of a separate dressing room for Katherine continued.

As the rest of the team finishes putting on their gear, Coach Bergstrom enters the dressing room to give his pre-game instructions to his team. As per the mandatory transgender training administered by the league, he checks to make sure all of his women, and especially Katherine, are present for his talk. "Once Katherine has her own dressing room, it will be easy to forget she is there by herself, and exclude her from the team meeting. Best to get in the habit of looking out for her now", he thinks to himself.

"Before I get into the technical part of tonight's game, I'd like to acknowledge the significance of this game for a member of our team. As you're all aware, this is Katherine's first time playing in front of the Ironhurst fans, and I've let her know that we're all behind her 100%. You all have been tremendous so far, and so know I don't have to remind anyone here about the league's policy about verbal and physical harassment. However, I'm not sure if the same thing can be said about our opponent tonight.

"We all know some nasty things get said on the ice over the course of a game. And it's natural to want to defend your teammates by either yelling something back or getting physically aggressive. While we love to see that kind of passion in your game, this is one of those things which is bigger than the game of hockey. If you hear anyone on our team being harassed or threatened because of who they are as a person, we want you to let us know about it rather than dealing with it yourselves. We'll be the ones talking to the officials and the other teams' coaches to get it straightened out. Got it?"

Katherine feels her comfort level immediately improve as she listens to her coach's words. He asked her beforehand whether it would be okay for him to address the team about it, and she's glad she agreed to it. As she sees her teammates nodding to their coach's instructions, and giving her "thumbs-up" from across the room, she gets the feeling tonight is going to be alright.

REFLECTIONS OF A DOCTOR

Dr. Langley arrives at the rink much later than he hoped, as once again his shift at the clinic took longer than he expected. “It always takes longer than expected”, he thought to himself, “Perhaps after 15 years of practice I would learn to modify those expectations”. Dr. Langley smiles at the thought. He loves his work and the people he helps. Fortunately, he has a wife who understands and is supportive of this, and is more than happy to wait alone in a chilly arena for him to arrive. “She is a saint”, he says as he decides to head to the snack bar to thank his wife for her patience, with a purchase of her favourite vice: a crackle-nut-chocolate ice cream bar.

Standing in line he overhears two women talking, one of them quite loudly, about Katherine Becker and how she shouldn’t be allowed to play for the Anvils’ women’s team. He wishes he could talk to them about some of the realities of transgender youth; that gender dysphoria isn’t a mental illness, and that a transgender individual would not choose such a difficult journey just so they could rack up points on a hockey team. However, he must maintain his silence as Katherine Becker is his patient. Maintaining doctor-patient confidentiality supersedes any personal desire to correct the extreme prejudices he is currently hearing in the snack bar line.

One misconception Dr. Langley overhears is of particular interest: that as a transgender woman, Katherine has a performance advantage over the cisgender women she is competing with. “This is one of the common arguments against allowing people like Katherine to participate in sport, and one which medical research, while limited in this area, has largely been able to debunk”, Dr. Langley thinks to himself.

“It is true that ‘46 XY’ individuals (i.e., those typically considered as being ‘male’), do in fact have a competitive performance advantage over ‘46 XX’ individuals (i.e., those typically considered as being female). While both sets of individuals have testosterone and estrogen in their systems, it is the naturally higher elevation of testosterone in males that give them more strength, greater muscle mass, and more height. These effects actually *do* provide males with an 11-18% improvement in performance over females, so the concern expressed by these women in the snack bar line, and that of society in general, is a reasonable one.

“However, evidence shows that transgender women, through extended hormonal therapy (testosterone suppression and estrogen boosting), have similar, and in many cases lower, levels of testosterone than cisgender women. What this means is that transgender women have no competitive advantage over their cisgender counterparts. Sporting organizations such as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) have gone to great lengths to ensure this is the case. In order for a transgender woman to compete in a women’s NCAA event, she must have undergone hormonal therapy for at least one year. For the IOC, the requirements are much stricter: hormonal therapy must last for at

least two years, but at least they removed that requirement for athletes to have undergone reassignment surgery”, Dr. Langley continues in his mind.

“But this women’s hockey league is nowhere near the elite level of the IOC”, Dr. Langley now says aloud to himself. “At the Olympics, the differences between athletes are measured in hundredths of a second, where a lot more is at stake overall. So it seems reasonable for their regulations to go way beyond what is needed to ensure fair competition, and to ensure the competition is also perceived to be fair.”

He remembers reading a paper in the *Journal of Sporting Cultures and Identities*, which is more pertinent due to its research into the performance of non-elite transgender athletes. It specifically compared a series of race times of transgender female runners, from both before and after their transition from male-to-female. Accounting for age and personal training, the researchers found that the individuals’ relative performance, with respect to their age group and gender, remained consistent through their transition. In effect, hormonal therapy sufficiently negated any performance advantage that the transgender women might have had as men.

Dr. Langley reflects on Katherine’s remarkable journey to get to this night, and understands the significance of Katherine deciding to come out to her community in such a public way. “It’s going to take many years for the average sports fan to understand that transgender women do not pose a threat to female-segregated sports”, he thinks to himself. “Katherine is nonetheless going to influence a lot of people for the better tonight”.

As the line inches forward at the snack bar, Dr. Langley thinks back to a consult note he received from Katherine’s endocrinologist just over 6 months ago.

March 10, 2016

RE: BECKER, Katherine

D.O.B.: January 23, 1998

TO: Dr. Matthew Langley
Family Physician, Ironhurst Family Medical Practice
#210-1042 Maple Drive, Ironhurst, ON

Dear Dr. Langley,

I had the pleasure of assessing your patient, Ms. Katherine Becker, on January 23, 2016. As you know Katherine (chosen name) is an 18-year old male-to-female transgender person whom I understand has been in your practice since birth.

Katherine was referred for endocrinologist consultation surrounding treatment options for childhood-onset gender dysphoria. Katherine articulates a marked incongruence between her experienced gender and her birth-assigned gender, including extensive childhood cross-dressing and increased comfort in female clothing, preference for cross-gender roles in childhood make-believe and fantasy play, and preference for activities stereotypically engaged in by girls. She describes a strong dislike of her sexual anatomy beginning around 2009 (age 11).

There was a brief presentation to the local Emergency Department with passive suicidal ideation flagged by her elementary school, and depressive symptoms worsened with progression of male-typical pubertal development. As an adolescent, Katherine had a strong desire to have the secondary sexual characteristics of the female gender, growing her hair long and dressing in female-typical ways, despite facing escalating bullying in high school.

The parents have been involved in our family group, and are generally described by our social worker as supportive. The father is more "on board" than the mother, the latter of whom voices some continued mourning for the "loss of a son", though it is promising that the communication has improved, and that gender transition is discussed openly in the family. Katherine is pleased that she is now referred to by her chosen name and gender by the parents and sister.

Katherine presents today as a well-groomed and articulate adolescent with long hair and female-typical clothing. She appears to be capable of both appreciating and understanding the consequences of various transition options. Your decision to start leuprolide intramuscular injections in mid-puberty, according to her wishes, has made the prospect

of more permanent sexual transition an easier one, as her voice pitch and secondary sexual features are at the Tanner stages that one would expect from someone in early masculine-typical puberty, and not 18-years of age. My impression at this point, given her clear and consistent desire for permanent sex transition, would be to start estrogen therapy, as well as spironolactone, the latter of which is a potassium-sparing diuretic that happens to decrease plasma testosterone levels as well.

Should Katherine desire to pursue sex reassignment surgery (so called “bottom surgery”), this could be considered in the future with a referral to a trans-informed and –positive surgeon. It is important to note that gender and sex transition is not a “binary” option of choosing between male vs. female, but a complex process of identity that is personal in nature and may require time to resolve.

I am happy to consult in the future, if needed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ryan Leblanc
MD, FRCPC

JOURNEYS AS A PARENT

“They were out of pepperoni, so I got you a slice of Canadian instead”, said Jack, as he handed his wife her pricey dinner and settled into his seat, five rows up from the home team’s bench. “Hope that’s okay.”

“Thanks Jack. That’s perfect. The arena pizza pretty much all tastes like the cardboard tray it’s served on anyways.”, Beth laughs. “You know, I’ve never understood why ‘Canadian’ pizza means ‘piles of different types of meat’. What’s so Canadian about that?”

“It’s probably because they put animals on all of our coins. Beaver. Caribou. Loon. Polar bear.”

“And are any of those on my pizza?”, she laughs.

“Exactly”, he winks.

Beth looked admiringly at her husband. He always knew how to lighten things up for her when she was feeling anxious. Tonight was yet another in a series of anxious moments covering the past few years. Her *eldest* daughter (how it still seemed strange to use the term ‘eldest’ now that she had two daughters) is playing her first hockey game as a female player, in front of everyone in Ironhurst. Beth wasn’t sure if the knot in her stomach was because she was nervous on Katherine’s behalf, or nervous on her own behalf.

“You’re so good about all of this, Jack”, she finally said. “I still don’t know how you were able to be so comfortable about Katherine telling us about her gender identity. You were right on board from Day 1.”

“I might have been on board the day she told us what was going on, about who she really was. But for me that wasn’t our ‘Day 1’.”

“You mean, you knew all along that she was female?”

“Oh no. Not at all. I don’t think you can really know that someone is gay, lesbian, transgender, or even straight for that matter, until they tell you themselves. I mean sure, Katherine was into more girly things than I would have expected from a boy, and it crossed my mind that she, as Kyle, might be gay. But until I knew for sure, all I could do, all we could do, was be there for our kid until she figured it out.

“So for me really, Day 1 was the day we got that call from her school counsellor about the entries in her journal. Hearing that she was hoping to not wake up one morning, or get struck by lightning, was the scariest day of my life. Then came the parade of doctor visits.” Jack pauses.

“Oh yeah, and all of the therapists”, added Beth. “‘It’s just a phase.’ ‘It’s anxiety disorder.’ ‘We might be dealing with obsessive compulsive disorder.’ ‘Bipolar disorder.’ We’ve sure heard it all, haven’t we?”

“Well, to be fair to the doctors, a person has to show symptoms of gender dysphoria for at least 6 months before any formal diagnosis can be made. And it’s not like Katherine was the model of co-operation at the beginning. It took her awhile to open up. For me, learning of her gender dysphoria was a happy day. At that point we knew what we were dealing with and could get her the help she needed.”, Jack offered.

“That’s true. But I guess for me that was the day I had to start dealing with the fact that I wasn’t going to have a son. I had all of these expectations for Kyle, that he would find a nice woman and marry her someday, and have kids of his own.”

“Katherine can do all of those things too.”, Jack smiled.

Beth laughs. “Now *that* would certainly be something if that’s the way it all turned out? I’m feeling much better about things now, it’s just that at the time it felt like I had lost a son, rather than gained a daughter. And I needed time to grieve a bit. That support group for parents with transgender children has been really helpful for me in that way. I wish we had known about them much earlier. To me, they’ve been the only group of people that really understood my questions and my fears.”

“You’re doing awesome, Beth. We all are. Tonight is going to be simply great. For us as a family, but for Katherine especially. I can’t believe her courage, can you?”

“She must get that courage from you. I mean, I just wish I could find the courage to tell my sister about it. With her living so far away in Australia, it’s been easy to hide this transitioning period from her. I just don’t want to lose her the same way I lost Terri.”

Beth was referring to her once-closest friend in Ironhurst. Book clubs, half-price wine nights at *The Ole Tavern*, play dates for the kids; there was a time that Beth and Terri were inseparable. Then Beth confided in Terri about her and Jack’s decision to help transition Kyle to Katherine. Terri simply couldn’t handle it, and said she didn’t want her children exposed to any of “that kind of weirdness”. Beth hasn’t heard from Terri since. It broke Beth’s heart, and she doesn’t want the same thing to happen between her and her sister.

“I doubt that what happened with Terri will happen with your sister”, Jack suggested. I mean, it could happen, but like the support group said, parents have a ‘coming out’ period as well with

regards to their LGBTQ children. The fear you feel about losing your loved one is similar to the fear our kids have coming out to us.”, Jack continued. “Anyone that truly loves you will be there for you, just like we were there for Katherine. But anything that tests love is scary, and this is one of those things. You’ll get there, just take your time.”

“You’re awesome, you know that, right?”, said Beth, as she pats her husband’s thigh.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Ironhurst Arena for tonight’s game between your Ironhurst Anvils, and the visiting Moorside Pirates. Would you please rise and remove your hats, and join in the singing of our national anthem.”

“Okay Beth, this is it. It’s game time.”

EPILOGUE

The Ironhurst Herald

ANVILS DROP THE HAMMER ON MOORSIDE PIRATES

- Regulation Win Marks Victory for Trans Community -

By Anthony Grundwall, The Ironhurst Herald
Saturday, November 20, 2016

IRONHURST – The Ironhurst Anvils used their season home opener last night to win their fourth straight game, by sinking the visiting Moorside Pirates by a score of 3-1 in front of 5,639 boisterous fans at the Ironhurst Arena. A gutsy two-goal performance by forward Joleen McCormick, plus an impressive 31 saves by rookie goaltender Anita Brewer, were enough to hand the Pirates their first loss of the season.

“It was a tremendous effort by all of our girls out there”, said head coach Jonathan Bergstrom. “I’m really proud of the way they responded to some of the things the coaching staff talked about in the dressing room before the start of the game. From start to finish, they played for each other, as an individual team rather than a team of individuals.”

It was an evening of firsts, as not only was it the first win of the season for the Anvils, it was also the first home game for 18-year-old Katherine Becker, who made the team after a standout training camp and pre-season. Becker is believed to be the first transgender female to play in the Ontario Women’s Hockey League, and her participation at the game represented a marked turnaround for a sport not typically known for its acceptance of the LGBTQ community in the locker room.

When asked about the significance of the game and what it might mean for other transgender youth struggling with their identity, she downplayed her leadership by saying “I’m just happy to be playing hockey with a great team with great coaches. When I am playing sports, nothing else matters, and nothing else can reach me.”

Visitors to the arena on Friday may also have noticed something different from last season: gender-neutral bathrooms. They were installed over the summer in response to Hockey Canada's draft transgender policy. "While there was some negative reaction from our guests, the overall response was either slightly positive or indifferent", said Amanda Dickinson, head of Anvils' Media Relations. "We placed staff at the entrances to these washrooms to answers any questions which arose. While some guests chose to use different facilities, we feel that this was the right thing to do, and in time our guests won't even notice them."

When pressed further about the game, Becker, who picked up an assist on the game-winning goal, had this to say about the night in which her gender finally aligned with her hockey team, "It was a wonderful feeling...you just can't imagine how awesome it is to hear the name you've been wanting to be called for so long; to hear it called out on the speaker and to have it echo throughout the arena. And for the fans to cheer for me..."

She trails off, holding back an emotion her teammates in the Anvil dressing room obviously share. In their eyes and words there is a sense that over time, the hearing Becker's name announced won't mean "a former male just scored a goal", but rather "a female just did".

We're getting there, Ironhurst. We're getting there.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READINGS

The chapters of this short story were informed and inspired by the following online news articles, editorials, and research journals.

Perspectives in Opposition to Transgender Participation in Sport

<http://thefederalist.com/2016/01/27/allowing-transgender-olympians-is-unfair-to-women/>

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/06/07/parents-girl-lost-high-school-spots-event-transgender-male-teen-speak/>

<http://www.ktva.com/high-school-runner-brings-spotlight-to-alaska-transgender-policy-432/>

Research into Whether Transgender Athletes Have a Competitive Advantage

Harper, J. (2015). Race Times for Transgender Athletes. *Journal of Sporting Cultures and Identities*. (6)1, (p.1-9)

Ziegler, E., & Huntley, T. (2013). It Got Too Tough To Not Be Me: Accommodating Transgender Athletes in Sport. *Journal of College and University Law* (39)2, (p.467-509)

<http://heinonline.org/HOL/LandingPage?handle=hein.journals/jcolunly39&div=16&id=&page=>

Interactions with the Ontario Health System

Emotionally Disturbed Person (EDP) Form (Example):

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-561-m/2009016/app-ann/app-ann5-eng.pdf>

Form 1 of the Mental Health Act:

[http://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/ssbforms.nsf/GetAttachDocs/014-6427-41~1/\\$File/6427-41_.pdf](http://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/ssbforms.nsf/GetAttachDocs/014-6427-41~1/$File/6427-41_.pdf)

Perspectives of Parents with Transgender Children

<http://www.parents.com/parenting/dynamics/raising-a-transgender-child/>

Perspective of a Transgender Hockey Player

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/transgender-player-1.3814705>

Perspectives in Support of Transgender Participation in Sport

<http://time.com/3961696/transgender-athletes-school-sports/>

<http://theconversation.com/do-transgender-athletes-have-an-unfair-advantage-54289>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/do-transgender-athletes-have-an-unfair-advantage-at-the-olympics/2016/08/05/08169676-5b50-11e6-9aee-8075993d73a2_story.html

Sports-Related Transgender Policies of International Sports Organizations and American High Schools

http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/news_centre/hockey-canada%E2%80%99s-ontario-branches-take-important-step-towards-transgender-inclusion

<http://www.hockeyeasternontario.ca/pages/admin/policies.htm>

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2016/jan/25/ioc-rules-transgender-athletes-can-take-part-in-olympics-without-surgery>

<http://www.transathlete.com/k-12>

Experiences of Transgender Students in Canadian Schools

Taylor, C., Peter T. (2011). Every Class in Every School: Final Report on the First National Climate Survey on Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia in Canadian Schools. *Egale Canada Human Rights Trust; Toronto; ON*

<http://egale.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/EgaleFinalReport-web.pdf>