MEDIA RELEASE
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Champion Women Launches Today!

JACKSONVILLE, FL - - A new chapter for championing girls and women in sports begins today with Champion Women, a non-profit organization founded by its CEO, Nancy Hogshead-Makar, a civil rights attorney, prolific scholar and speaker and Olympic champion. Hogshead-Makar is well-known for her passionate and effective advocacy, including strategic collaborative projects with individuals and organizations. Champion Women is committed to using sport to improve the lives of girls and women, bringing together nationally known and committed experts to its board and working committees.

According to Hogshead-Maker: “Our most powerful and influential athletic institutions are falling short in addressing critical gender equity issues. Champion Women will engage its followers through its website at www.ChampionWomen.org, as well as other organizations to target equality, accountability and transparency throughout sports culture. In addition, Champion Women will amplify the voices of girls and women who may not be able to speak for themselves.” Examples of issues Champion Women will initially focus upon include:

- Too many colleges and universities are out of compliance with the most basic Title IX athletics requirements, when local constituencies could be empowered to push for more women’s teams.

- Too many colleges, universities and high schools fail to comply with the basic legal requirements after they are confronted with allegations that their athletes have committed sexual assault or engaged in sexual harassment, oftentimes creating a hostile environment for the student body.

- Collegiate sports will be restructured in the coming years in response to the legal rulings in the Northwestern and O’Bannon cases, making advocacy for women’s sports all that more important.

- Women’s coaches face unfair and discriminatory employment conditions in the world of collegiate athletics, receiving far less pay than their male counterparts, being locked out of the men's coaching market (despite male coaches having coaching opportunities in women’s sports) and overseeing programs with disproportionate less facilities and scholarships than male sports programs.

- The U.S. Olympic Committee is creating a separate non-government agency to investigate and sanction sexually abusive coaches, an effort that will fail if the agency does not have independence and for which strong advocacy for women will be necessary.

  - Hogshead-Makar’s efforts have already led to substantial changes in the Olympic movement, including new U.S. Olympic Committee rules for National Governing Bodies that prohibit romantic and sexual relationships between coaches and athletes.

www.ChampionWomen.org
• The U.S. Olympic Committee is not bound by most civil rights laws in its relationship with athletes who are neither employees nor students. Over 3,000,000 athletes are under the Olympic umbrella under the Sports Act.

About the CEO and founder: Hogshead-Makar is a life-long advocate for access and equality in all areas of athletics and throughout society. She is one of the nation’s foremost experts on gender equity in sports participation, sexual harassment and abuse, pregnancy discrimination, legal enforcement of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and contemporary legal issues within the Olympic Movement. She has successfully represented athletes in precedent-setting litigation, written amicus briefs in the highest courts, integrated research into frequent Congressional testimony, pushed for new state legislation, published numerous legal and professional articles, made hundreds of presentations and keynote speeches, overseen the creation of new policies and position statements and appeared frequently as a guest on national news programs. She practiced law at Holland & Knight LLP, taught torts and sports law courses as a tenured professor of law and has enjoyed a 30 year relationship with the Women’s Sports Foundation, most recently as the organization’s Senior Director of Advocacy. “Looking around the country at the leaders in women’s sports, particularly athletes, many have a relationship with the Women’s Sports Foundation. Some of my dearest friends are from working with the WSF, and I’m grateful to have received 30 years of numerous powerful opportunities to serve,” stated Hogshead-Makar.

She is a graduate of Duke University and Georgetown University Law Center. At the 1984 Olympics she capped eight years as a world-class athlete, where she was the most decorated swimmer at the 1984 Olympics; three gold medals and one silver medal.