

Female Dunker Believes Others Can Do It, Too

By Al Muskewitz
Staff Sports Writer

CARNESVILLE, Ga. — Georgeann Wells made history in the middle of her junior year at West Virginia University when she was recognized as the first woman to dunk the basketball in a college game.

Wells came to the B/C All-Stars Girls Basketball Camp Thursday to tell the campers it's all right for girls to attempt a slam, an explosion of talent that once was reserved for the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Michael Jordans of the world.

"If they put their heart and mind to it, they could do it," said Wells, a 6-foot-7 center. "I think you'll see more females slamming in the future. I don't know why they haven't done it before. A lot of girls love to slam. That's all I hear, so I know it's within them. If they worked on their vertical (leap) and strength, I don't see any problem.

"I ask them all the time when I'm at camps to let me see them touch the backboard. All you need is to put a little trust in yourself."

Wells, who was dunking in pickup games with the boys at 6-4, admitted it took her a while to work up the courage to dunk over another player, but it's something her father encouraged.

"That's all he wanted me to do," she said. "He kept telling me, 'Tear it down. Tear it down.' He never got to see me slam."

Wells dunked twice the year she made history. The first time, coming six months after the death of her father, was against the University of Charleston (W. Va) off a play the team had been planning for weeks. The second was an impromptu slam a few weeks later against Xavier University in the Cincinnati Classic.

"The first one, we were winning by like 90 points, and we set it up," Wells said. "Nobody really believed it for a while because they wouldn't release the tape. The second one was no set-up. I hadn't been doing anything in the game — I wasn't hitting any



Staff Photo By Patrick Wright

Georgeann Wells, formerly of West Virginia University, is the first woman to dunk a basketball in a varsity game. She says others will follow soon.