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Warriors and divas

Night of comedy will benefit women's football team

By Christopher John Treacy

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Kimberly Boroyan is proud of her hobby. So much so that it's grown well beyond the confines of a pastime into something more likened to a secondary career. Boroyan plays full contact football with an all-female team called the Bay State Warriors. And these gals mean business.



Portland Maine's Ian Harvie headlines the Divas of Comedy benefit.

A native of Chelmsford, Boroyan admits, "I was always the tomboy. The boys in my neighborhood were always asking me to play sports with them - but it was usually soccer, softball, and basketball. My interest in playing football didn't develop until much more recently." A graduate of Bentley College in Waltham, she now calls Somerville her home.

In 2001, the Warriors became official members of the

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Independent Women's Football League (IWFL), which has provided invaluable assistance for over 30 teams regarding the acquisition of financial resources and community support. But league or no league, each team is still responsible for coming up with their own funding at the end of the day. Boroyan estimates the annual cost of keeping the team alive is about \$70,000.

Fundraising events are a potentially lucrative means for generating dollars - one of the more high profile engagements featured a performance from Doug Flutie's band at Harper's Ferry in Allston. On Friday, July 15, the Warriors are sponsoring a night of lesbian-themed comedy that's bound to be side-splittingly hilarious. Portland Maine's Ian Harvie will be on hand with her perverse quick wit, as well as Shelia Jackson, and MC Christine O'Leary. The event is being dubbed 'The Divas of Comedy' and it's being staged at the Randolph Country Club with doors opening at 8 p.m.

"I saw these women perform at a small club in Somerville, and I haven't laughed like that in a long, long time. I'm fairly skeptical about comedy, so I know beyond a doubt that they're talented. But what's more is that this is a much, much more receptive audience for them than the turnout I witnessed that night in Davis Square - these are the people they should be playing to."

Boroyan explains that women's football started off as a recreational outlet, but it took on more of a professional form with the advent of the league, which is also evidence of the increased demand for the sport. The Warriors' first year of recruitment, they went from college to college - making a total of thirty stops - and ended up with about 500 tryouts.

"We get new players each year, but there aren't that many openings. This year there must have been about 75 perspective new players. And sure, there's some adversity and skepticism around the whole concept of 'women's football,' but on the whole, an appreciation for female athletes has slowly but surely come around."

And she admits that, while sponsorship isn't necessarily breaking down the door, breakthroughs continue cropping up. For example, Nike designed the new BSW game ball, which is a huge development. Televised

games are another potential giant step forward. The team was also recently featured on the Liz Walker show.

Boroyan is an accountant and tax service provider for small businesses when she's not in uniform. And the flexibility of work like that allows her to be the VP and General Manager of the team...she's also the captain.

"I wear many hats. And volunteer help has been an amazing resource, but I still oversee all the game-day coordination, travel plans, and compliance with the league's policies. It's a lot of work. But I love the environment - we're like a family. We travel all over the country together; we're solid on the field and off. When I think about stopping, it's not just the pure love of the game, but also that sense of camaraderie that keeps me coming back each year. These women are a huge part of my life."

"Divas Of Comedy," an event to benefit the Bay State Warriors, happens this Friday night, 8 p.m., at the Randolph Country Club. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. The event is 21+. There will also be a DJ, dancing, and raffles, prizes, and giveaways throughout the evening.

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