



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

## TUCKER CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON GIRLS & WOMEN IN SPORT

presents

### THE 2009 SPRING DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

## “You Gotta Be Tough”: Challenges & Strategies of Female Coaches in Youth Sports

Wednesday, April 22, 7-9:00 PM  
Hubert H. Humphrey Center, West Bank Campus



**About the Lecture:** Over the past 30 years, girls’ increasing participation in youth sports has been nothing short of revolutionary. During this same time period, few women have become head coaches in youth sports and when they do volunteer, they are often relegated to the position of “team mom.” To address this “leadership gap,” sport scholar Michael Messner examined a Southern California community’s youth soccer, baseball and softball leagues. His research asks the following questions: What are the barriers preventing women from coaching youth sports? What challenges are faced by the few women who do coach? What strategies do these women develop to survive—and sometimes thrive—as youth sports coaches, and what can we learn from their strategies? Messner explores these questions and outlines why recruiting and supporting female coaches is so important for our families, our communities, and our children.

**About the Distinguished Speaker:** **Michael A. Messner** is Professor of Sociology & Gender Studies at the University of Southern California and currently serves as President-elect of the Pacific Sociological Association. He is a past President of the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, and a two-time winner of the NASSS book award. He has also served as a consultant to the California Women’s Law Center related to his work on Title IX. Professor Messner is author or editor of 11 books, including *Taking the Field: Women, Men and Sports* (2002) and *Out of Play: Critical Essays on Gender and Sport* (2007). His newest book, *It’s All for the Kids: Gender, Families and Youth Sports* (2009), conducted over the years that his sons—now teenagers—were playing youth sports, provides provocative and important insights into the current culture of youth sports.

**FREE & Open to the Public! Parking available**

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