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Take It To The Hoop



Synopsis

Traces the development of women's basketball, from its beginning in the 1890s through the formation of the Women's National Basketball Association in 1997.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 5 Up-The Steens start at the very beginning, with the first public women's game in March, 1893. Great detail is given in describing the history and development of the sport, uniforms, equipment, rules-everything. One chapter explains the company and industrial teams that led to league play and traveling tournaments; it includes a description of "The All American Red Heads," formed in 1935 and considered by many to be the first professional women's basketball team. Many teams are featured, including black women's teams, college teams, national and international champions, wheelchair basketball, professionals, and Olympians. There is information on the WNBA; the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, TN; and possible future stars in the Class of 2006. Individual stars such as Ann Meyers, Hazel Walker, Nancy Lieberman, Cheryl Miller, Coach Pat Summitt, and many others are featured. Title IX and its impact on the game and salary struggles of coaches are discussed. Five appendixes cover professional women's teams, Hall of Famers, championships, awards and trophies, and historic rules. Many great black-and-white photos and interesting sidebars appear throughout. However, there is some inconsistency in the dates in the history section. Still, this is a good look at women's basketball with interesting facts about the game in general, as well. Kate Kohlbeck, Randall School, Waukesha, WI Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gr. 6-8. James Naismith invented the game for boys in December 1891; less than 11 months later, teams of young women were competing and, as chronicled by the Steens, have done so ever since--in the face of preconceived notions about their physical frailty, objections from arbiters of propriety, and outright discrimination from the NCAA and other athletic organizations. Supported by a generous array of black-and-white photos, this is a reasonably coherent picture of the sport's patchwork growth that identifies many significant players and coaches, and catalogs the bewildering rule changes that have dogged the game throughout its history. Despite promising raw material, the prose seldom scintillates. Still, the account takes in the 2002 WNBA draft, and includes a detailed tour of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, a tally of last year's top high-school players, and no fewer than five appendixes listing teams, championships, and addresses, making it stronger and more up-to-date than Joanne Lannin's *A History of Basketball for Girls and Women* (2000). John Peters

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