

Enright, Jim, *Only in Iowa: Where the High School Girl Athlete is Queen* (Des Moines: Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union) 1976. 316 pages.

Author Enright may be remembered as one of the most colorful

referees in basketball history as well as a Chicago sport journalist. He has provided a fascinating description of the interscholastic sports program for Iowa girls as well as a concomitant story of the founding and growth of the Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU). The author's approach is topical, rather than chronological. Thus the book does not provide a systematic history of the various girls' athletic programs. However, there are fifty pages of statistics and records, and the student of sports history will make frequent references to the latter in the back of the book as he or she reads through the various topics into which the book is organized. For a more complete historical synthesis, the reader would be well advised to read *Only In Iowa* in conjunction with the April 1968 issue of *The Palimpsest*, which is devoted to "Girls' Basketball in Iowa." The latter journal is a monthly publication of the State Historical Society of Iowa (see page 108 of Volume 4, Number 1 of the *Journal of Sport History*).

Because of its comprehensive scope, public support, calibre of athletes produced, financial success, and other factors, the interscholastic athletic program for girls in Iowa has constituted a model for other states, and some people rate it as the most outstanding one in existence. Certainly, in girls' basketball Iowa has been a pioneer and a producer of more than its share of AAU All-Americans. Indeed it is ironic that the highly successful girls' basketball program in Iowa and those in Tennessee and Texas have been criticized (and some even made the subject of legal attacks) because their rules of the game, fashioned in an earlier day, differ, from those in the states more recently adopting the game with a style more resembling the boys' game (five rather than six players, fewer restrictions on dribbling, no separation between offensive and defensive players *inter alia*).

The differences between the girls' game in Iowa, sometimes defended on grounds that differ from basic premises of the "women's liberation" advocates, and the sport of girls basketball as played in most other states, is one of the main topics stressed by the author, who also includes articles from newspapers about the Iowa girls' program. Enright also focuses on the expansion of activities to the larger Iowa high schools in recent years, in part a result of "Title IX." This expansion may eventuate in a separation of girls' athletic activity into classes, as is the case with boys' sports. The aggressive and imaginative leadership of the IGHSAU officials, including its highly successful Executive Secretary Wayne Cooley, is also a major focus of the book.

Only in Iowa is replete with success stories, such as those of basketball marvel Denise Long of Union-Whitten (who scored 93 points in a state tourney game), track star Debbie Esser of Woodbine, and basketball coach Bud McLearn of Mediapolis. Basketball and softball are the two main money-makers for girls' programs in Iowa, and, along with track and field, they comprise the bulk of the volume's coverage by sport.

The records chapter indicates that Iowa's larger schools have dominated the state championships of other sports such as tennis, golf, swimming, synchronized swimming, gymnastics, and volleyball. Smaller communities prevailed in basketball and softball through 1975, the terminal date of the tables included in the book.

Enright also emphasizes the 1968 girls' basketball tourney final game, won by Union-Whitten over Everly in overtime. The score was 113-107. In that encounter, Everly ace Jeanette Olson scored 76 points; Union-Whitten's Denise Long finished with 64, and the latter's cousin, Cindy Long, added 41! (It should be indicated that the three defensive players in the six-player lineup do no shooting.) The 1975 final, won by Lake View-Auburn over Mediapolis in overtime, was also a highlight of the book. (Lake View-Auburn was to defend its 1975 title successfully in a game that has been televised nationally).

From the reviewer's standpoint, there was excessive overlapping and duplication of information, such as the description of IGHSAU leadership, the conflict over creating classes of schools by enrollment, the relative merit of the Iowa girls' basketball rules, and certain players and tourney games. The book could have been organized more effectively had it been done along chronological lines. There were minor defects such as the use of "comprise" as an intransitive verb and several spelling errors, for example, those involving Murray Wier and J. C. Penney.

However, author Enright manages to capture the excitement of the girls' games and activities in Iowa. He shows effectively the dedication of the athletes, coaches, fans, parents, and administrators in Iowa girls' athletics. Indeed, *Only In Iowa* ably demonstrates why that state serves as a model worthy of emulation in the establishment and administration of interscholastic athletic programs.

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