

Beran, Janice A. *From Six-On-Six To Full Court Press*. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1993. Pp. xvi, 217. Photographs, notes, index. \$24.95.

On February 3, 1993, the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union voted that after the 1994 state tournament the official basketball rules for girls in Iowa would be the five-player game. Keep in mind that most of the country had been playing with five players since 1972. This change to five girls playing the full length of the floor ended 100 years of the "Iowa Story"—a two-court game with six players, three being guards and three being forwards.

As the publisher states, this "1993 decision to end Iowa's six-on-six program provides author Jan Beran with a poignant opportunity to explore the unique excitement, humor and appeal of the game" (*Book News*, 1993). Using personal interviews with former players who often shared their clippings and scrapbooks, extensive basketball records and numerous photographs, Beran has traced not only the history of girls' basketball in Iowa but also the many changes across the country in regard to rules, equipment, uniforms and the game itself. Although the situation at the collegiate level is mentioned once in awhile, the main emphasis is on girls' basketball in the high schools.

Some points about this historic story must be mentioned and are duly emphasized by the author. In the 1920s, when most interscholastic competition for girls was curtailed across the country, Iowa was the exception and continued with girls' high school varsity sports. Furthermore, it was during this time that the male administrators and coaches founded the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union, "then and now the only secondary sport federation exclusively for girls" (p. xiii). By this move it was obvious that there was a realization that sports was as beneficial for girls as it was for boys. Beran feels that the reason for this different philosophy in the state of Iowa was due to the fact that, unlike other states, there was no one dominant female physical educator whose influence persuaded schools to discontinue girls' interscholastic competition and replace it with playdays and intramurals. Moreover, for the rural and small schools of which there were many, basketball for both girls and boys was central to the life of each community.

Much coverage is given to the Iowa Girls State Basketball Tournament which has been held continuously since 1920. Again, when these girls' tournaments were discontinued in the 1920s in other states, the state tournament in Iowa endured and prospered.

True to her subtitle of the book, "A Century of Iowa Girls' Basketball," Beran writes extensively about many small communities with good girls' basketball teams with names that probably have meaning to people from Iowa but, not surprisingly, are unfamiliar to out-of-staters. Perhaps a map of Iowa indicating these communities and the well-known cities would have helped the reader to have a clearer picture of the "Iowa Story."

For the Iowan, the appendices are a wealth of information with records of the best coaches, Iowa Girls' Basketball Hall of Fame members, State Tournament records, and lists of all the women from Iowa chosen for All-American teams. Again, to those outside the borders of Iowa, the most meaningful pages are the ones on the AAU and Kodak All Americans.

It is certainly obvious that Beran, a native Iowan and professor at Iowa State University, did extensive research for this book. All those interested in the history of girls' and women's sports especially as it relates to basketball should enjoy this book. And all those from Iowa, I am sure, will relate to the colorful moments and tales of the schools and communities of this "Iowa Story."

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