

# Remembering the University of Florida Lady Gators and Some Sister Institutions a *Score* after Title IX

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Twenty years after the approval of the Education Act of 1972 and later, the Title IX Guidelines of 1975, women's athletics has made its mark in sport history and this time these women are here to stay. As institutions were struggling with the early development of female programs, the University of Florida launched a leadership role in the official approval of the program of intercollegiate athletics for women. In defining financial and program comparability, the state of Florida set a precedent in determining the amount of funding which was needed in the entire state university system and challenged its legislature to procedurally approve and fund these programs. While the NCAA and its conference organizations were probing the possible inclusion of championships for women within their format, the Southeastern Conference had a tournament structure in place several years before the official approval of such competition by the NCAA.

The historical facts of these movements are impressive and worthy of preserving. These stories should be told and shared with those who can appreciate the struggle of women in sport throughout the span of athletic competition in the educational institutions.