

Shelly Lucas
Boise State University

**Looking Forward to the Past: Efforts to Resurrect
Iowa's "6-on-6" Girls Basketball**

In the recent past, many Iowans have taken the opportunity to reflect upon the current state of high school girls' basketball – ten years after their famed '6-on-6' half-court basketball game was

retired in the midst controversy in 1993. Unhappy with what they saw, three retired coaches tried to resurrect the old rules claiming that too many girls did not have the ability to play full court, and moreover, fans were not interested in watching them try. This concern with "interests and abilities" resonates with dominant discourses associated with the current national debate over Title IX, a law recently commemorated for its 30th anniversary. I argue that the political and social climate concerning gender equity in athletics – both during the original basketball rules' controversy in Iowa beginning in the 1970s, and the present day scrutiny of Title IX – are crucial for understanding the past and future of Iowa girls' basketball.
