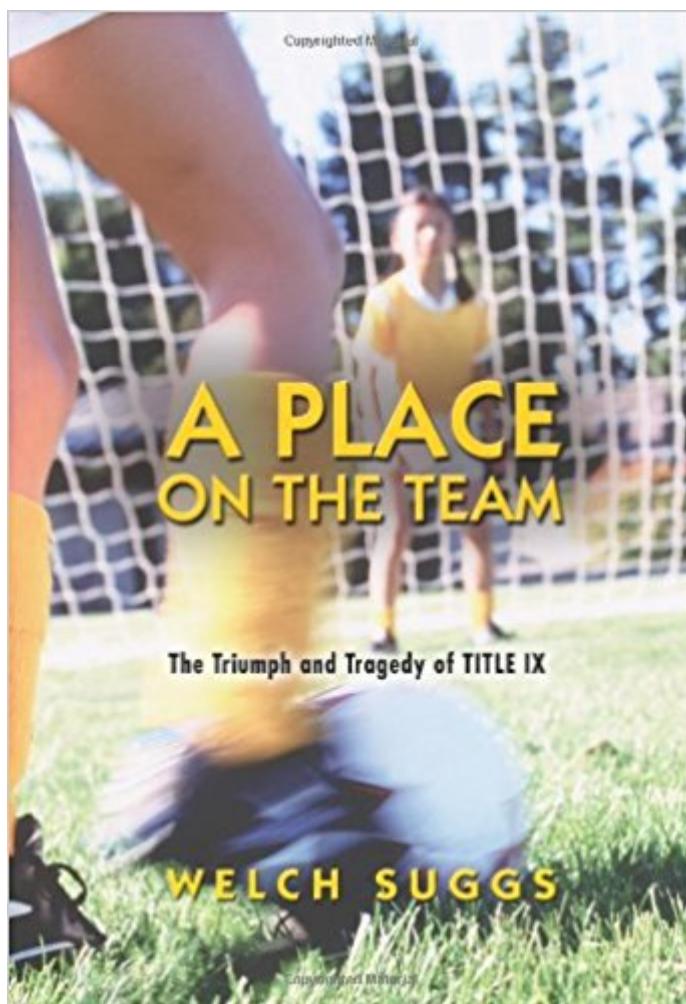


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# A Place On The Team: The Triumph And Tragedy Of Title IX



## **Synopsis**

A Place on the Team is the inside story of how Title IX revolutionized American sports. The federal law guaranteeing women's rights in education, Title IX opened gymnasiums and playing fields to millions of young women previously locked out. Journalist Welch Suggs chronicles both the law's successes and failures-the exciting opportunities for women as well as the commercial and recruiting pressures of modern-day athletics. Enlivened with tales from Suggs's reportage, the book clears up the muddle of interpretation and opinion surrounding Title IX. It provides not only a lucid description of how courts and colleges have read (and misread) the law, but also compelling portraits of the people who made women's sports a vibrant feature of American life. What's more, the book provides the first history of the law's evolution since its passage in 1972. Suggs details thirty years of struggles for equal rights on the playing field. Schools dragged their feet, offering token efforts for women and girls, until the courts made it clear that women had to be treated on par with men. Those decisions set the stage for some of the most celebrated moments in sports, such as the Women's World Cup in soccer and the Women's Final Four in NCAA basketball. Title IX is not without its critics. Wrestlers and other male athletes say colleges have cut their teams to comply with the law, and Suggs tells their stories as well. With the chronicles of Pat Summitt, Anson Dorrance, and others who shaped women's sports, A Place on the Team is a must-read not only for sports buffs but also for parents of every young woman who enters the arena of competitive sports.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 296 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press (February 20, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0691117691

ISBN-13: 978-0691117690

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 6.4 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #913,527 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #71 in Books > Law > Specialties > Sports #1532 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > History of Sports #1596 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Sociology

## **Customer Reviews**

After Title IX of the Higher Education Act passed in 1972, women's athletics began to change. While

women's sports existed long before the amendment was passed, Title IX brought about more opportunities, more scholarships and more teams for women. But the first three decades after its passing were also marred with dark periods of protest and noncompliance and, to this day, Title IX remains a work in progress. All the highs and the lows, are extensively chronicled in Suggs's book, a must-read for any sports historian or female athlete interested in how the opportunities she so freely enjoys came about. But for every proponent of Title IX, there exists opposition, Suggs writes. "In mandating that women athletes be treated the same as men, the law encouraged women's sports to develop in the hypercompetitive, highly commercialized model that evolved in men's sports." He notes that others argued men's sports were being cut in order to comply with Title IX, creating conflict between male and female athletes and coaches. In 1976, Yale rowers made headlines when they stripped nude, "Title IX" written across their chests and backs, to protest the cutting of sports of "lesser importance," like crew, in colleges across the nation. "These are the bodies Yale is exploiting," the men said in a written statement. The awarding of scholarships was another critical change for women's college sports, making it possible for schools to recruit women for the sole purpose of playing on sports teams. As Title IX is celebrated and debated, Suggs's book, the most extensive on the subject, includes in-depth looks at pre- and post-Title IX athletics and clearly deciphers one of the most controversial laws in American history. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Finalist for the 2006 Billie Award in Journalism, Women's Sport Foundation Honorable Mention for the 2006 Myers Outstanding Book Award "[A] must-read for any sports historian or female athlete interested in how the opportunities she so freely enjoys came about." -- Publishers Weekly "Ultimately a gripping story of Title IX's triumph." -- Harvard Law Review "Finally, a lucid, thorough and non-polemical accounting of Title IX's origins, development, and impact. Welch Suggs traces the women's sports revolution back to its roots in physical education, details Title IX's origins in civil rights law, and explains why the law has proven to be so resistant to legal challenge. He doesn't flinch from taking stock of the law's regrettable consequences. All future discussion of college sports and gender equity will begin with this book." -- Alexander Wolff, Sports Illustrated "Suggs provides brief histories of college sports, women's college sports administration, and civil rights legislation before wading into case law that Title IX begat. He makes sense of this convoluted, contentious journey through 2004 and fairly presents a range of feminist, conservative and libertarian viewpoints." -- Library Journal "With A Place on the Team, Suggs has done a service to anyone who wants to understand the history of Title IX and the debates that continue to swirl around its

implementation."--Michael A. Messner, Academe

This is a great book on the history of women's collegiate athletics and Title IX. As a high school girls' basketball coach, I picked up this book out of curiosity. I figured that since the title captured both triumph and tragedy, it might give an unbiased look into Title IX. I think the author accomplishes that quite well. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and I have already referenced back to it multiple times.

Very helpful in my research.

The book was great. Pages all in tack.

for Tina , love it . great, and very happy. just fine, Love my bread product. It does its job well.

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