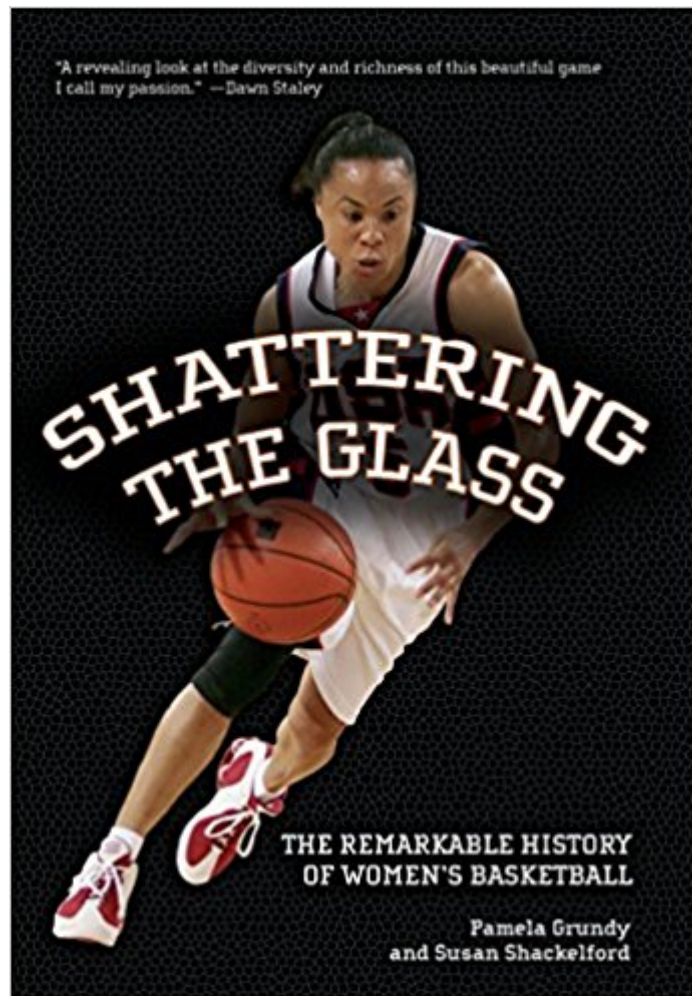




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# Shattering The Glass: The Remarkable History Of Women's Basketball



## Synopsis

Over the past decade, women's basketball has exploded onto the national sports scene. WNBA and NCAA television ratings have skyrocketed; movies, magazines, and clothing lines showcase female players. But as the authors of *Shattering the Glass* show, women's basketball has a much longer history, reaching back over a century of struggle, liberation, and gutsy play. *Shattering the Glass* offers a sweeping chronicle of women's basketball in the United States, from its invention in the late nineteenth century to its dominant position in sports today. Offering vivid portraits of forgotten heroes and contemporary stars, it also provides a broader perspective on the history of the sport, exploring its relationship to changing ideas of womanhood, efforts to expand women's economic and political rights, and definitions of sexual equality. Based on original interviews with players, coaches, administrators, broadcasters, and extensively illustrated, *Shattering the Glass* provides a moving, gritty view of the game on and off the court, and an empowering story of the generations of women who have shaped women's basketball.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As sportswriters Grundy and Shackelford show in this extensive history of women's basketball, women, though they've been playing the game as long as men, have encountered fierce resistance from the beginning, be it suffering ridicule to being called lesbians to being pressured to cheerlead instead of play. Despite the setbacks, Grundy and Shackelford write, female basketball players have persevered, creating their own "Dream Team" for the 1996 Olympics, a precursor to the

formation of the professional WNBA league. The authors get firsthand accounts of transformative events from modern superstars like Rebecca Lobo and Sheryl Swoopes. They also resurrect forgotten pioneers like Babe Didrikson, Allene Banks and the barnstorming ladies of the All-American Redheads, a 1940s female counterpart to the Harlem Globetrotters for which all the women dyed their hair red. While not shy about pointing out the challenges that remain, including the dwindling attendance at WNBA games, Grundy and Shackelford see the history of women's basketball as a triumph over adversity in which the best years may yet lie ahead. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

We could outscore most any man we played against.

This is a carefully and well-written book that provides an excellent and thorough history of women's basketball. The book is a good blend of some of the unknown players/coaches/teams and the usual suspects. While the book focuses on basketball, the authors do a great job of placing the sport into the social/political dynamic of the times. They trace the continuing tension between women's expected roles and behaviors with the seemingly contradictory skills and attributes that athletic competence requires. They also don't flinch from discussing the presence of lesbians in and the impact of homophobia on the sport. I'm just an ordinary fan and enjoyed this book thoroughly. I highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in women's basketball.

This is a comprehensive and well written history of women's basketball at all levels from high school, industrial, AAU, college, pro. Great stories from its stars of yesterday and today, with many quotes and personal glimpses from players and coaches from every level and many major teams. The authors clearly understand the significance of Title IX and its significance to every female scholar-athlete and attempt to convey its continued importance with repeated references to it. Highly recommended for any fan of the game, and a MUST READ for young girls and women who want to appreciate the pioneers of the game they play.

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