

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Arlene J. Mulder

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Women's Basketball in IL* Oral History project

Interview # DGB-V-D-2004-009

Arlene Mulder, the former girl's basketball coach from Niles West High School in Skokie, Illinois, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of Ellyn Bartges' Masters Capstone project for Western Illinois University entitled *What about the character of the girls?: Girls and Women's Basketball in Illinois 1968-1977*, and donated to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Dec 18, 2004

Location: Arlington Heights, IL

Interview being  
processed

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Ellyn Bartges, Masters Capstone project at Western Illinois  
University

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Ellyn L. Bartges

Transcription by: Nina Weldon, professional transcriber, Boston, Virginia

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 1:23 / 1.38 = 1.38 hrs

Session 1: Mulder's coaching career at Niles West High School in Skokie, IL  
and the effects of Title IX in girl's basketball in Illinois

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The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in  
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# Abstract

Arlene Mulder, *Women's Basketball in IL*, DGB-V-D-2004-009

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Arlene Mulder was born on October 13, 1944 on a farm west of Tulare, California. She graduated from Tulare Union High School in 1962. During her childhood and teenage years Mulder was very active in those sports offered by the Girls' Athletic Association, Amateur Athletic Union (track and field), and various recreation leagues that offered summer basketball and softball. Mulder earned her bachelor's degree in physical education from San Francisco State University.

After college, Mulder and her husband moved to Illinois where she taught and coached at Niles West High School in Skokie, Illinois from 1972 to 1978. During her time at Niles West she started and coached the first interscholastic girls' basketball team. Mulder coached many talented athletes including Melissa Isaacson who is a well-known sports journalist for the Chicago Tribune and ESPN.com from Chicago. Mulder wanted to build something where there had been nothing. Mulder was motivated and saw that she held a unique position. She wanted to show people that all women could participate in sports and she felt that sports would be able to teach girls life lessons. It was upsetting to Mulder that only boys were learning how to set goals, be disciplined, be self-motivating, how to win and lose. Mulder fought to make sure that girls at Niles West would receive the same lessons that boys were receiving by participating in sports. After retiring from coaching Mulder was the long time Mayor of Arlington, Illinois.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Girls' Athletic Association (GAA); Amateur Athletic Union (AAU); Title IX; girls' basketball; coaching; Tulare High School; San Francisco State University, Niles West High School

**Note to the Reader:** Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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