

Interview with Carol Plodzien
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Interviewer: Ellen Bartges

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- Bartges: How do you think Title IX affected girls' basketball in Illinois?
- Plodzien: It gave us a chance. It opened the doors and we've never looked back. It's been amazing.
- Bartges: How fast— How quickly did you see changes in funding, travel, schedules?
- Plodzien: Immediately. They had to. They had to buy two sets of uniforms. They knew they had a state tournament coming. They had to allow us equal practice time, okay. They had to give us films to film. We had to get a camera from the library and they gave it to us. You know, I mean just all little things that they didn't feel necessary before that all of a sudden we had access to. And even then I still had to ask for them. I mean if our uniforms came in made wrong they'd send the boys' back but we had to keep ours. Very interesting.
- Bartges: Was that in 1975 when Title IX finally had the—how to implement it? Was that the point where the school said, Okay now we have to step up?
- Plodzien: Right, we have to comply, absolutely.
- Bartges: Okay. So for the first couple of years it was a little bit dicey?
- Plodzien: Um-hm.
- Bartges: And then once that came down in '75—
- Plodzien: Absolutely—

Bartges: —they fell into line?

Plodzien: Right.

Bartges: The late Marianna Trekell in her book, *A Century of Women's Basketball*, stated that she felt that Title IX forced the issue or role model for girls' and women's sports towards a more competitive male model of sports. Do you agree or disagree and why? And she was talking about the difference like in the NCAA and the AIAW and the control of the sports.

Plodzien: I think I heard a lot— I remember hearing a lot of talk about, Now we can have what the boys have. And I always felt that that was wrong because I always felt that we could make it what we wanted it to be, okay. And so why do we have to do it exactly the same way? I think at that time they had the Sweet Sixteen going I think, I'm not sure, or they discontinued that or whatever. And we thought, Okay why do we have to do everything just like the boys? We don't because the boys have several problems. And so the women I think were taking it in the light of creating how they wanted the sports to run and keep it fun for girls and not make the same mistakes that the boys did along the way. And then more and more men jumped on the coaching bandwagon, especially when the increases in salary came.

Bartges: Yeah.

Plodzien: So then it turned to exactly what the boys are—how they ran their things—the AAU programs, the feeder systems. Now I've got angry parents calling me about the feeder system. I'm like, I'm not even involved in it; I don't want to be involved in it, but I hear all this garbage that's taking place that you never heard years ago, and now it's that dog-eat-dog kind of thing that we're (*unintelligible*) just like the boys.