



The Only Dance in Iowa: A History of Six-Player Girls' Basketball

Dr. David (Max) McElwain Ph.D

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Iowa six-player girls' basketball was the most successful sporting activity for girls in American history, at its zenith involving more than 70 percent of the girls in the state. The state tournament was so popular—regularly drawing fifteen thousand fans, more than the boys' tourney—that officials declined a lucrative broadcasting offer from ABC's *Wide World of Sports* rather than forfeit the Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union's control of the game. *The Only Dance in Iowa* chronicles the one-hundred-year history of this Iowa tradition, long a symbol of the state's independence and the people's rural pride. Max McElwain shows how, well before the passage of Title IX in 1972, Iowa six-player girls' basketball was, as *Sports Illustrated* gushed, "a utopia for girls' athletics." He also demonstrates how, ironically enough, the fallout from Title IX in many ways led to six-girl basketball's demise.

Through interviews, careful ethnography, and detailed historical analysis, McElwain exposes the intricate political, sociological, and historical dynamics of this cultural phenomenon. His book reveals how six-girl basketball, flourishing with the passionate support of Iowa's small towns, school districts, and media, came to represent the state's strong traditional beliefs and the public school system's determination to maintain its identity in the face of national educational trends. *The Only Dance in Iowa* is as much a study of this disappearing culture as of the game it claimed as its own.

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The Only Dance in Iowa: A History of Six-Player Girls' Basketball can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to set every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing The Only Dance in Iowa: A History of Six-Player Girls' Basketball although doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource details that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information could drawn you into brand new stage of crucial contemplating.

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