

one with profuse variations. Its vivid pictures of day-to-day living on the homefront will both entertain readers and expand their understanding of this generation-shaping event.

*From Six-on-Six to Full Court Press: A Century of Iowa Girls' Basketball*, by Janice A. Beran. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1993. xvi, 226 pp. Illustrations, tables, graphs, map, appendixes, notes, index. \$24.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY ROBERT NEYMEYER, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Sports have played an important role in fashioning Iowa's culture and social history. By the 1890s, large numbers of people had sufficient leisure time to participate in organized activities such as baseball, basketball, cycling, and football. Today, historians study how these sports reflected the social structure of society and affected the economic development of communities. Of particular interest is the one hundred years of continuous competitive girls' high school basketball, unique to Iowa. Janice Beran's book is a valuable account of how the game grew from a YMCA activity in Dubuque to a field of eight hundred high school teams courting the state championship. Beran captures the passion and commitment of the players and explains how the game became an integral part of the life of families and communities. Easily read and rich with facts and illustrations, this work will be well received by players, fans, and devotees of popular Iowa history.

The book is divided into two sections. The first five chapters provide a chronological history of the game. Each contains an overview of events, personal experiences of how the game was played, and information on rules, changing uniform styles and fashions, and a list of state tournament champions. The best teams and players are featured, and individual heroics, from the Langerman twins to Lynne Lorenzen, are highlighted. The second section deals with more specific issues: the state tournament, industrial and company basketball, the impact of Title 19, and the operation of the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union, the sport's governing body. Nine appendixes record the best players, coaches, and teams. A comprehensive index will benefit the many readers who buy the book to find "their" town, school, daughter, or mother. The author has compiled an impressive collection of interviews and has made good use of the limited resources available for the years before 1940.

The success and popularity of girls' basketball suggests that Iowa was in the vanguard of equal treatment for women. On the one hand,

Iowa girls were virtually alone in the nation in having an opportunity to play competitively. Yet for all the passion and support for the game, the principle of equality did not extend beyond the gym. Despite parity on the courts, local notoriety, and heroine status, the doors of equal opportunity were shut to all but a notable few once a girl left high school. Nor did community pride and boosterism produce better education. Winning teams did not convert into successful bond issues to hire more teachers, construct better science labs, or even build new gyms. A state championship was often not enough to maintain the existence of a school, or even a town, as attested to by the unfamiliarity of many names on the state tournament list. Certainly the game had an important, positive impact on the players and, for a time, on fans and communities. But the fact that it did not translate into a more equitable Iowa society is something that needs more extensive analysis. There are several related issues. Why did male coaches take over the profession in the 1940s? Why was the Girls Athletic Union so slow to place women on its boards? Why did Iowa educators and school boards reject the arguments of female physical education leaders who were opposed to competitive sports? Perhaps it is significant that in the list of ten reasons why basketball survived in Iowa, none specifically addressed the improved status of women in society.

The larger historical context might also help explain what occurred in the state. A discussion of the ideas of Patricia Vertinsky, Allen Guttman, Susan Cahn, and Monys Ann Hagen would introduce readers to the questions of "social control," athletic eroticism, gender hierarchy, and the intent of welfare capitalism in the industrial leagues. A century of basketball would provide an excellent framework in which to analyze these topics.

*Neighbors: A Forty-Year Portrait of an American Farm Community*, by Archie Lieberman. San Francisco: Collins Publishers, 1993. 157 pp. Photographs. \$40.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY TOM MORAIN, LIVING HISTORY FARMS

*Neighbors* is a love story. In 1954 photographer Archie Lieberman drove to Scales Mound, Illinois, on a photo assignment and fell in love with the community, its people, and their way of life. He returned with his camera over and over and finally even moved there himself when a farm came up for sale. *Neighbors* is a loving chronology of both continuing traditions and inexorable transitions that have occurred in

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