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COMM 773

Sports Communication & Culture

Activity 5B: Women's Sports in Film

1. Rent one of the following films: Bend it Like Beckham. (women's soccer) Or A League of their Own (professional women's baseball league).
2. View the film
3. Identify 3 issues related to women in sports (chapter 8) that are expressed in the film.
4. Develop a 250 word essay in which you relate the film to the issues discussed in the text.
5. This exercise does not require reference to outside sources. You should, however, make three or more references to the text..
6. DUE March 9

The film that I chose for this assignment was "A League of their Own." After viewing the film, I found that there were three issues that related to women in sports as seen in Chapter 8 in the text, "Sports in Society."

One of these issues was the Global Women's Rights Movement. Without this movement there would be no way that women would have been taken seriously in a sport like baseball. As the role of women in society changed, so did their role in sports. In this particular movie, society played a big factor in women in sports. Because of the war, women were encouraged to play in a professional league.

Also seen in the film was an increase in media coverage of women's sports. Although today there still is not the same amount of media coverage in women's sport as there is for men's sports, in this movie there was a need for the media to cover the women's league. There were no men home to play baseball. In fact, they used some of the same tactics to hype the media coverage back then..."sex sells." The recruiter, played by John Lovett, only wanted to take the "pretty girls." He didn't want to take Martha because of her looks even though she was a great baseball player.

Lastly, we saw a trivialization of women's sports. Not only does Tom Hank's character go on his famous tirade on how woman should not play baseball and "how there is no crying in baseball", but Gina Davis' character Dottie also trivializes women's role in baseball in the beginning of the movie. She doesn't really see the importance of what they accomplished until the end of the movie when they induct the women into the hall of fame.