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CHICAGO SUN-TIMES.com

Peggy Kusinski, NBC-5 sports reporter, on empowering girls through athletics

By PEGGY KUSINSKI November 18, 2013 10:04AM



NBC-5's Peggy Kusinski

Updated: November 18, 2013 10:04AM

The sign-up sheet was taped to the outside glass on the gym door. It read: "Basketball tryouts today after school." I ran home to ask my mom if I could try out, and before she said yes, I was already out the door, running back across the street to the school gym above the bowling alley.

But 10 minutes later, I was back home again. "I can't try out," I told my mother. "They said only boys play sixth-grade basketball. I have to wait until next year." I was crushed.

The next year, though, I did try out. I persisted, and it paid off. I became an All-City Chicago player, and earned a spot on the coveted Illinois All-State team. As a result, I gained recognition throughout my school days. But more importantly, playing basketball built my confidence. I loved the camaraderie. I learned what it took to win.

...the buzz continues to build

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