

LADIES OF THE GRIDIRON



A documentary film by Briana Young

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LADIES OF THE GRIDIRON

Briana Young,
Producer Jeff Olsen

2010

35 minutes

English

US

One line description

Filmmaker Briana Young needles into the huddle for a full-impact, jaw-dropping look at one of the final frontiers of gender equality: Women's Tackle Football.

Short description

Visual Anthropologist Briana Young needles into the huddle for a full-impact, jaw-dropping look at one of the final frontiers of gender equality: Women's Tackle Football. When most think of American Football, images spring to mind of raw, unbridled demonstrations of athletic might pushed to the max, but rarely do those images involve women. The Quake is a professional Women's Tackle Football team out to break the glass ceiling of this traditionally all-male sport. These girls embody all the same grit, sweat and dogged determination as their male counterparts, but without the money or fame. And beyond that, they must deal with a societal prejudice that keeps them very much on the periphery of professional sports, having to pay their own way even as other female athletes--such as those in the Lingerie League--draw a salary.





Long Description

Visual Anthropologist Briana Young needles into the huddle for a full-impact, jaw-dropping look at one of the final frontiers of gender equality: Women's Tackle Football. When most think of American Football, images spring to mind of raw, unbridled demonstrations of athletic might pushed to the max, but rarely do those images involve women. The Quake is a professional Women's Tackle Football team out to not just break, but blow away the glass ceiling of this traditionally all-male sport. These girls embody all the same grit, sweat and dogged determination as their male counterparts, but without the money or fame. And beyond that, they must deal with a societal prejudice that keeps them very much on the periphery of professional sports, having to pay their own way even as other female athletes--such as those in the Lingerie League--draw a salary.

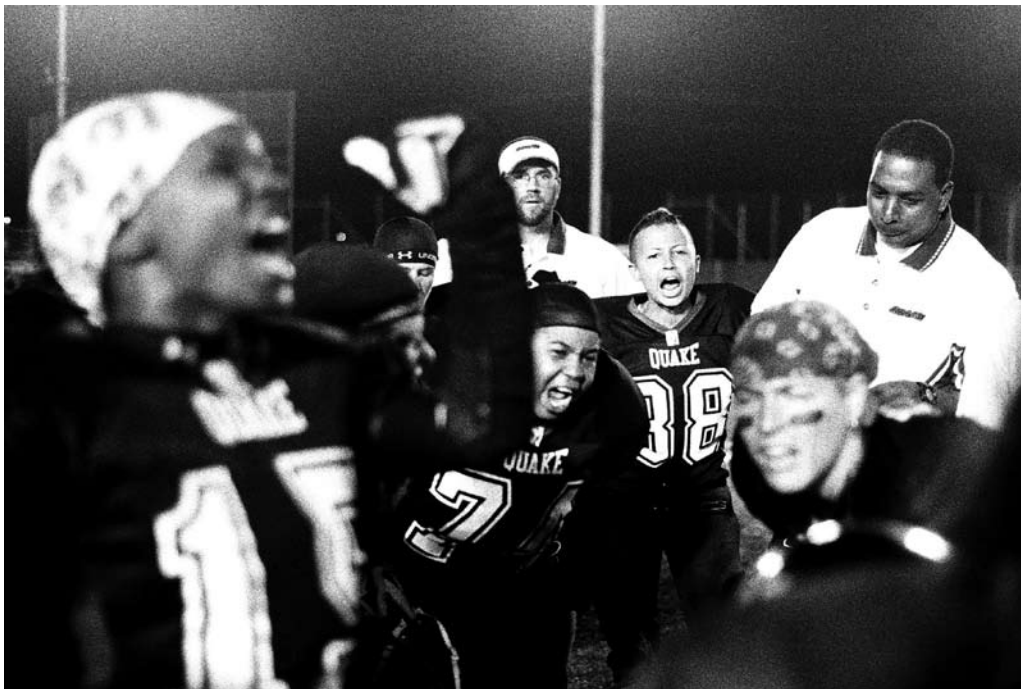
Ladies of the Gridiron is the

bittersweet tale of the Quake's rocky eighth season seeing exactly what it looks like when raw, passionate, highly focused aggressive energy flows through the bodies of the so-called gentle sex. Ladies of the Gridiron reveals an unfiltered, unadulterated vision of football in what could possibly be its truest form, played by people who are in the top of their class, doing what they love simply because they love it so much. Ladies of the Gridiron is a film partly about managing aggression, partly about female bonding through competition, and partly about women resisting a particular way of commodifying the female body by opposing it with another way of experiencing power and discipline as a group. This documentary is a great resource to be used in looking at sociology of gender roles, the female athlete and what it means to be "feminine."

REVIEWS

"Ladies of the Gridiron shows what happens when women dare to don football helmets and pads, complete with all of the hard work, determination and pain: they are met with a deafening silence from the media and indifference from most fans--unless of course they sex it up in lingerie. Women's football today is microcosm of society's continual struggle over women's "place," and Ladies of the Gridiron is a riveting glimpse into that world."

- Professor Michael A. Messner, Author of *"Through the Prism of Difference"*



BIO

Visual anthropologist, Briana Young has worked on non-fiction productions in multiple forms from the cutting edge multi-media series to feature length documentaries such as *Coffee Connections* and the breakout hit *Superheroes*. Her film, *Screw It, I'll Play Make Believe* received distribution from Tribeca Film Institutes Reframe Collection and has aired on The Documentary Channel. As she travel the world filming and conducting field work, this emerging filmmaker strives to use her camera to tell compelling stories that deepen our understanding of the human experience.



CREDITS

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*Special Thanks To:
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2010 MVA Students
Support provided by:
The Dorothy J. Leonard
Bequest
Produced at the Center
for Visual Anthropology,
Department of Anthropology,
University of Southern
California
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