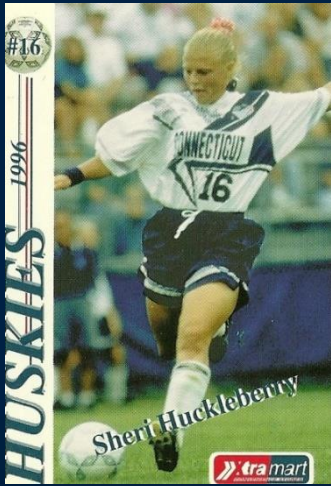


# The Benefits of Women Getting Involved as Youth Soccer Coaches

Of the 300,000 youth soccer coaches in US Youth Soccer less than 20% of them are women. Globally there are continued conversations on how to get more women involved in coaching. This session will present the societal changes and challenges of being a female coach, the strengths women can bring to youth sport and provide strategies to engage more women in coaching.





# Dr. Sheri Huckleberry



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NSCAA State Director - Ohio  
Coached Division I Soccer for 8+ years  
Played Soccer at UCONN  
HS Scholar Athlete & Valedictorian



# Objectives

- Societal changes and challenges of being a female coach
- Strengths women bring to youth sport
- Strategies to ENGAGE more women in youth soccer



# Societal changes and challenges of being a female coach



# Societal Changes

- Title IX of the Education Amendments Acts of 1972
  - Increase in # of female participants
  - Decrease in # of women coaching women
  - Decrease in # of women in administration



# Societal Changes

- Current Activity
  - High school football coach
    - Natalie Randolph, Coolridge HS (DC), 2010
    - Brittany Griner, Pickett County (TN), 2014
  - Assistant basketball coach in NBA
    - Becky Hammon, San Antonio Spurs, 2014
  - Referee in NFL
    - Sarah Thomas (2015)
  - Coach in NFL
    - Jen Welter, Intern Arizona Cardinals, 2015



<http://i.imgur.com/J0bb9fG.jpg>



# Typical Challenges

- Time – Work – Life Balance
- Low Salaries
- Lack of Mentorship
- Lack Support
  - “old girls club”
- Homophobia





# Strengths WOMEN bring to youth sport



[http://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/home/athletes/for-athletes/know-your-rights/parent-resources/~media/General/large\\_meta\\_data/advocate/advocate\\_team-on-bench.ashx](http://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/home/athletes/for-athletes/know-your-rights/parent-resources/~media/General/large_meta_data/advocate/advocate_team-on-bench.ashx)



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# WOMEN

- Watchful
- Organizers
- Managers
- Emotionally Intelligent
- Nurturers



[http://www.pacificsportokanagan.com/web\\_images/soccer-coach-300x404.jpg](http://www.pacificsportokanagan.com/web_images/soccer-coach-300x404.jpg)



# Strategies to ENGAGE more women in youth soccer



[http://peanuts.wikia.com/wiki/August\\_1966\\_comic\\_strips](http://peanuts.wikia.com/wiki/August_1966_comic_strips)



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# ENGAGE more Women

- Ask them to participate
- Support
- Co-Coach opportunity
- Appreciate their leadership
- Value their time
- Educate
- Mentor
- Speak out against Gender inequality
- Push for gender equality policies
- Develop a media strategy
  
- Get involved with a women's organization



[http://media.cmgdigital.com/shared/img/photos/2012/04/28/4e/4f/ddn1004SPORTSPEOPLE\\_573591a.jpg](http://media.cmgdigital.com/shared/img/photos/2012/04/28/4e/4f/ddn1004SPORTSPEOPLE_573591a.jpg)



What is one thing you are going to do in the next 6 months to engage more women in coaching?

Write it down on a post-it

Add name, position, and email

Pass forward



# References

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