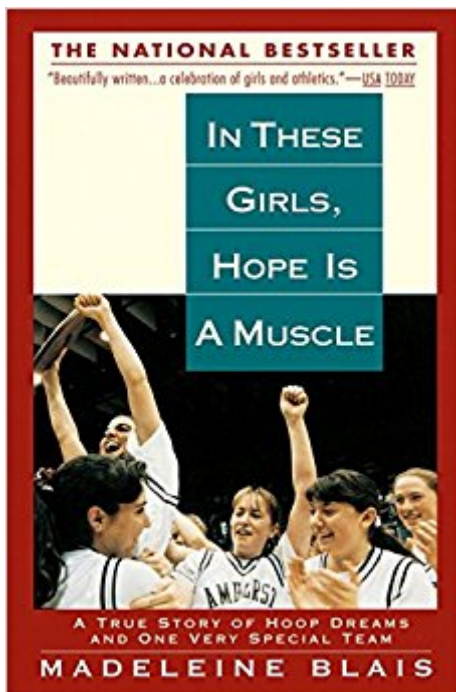


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# In These Girls, Hope Is A Muscle



## Synopsis

They Were a Talented Team with a Near-Perfect Record. But for Five Straight Years, When it Came to The Crunch of the Playoffs, the Amherst Lady Hurricanes-A "Finesse" High-School Girls' Basketball Team of Nice Girls from A Nice Town-Somehow Lacked the Scrappy, Hard-Driving Desire to Go all the Way. Now, Led by the Strong Back-Court of All-American Jamila Wideman and Three-Point Specialist Jen Pariseau, and Playing beyond Their Personal Best, this is Their Year to Prove Themselves in the State Championships. Their Season to Test Their Passion for the Sport and Their loyalty to Each Other. Their Time to Discover Who they Really are. In These Girls, Hope is a Muscle is the Fierce, Funny, and Intimate look into the Minds and Hearts of one Group of Girls and Their Quest for Success and, Most Important of all, Respect.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

They were a talented team with a near-perfect record but a reputation for choking in the crunch of the state playoffs. Finally, after five straight years of disappointments, the Amherst Lady Hurricanes found they just might have what it took to go all the way. This is a fierce, funny, and intimate look into their minds and hearts during one very special season. A finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for nonfiction.

When Pulitzer Prize-winner Blais pokes gentle fun at Amherst, Mass., where an infuriated teen-aged athlete in the heat of the fray may yell, "You ignore your inner child!" you suspect this will be a special book. And it is, as the reader follows the Amherst High girls basketball team-the Lady

Hurricanes-in the 1992-93 season, from game one on December 15 to the final game on March 16, when they all but obliterated Haverhill, 74-36, to win the state championship. While this is the story of well-bred, upper-middle class, genteel girls who learned to be tough, it is also a picture of a changing period in American sports history, when a town rallied around its female athletes in a way that had previously been reserved for males. Alternately funny, exciting and moving, the book should be enjoyed not only by girls and women who have played sports but also those who wanted to but let themselves be discouraged. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I gave this book as a graduation gift to my players when it was first published. Its story and message have stood the test of time, and so it was given as a graduation present again to current players ...22 years later! Early on, it was one of the few books to follow a high school level girls' team as it pursued excellence and a state championship. The bonus for me: the epilogue included a follow-up of the players on that team.

As a former sportswriter and the father of a 10-year-old girl player, this is as good as it gets at capturing the essence of the sports experience from many angles. It's a story about women from a woman's perspective -- not a man's. The difference is what makes this a unique and insightful read. I bought it for my daughter, but I ended up reading it first. It's a "Hoosiers" story set in the 90s that is about girls, not boys. These are characters you care about -- and the fact that they're real makes it even better. Enjoy!

One of the best sports book I have ever read. Right up there with "Friday Night Lights" and "The Miracle of St. Anthony's." Beautifully written, it is a fascinating insight into a town and its people. Most importantly, it is a brilliant and heartwarming story of the importance of sports and friendship for girls. It is impossible not to love this book. I'm amazed that it hasn't been made into a movie yet.

Well done!

Great story and beautiful words. Highly recommended for anyone looking for inspiration, or even just good storytelling.

Incredible, inspiring story. We've given away many copies.

This book is filled with the most mundane details about each girl on the team, the town and people of Amherst and surrounding towns, local history, Emily Dickinson, the evolution of women's sports, etc., but it provides very little text about basketball itself. It devotes only a few pages in the whole book to describing anything that actually occurred during a basketball game. I read it with my 13 year old daughter, who is developing an interest in basketball, and it was a bit tedious for us both.

My wife requested that we get the book. From what I hear she is enjoying the book. Our son is a women's basket Coach for a University in Portland OR. He has enjoyed the book also. Sam

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