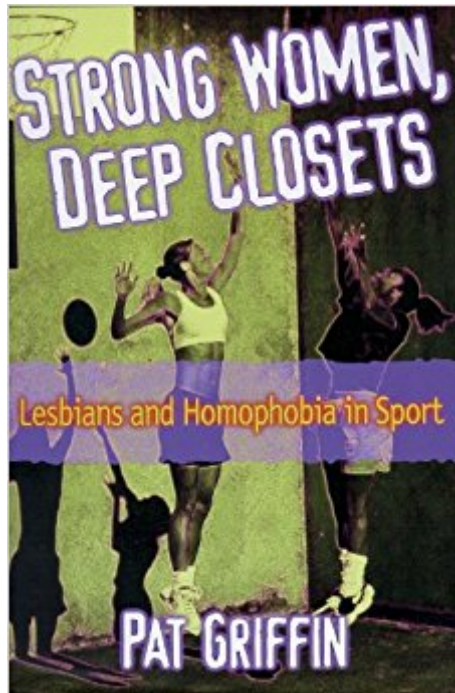




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# Strong Women, Deep Closets: Lesbians And Homophobia In Sport



## Synopsis

Former athlete and coach Pat Griffin makes a provocative and impassioned call for attention to a topic too long avoided by women's sports advocates. In *Strong Women, Deep Closets*, she provides a critical analysis of discrimination and prejudice against lesbians in sport. The book is the first to explore the lesbian sporting experience as well as examine homophobia and heterosexism in women's sport. The work is based on theoretical and historical foundations and is written in an academic yet engaging style. Griffin brings to light the experiences of lesbian coaches and athletes in their own words. *Strong Women, Deep Closets* concludes with Griffin's assessment of the current state of lesbians' rights in athletics, set against the overall social picture in the United States. The author lists obstacles lesbian athletes face in transforming sports and details numerous personal and political strategies for leveling the playing field.

## Book Information

Paperback: 264 pages

Publisher: Human Kinetics; 1st PB Edition edition (February 4, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 088011729X

ISBN-13: 978-0880117296

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #988,384 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #99 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Women in Sports](#) #354 in [Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Gay & Lesbian Studies](#) #437 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Sociology of Sports](#)

## Customer Reviews

Griffin draws on her experience as a lesbian coach and athlete for this groundbreaking work intended to "challenge the despised sexual predator image" that so often stalks when women and sport come together. She also draws on 15 years of leading various workshops on homophobia in the world of sport, on previously published writings, and, perhaps most important, on interviews with lesbian athletes, coaches, and sports administrators that she conducted specifically for this book. The resulting 11 chapters consider such things as stereotypes old and new that keep many women out of sport; the defenses of institutionalized sport against lesbianism, including silence,

heterosexual-image promotion, and downright attacks on lesbians; the role of the Christian right in sport; and identity management for lesbian coaches and athletes. Written in a brisk, readable style, this generously referenced summary of the lesbian sporting life will appeal to readers of serious sports studies as well as lesbian studies. Whitney Scott

""""This is without a doubt the most informed, insightful, engaging and detailed work on lesbian experiences in sport.""""Don Sabo, PhDProfessor, D'Youville College, Buffalo, NY """"In this ground-breaking book, Pat Griffin brings the shameful consequences of the long-standing and deep-seated association between women's sports and lesbianism out of the closet without shaming anyone in the process.""""Mary Jo KaneDirector, Tucker Center for Research on Girls and Women in Sport University of Minnesota"

Really comprehensive

This is an excellent book that explores the deep roots of homophobia in women's sports and lists reasons why ALL women-athletes must work to negate the fear of lesbians in sport!

I flipped through this book in a college library and found it very interesting. Most enlightening were the real life experiences embedded in the technical( for lack of a better word) information provided.

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