

When people ask who is your hero, it's not a person, it's a statute and it's Title IX. You know when I was growing up girls didn't have anywhere near the opportunity to play organized sports, but I played in the neighborhood. We played baseball, we played everything. I was very active later on when I was an adult. I kept playing, but I was playing touch foot, flag football that sort of thing. I was always active and liked to bike and run and everything like that, but I can see with my own children because they played sports how meaningful it was to them and in fact, it would almost cause a tear in my eye when I would take a bunch of them off to the soccer field and without even saying anything they would put on their shoes and get ready and start practicing. I would watch them and the ease and naturalness that would envelop them because this was their world. They did not have to fight to be able to be out there on the field, and the lessons that they learned about teamwork and commitment are unparalleled. Sports are a big deal, and I hope that all girls and young women get the fullest opportunity to play sports. No girl right now should ever think that she can't play. You can play, now maybe you are not going to be an Olympic Champion, but you can play, and you should seek out opportunities to play. Because A) it is a whole lot of fun and B) I think when people develop both mentally and physically that they develop the kind of confidence they need to succeed later.