
Title IX: Game Changer!

Article

LYON, France (Achieve3000, October 15, 2019): Goooooooooaaaaa!!!!!! Fans of the U.S. women's national soccer team leapt to their feet in July 2019 inside a packed stadium in Lyon, France. Midfielder Rose Lavelle had darted past Dutch defenders and sent the ball rocketing past their goalkeeper, clinching the World Cup title. But the team's triumph was no surprise. In the eight Women's World Cup finals since the tournament got rolling in 1991, the U.S. team has snagged the title *four* times.

Soccer superstars aren't the only phenomenal made-in-the-U.S.A. female athletes. Americans lead the pack in plenty of women's sports, including swimming, basketball, softball, volleyball, ice hockey, and snowboarding. In the last two Olympics, Team U.S.A. women brought home more medals than American men.

The secret to these female champs' success is talent, teamwork, and stick-to-it-iveness. But without Title IX, we might never have seen them score. Title what-in-the-world? It's pronounced "Title 9," but don't let the Roman numeral in the name fool ya—this achievement's all-American.

Here's the wrap-up, sports fans. Title IX, which is part of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, prohibits discrimination based on gender at schools that get federal funds, requiring that they give males and females equal sports opportunities. The pioneering policy affected American schools in lots of ways, but it was an especially big game changer when it came to athletics. Until then, most high schools and colleges had male teams in sports like basketball, football, baseball, track, wrestling, and swimming, just to name a few. But guess how many female teams there were at most schools? None! Female athletes couldn't try out for male teams, either. That left most of them with zero options for gettin' in the game.

After Title IX passed, schools couldn't sideline female athletes anymore. They had to give them as many opportunities as male athletes got, so they were required to create teams and offer college athletic scholarships for females. Were women game? You bet! Participation in women's sports soared, and today the U.S. has more than *three million* female high school athletes. With Title IX nearing its 50th birthday, generations of females from varied backgrounds have discovered their athletic talents and honed their skills. No wonder American women are such heavy hitters, goal getters, and record breakers in global competitions!

The stats on soccer really kick this point home. In 1972, only around 700 females in U.S. high schools played soccer, but within 20 years that number had jumped to more than 120,000. By 2019 it was close to 400,000. The U.S. Women's National Team recruits from this huge field of experienced players, so it consistently scores top talent.

Title IX's influence on athletics didn't stop at the school gates. Its effects trickled down to youth leagues and clubs, where girls of all ages got to try their hands—and feet—at different sports. Without Title IX, Rose Lavelle's famous left foot might never have connected with a soccer ball!



Photo credit: Jose Breton-Pics
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Goal getters! The U.S. women's national soccer team clinched the 2019 World Cup title in Lyon, France.

But the law's legacy isn't just about trophies and triumphs on the turf. Title IX has given female athletes a competitive edge *off* the field, too. Sports scholarships have enabled lots of young women to go to college. Think athletes are more brawn than brains? Research shows that a big majority of female managers in top U.S. companies were competitive athletes.

That's not too surprising. Sports foster skills like leadership, teamwork, strategic thinking, and perseverance—not to mention nerves of steel and a knack for *bringin' it* under pressure. Today, American women are earning career titles as well as world titles thanks, in part, to Title IX.

Dictionary

legacy (*noun*) something that happened in the past or that comes from someone in the past

perseverance (*noun*) the quality that allows someone to continue trying to do something even though it is difficult

Activity

PART 1

Question 1

What is a cause and effect relationship that takes place in the Article?

- (A) Because Title IX provided funds to the U.S. women's national soccer team, the team was able to afford the world-class talent that went on to win the 2019 World Cup title.
- (B) Since an amazing 400,000 females played high school soccer in 2019, Title IX was first put into effect to help pay for school soccer programs.
- (C) Because Title IX orders that males and females be given equal opportunities, schools not only created new sports teams for females but also offered females athletic scholarships.
- (D) Since more and more managers in top U.S. companies are females, Title IX now requires that female athletes be taught leadership, teamwork, and strategic thinking skills.

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

- (A) American women lead the pack in plenty of women's sports, including swimming, basketball, softball, volleyball, ice hockey, and snowboarding, and have brought home more medals than American men in the last two Olympics.
- (B) Title IX, which is part of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, prohibits gender discrimination at schools that receive federal funding and has opened the door for females to participate and dominate in many sports.
- (C) Fans of the 2019 U.S. women's national soccer team marveled as midfielder Rose Lavelle sped by Dutch defenders and sent the ball past their goalkeeper, clinching the World Cup title in a packed stadium in Lyon, France.
- (D) Sports scholarships created under Title IX have allowed legions of young women to attend college who otherwise might not have had the opportunity, and research even shows that a large majority of female managers in top U.S. companies were competitive athletes.

Question 3

The Article states:

After Title IX passed, schools couldn't sideline female athletes anymore. They had to give them as many opportunities as male athletes got, so they were required to create teams and offer college athletic scholarships for females. Were women game? You bet! Participation in women's sports soared, and today the U.S. has more than *three million* female high school athletes. With Title IX nearing its 50th birthday, generations of females from varied backgrounds have discovered their athletic talents and honed their skills. No wonder American women are such heavy hitters, goal getters, and record breakers in global competitions!

Why did the author include this passage?

- (A) To suggest that favoritism still exists in high school sports, allowing male athletic programs to achieve dominance over corresponding female programs in spite of Title IX
- (B) To explain the effect that Title IX has had on women's sports, from high school to competitions at the international level
- (C) To point out that the original purpose of Title IX, which was to create record breakers in global competitions, has at last been achieved
- (D) To show that even though Title IX has resulted in more female sports teams at the high school level, a relatively small number of young women benefit from it

Question 4

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *perseverance*?

- (A) bashfulness
- (B) resolve
- (C) deceit
- (D) compromise

Question 5

What is one inference the reader can make from the Article?

- (A) Private schools that do not receive federal funding do not have to abide by the rules and standards put forth in Title IX.
- (B) Presently, there are more female high school athletes than male high school athletes due to the enactment of Title IX.
- (C) The U.S. women's national soccer team is now funded in part by money acquired through Title IX.
- (D) Title IX regulations currently apply only to public schools that receive federal funding, although some hope to extend the law to youth leagues and clubs as well.

Question 6

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- (A) why a number of U.S. lawmakers did not want to pass Title IX into law
- (B) how Title IX influences athletic programs outside of the public school system
- (C) how many female high school athletes there are in the U.S. today
- (D) when U.S. public schools had to start giving female athletes as many opportunities as males

Question 7

Look at this passage from the Article:

With Title IX nearing its 50th birthday, generations of females from varied backgrounds have discovered their athletic talents and *honed* their skills. No wonder American women are such heavy hitters, goal getters, and record breakers in global competitions!

In this passage, the word *hone* means _____.

- (A) to want something that you don't have
- (B) to say good things about someone or something
- (C) to make something better or more effective
- (D) to slowly lose the ability to do something

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that the sports programs fostered by Title IX have helped women off of the playing field?

- (A) Here's the wrap-up, sports fans. Title IX, which is part of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, prohibits discrimination based on gender at schools that get federal funds, requiring that they give males and females equal sports opportunities.
- (B) Hey, research shows that a big majority of female managers in top U.S. companies were competitive athletes. That's not too surprising. Sports foster skills like leadership, teamwork, strategic thinking, and perseverance—not to mention nerves of steel and a knack for *bringin' it* under pressure. Today, American women are earning career titles as well as world titles thanks, in part, to Title IX.
- (C) After Title IX passed, schools couldn't sideline female athletes anymore. They had to give them as many opportunities as male athletes got, so they were required to create teams and offer college athletic scholarships for females. Were women game? You bet! Participation in women's sports soared, and today the U.S. has more than *three million* female high school athletes.
- (D) Fans of the U.S. women's national soccer team leapt to their feet in July 2019 inside a packed stadium in Lyon, France. Midfielder Rose Lavelle had darted past Dutch defenders and sent the ball rocketing past their goalkeeper, clinching the World Cup title. But the team's triumph was no surprise. In the eight Women's World Cup finals since the tournament got rolling in 1991, the U.S. team has snagged the title *four* times.