

Leslie Ford Grieve

Leslie is a pioneer for women's basketball. She is one of the first females to play the game on a team level in California. Since there was really no female basketball history before she played, she didn't have any significant professional influence from the sport. Leslie states, "my influence comes from my parents. They supported me in everything I did. I wouldn't be who I am today without them."

She began playing basketball in high school but there was never a team format until her senior year. During her senior year at Santa Barbara High School, the girls' team was finally allowed to play full court basketball with 5 players to a side. But it was still considered an afterschool sport and not a real team activity. Leslie was a rebounding machine, at one point in her career at Santa Barbara High School, she grabbed 34 rebounds (an all-time high). She was coached by Bud Revis, who helped elevate her career to the collegiate level where she played for UCSB. At UCSB she averaged a career high and league high 14.8 rebounds per game. On January 21, 1977, she grabbed a career high 25 rebounds against Cal State Northridge, she outsized everyone on the court.



Team picture of the first women's basketball team at Santa Barbara Community College (1974-1975 season)