Women In Sports, A Reflection of the Traditional Tomboy



Tomboys are girls or young women who choicely engage in activities traditionally deemed masculine by nature and those who trend set wearing male clothing. Historically the terms "tom and boy" depicted a 'rude, boisterous boy, however, by the 1590's to 1600s transposed to mean a 'bold or immodest woman' and thence a girl behaving as a spirited, boisterous boy.' A wild romping girl who at times dressed similar to a boy.

As the world of sports evolved by mid-19th century, femineity was symbolic of emotional swings, physical vulnerability and a domesticated woman which is a cultish take of what it meant to be a woman. Sports were reserved for their male counterparts as they required quick, tenuous movement in use of physical strength only men held.

This outlook of feminism became side tracked as economic survival and the onset of war impressed upon the family and community. Young women held key roles in our workforce and were educated putting the home bodied healthy beauty at bay as a silent encouragement toward tomboyism. Employment was not limited to the secretary, but, expanded into the laborious post in factories under the premise that woman could perform equivalent workload as their male sex.

An1898 outlook of tomboys suggested girls are not required to reflect feminine qualities until it is time for such. The playground itself possessed the influence a 'tomboy phase' in physical demand playing and running. This sentiment flowed onto the plight of woman searching for equality in the workforce.

The twentieth century became bombarded with unfeminine clothing worn by girls who loved sports, cars, and other boy toys. It too became normal for girl sports teams to emerge involved in comparable sports as the boys with exception to football and anything dangerously abusive to the physical person and body reproductive organs.

By the 21st century, "sexist" practices fell including the use of terms such as 'tomboy' as belittling. Tomboyish habits were deemed natural curiosity in outdoor



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activities and sporting games. Studies suggest that some "born tomboys" hold higher testosterone levels yet, this did not impact a girl's latter sexual preference. Scientist too found that one did not have to be in the girly girl box to maintain a sense of girl.

This era also encouraged a dramatic change in urban attire to generate an all-inclusive phase of unisex clothing and pieces of masculine descent but designed to befit the effeminate or female sex. This clothing concept to thwart that sense of feminism typically pushed onto girls who'd rather not wear skirts or dresses to tea parties. However, most young women recompose their styles during or after puberty upon interest in the opposite sex returning to female habits and behaviors. Those who do not conform are non-traditional threatening figures by those protectors of gender roles and subject to shaming as societal repression or rejection referenced as "butch or dyke."

Today, women are members of sports teams as they ascend the age latter from tykes to the adult professional level. A competitive edge gained momentum over past years as performance and college opportunities became more lucrative thus more attractive. Healthy sculptured bodies strengthened to withstand the physical game play demands. Women in sports who have varied body sizes and features which at times beg for questions and for other players, offer distorted answers. They are faced with stigmatisms and comedic roast of their sexual orientation all while they challenge the economic, industry, and societal standards.

Media in turn, does not just service game day hype and monthly sport focused articles or professional profiles, it enables them to share aspects of their athletic agendas same as their male sport counterparts. They too profit in use of associated perks in sponsoring products, services, or social interest along with in-depth one on one conversations/interviews. These ads and opportunities promote a sense of sport feminism as pretty faces in sexually specific attire tends to do. Women in sports and media often transcend the once cagey "tomboy mold" for make-up, fashion flair and fair. It is those women who pushed past the sneakers or tennis shoes for pumps and other trendy wear illusively poking fun at "tomboyism" in association with new family dynamics and attempting to normalize their role as sports professionals and not objects of sexism.



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