

HHH-Evolution of Women's Basketball and Sabrina Ionescu

Entrance Question:

You go to your significant other's house for the first time to meet their parents. The dad hands you the aux cord. What song are you playing first?

The [Evolution](#) of Woman's Basketball

It's safe to say that women's basketball has come a long way since Dr. James Naismith invented the game in Springfield Massachusetts in 1891. Less than a hundred years later girls basketball players can dunk and play the game with a skill-set that rivals the men's game. Just like the Men; there are 1000's of women's basketball scholarships available every year.

The game continues to evolve for women. The process seemed to kick into overdrive in 1979 after Ann Meyers was actually given a tryout with the Indiana Pacers before being cut. Publicity stunt? Perhaps. But the gauntlet had been thrown down—the women's game was here to stay.

Now every few years there is a new and improved model. There was Nancy Lieberman, known as the first lady of hoops, Cheryl Miller (sister of Reggie), and Lisa Leslie, an outspoken advocate for women's basketball. And, of course, the UCONN women's basketball team, who just continues to do things that have never been done before. And Today, there is Sabrina Ionescu

The face of today's game in 2021 is Sabrina Ionescu. Ionescu was named a McDonald's High School All-America and Jordan Brand All-American selection. She was named the McDonald's All-America game MVP after scoring a record 25 points, including seven three-pointers, with 10 rebounds. Ionescu left Miramonte with a career win-loss record of 119–9 and a school-record 2,606 points scored. As a senior at Oregon, Ionescu won every single national player of the year award, including Pac 10 Player of the Year and ESPN College Athlete of the year. In 2020, ESPN did a [Cover Story](#) on Ionescu.

It was only natural that two of the greatest basketball players of their respective generations would find each other. The friendship between Kobe Bryant and Sabrina Ionescu was born out of the dream they shared: to elevate women's basketball to the national level. Along the way, Ionescu became friends with Kobe's daughter Gianna "Gigi" Bryant, worked on her game with Kobe and rose to college basketball stardom at Oregon. She would credit Kobe for pushing her, and for being in her life through her victories and defeats. In Mid April, Ionescu was drafted #1 overall by the WNBA's New York Liberty. Here is what Sabrina had to say about Kobe at his [Celebration of Life](#), last February.