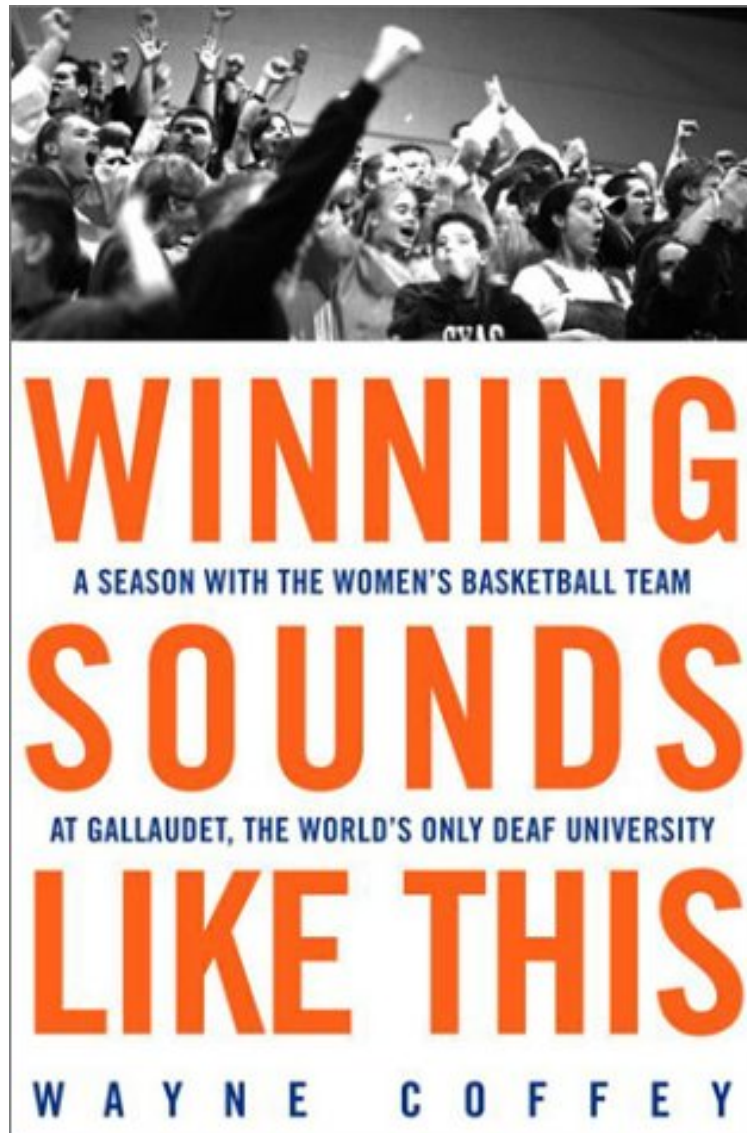


(Pdf free) Winning Sounds Like This: A Season with the Women's Basketball Team at Gallaudet, the World's Only Deaf University

## Winning Sounds Like This: A Season with the Women's Basketball Team at Gallaudet, the World's Only Deaf University

*Wayne Coffey*

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Wayne Coffey : **Winning Sounds Like This: A Season with the Women's Basketball Team at Gallaudet, the World's Only Deaf University** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Winning Sounds Like This: A Season with the Women's Basketball Team at Gallaudet, the World's Only Deaf University:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Love The Girls, Hate The Play By Play DetailsBy Taral have very little to no interest whatsoever in basketball, but I do have a strong interest in deaf women that go against the odds. Thus, this book was half boring and half intriguing for me. Let's start with the intriguing. I really enjoyed the tidbits of deaf history. I never realized Ponce de Leon played a large role in the mass realization that deaf does not mean dumb. I liked reading about the girls' personal lives, namely Touria. (A few interesting pages are dedicated to this brave woman who is not only a deaf female, but a deaf female in a mostly hearing muslim household.) I was thrilled with the information provided about the first deaf president of the school, King Jordan. I was touched deeply by Ronda's story about her speech being made fun of and her six years of silence due to the embarrassment of it. I also enjoyed the few pages that went in depth about the controversial cochlear implants and what the girls have to say about it, "Quit trying to make us like you." I was obviously moved numerous times. So why the low rating? I wanted more of the girls and their lives. The basketball is a HUGE part of the story, I won't deny that, but I don't need play by play details about every game. I will not remember who fouled, who free throwed, nor how many times somebody free throwed 2 pages later. My mind began drifting and I began skipping paragraphs to get back to the girls and their stories. I also felt there was a too much about Kitty, the coach. I simply did not take to her the way I did the team. A decent read. I recommend it for anybody who wants to know more about deaf culture and Gallaudet University. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Inspirational! A view into the deaf culture coupled with competition. Really engaging. By Janet Bennett I loved this book. I love to play sports but am not particularly interested in reading about sports. I picked this book up at a book fair for \$2 and soon became immersed in it. Winning Sounds Like This is not just about basketball, it's a window into the deaf culture and how things that most of us take for granted are so different for other people. At Gallaudet University, the ONLY deaf university in the world, basketball fans don't cheer and clap because the players wouldn't hear them, they wave their hands. Players can't rely on shouting another player's name, they must be in tune with their colleagues to know when to pass and when to receive. Student's don't listen to music, rather they turn the sound up so loud that they can feel the vibrations. I found this book to be so interesting, from learning about educational options for deaf students to learning how they interact on the court, and how they compete with those who can hear. Oh, and they don't like to be called "hearing impaired" because they don't see themselves as impaired. They are deaf, and they don't see it as an impairment. I thought this book was wonderful and have recommended it to numerous friends. It is really, really interesting. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. It's about basketball! By Dr. Cathy Goodwin Women's basketball books occupy a special niche in sportswriting. Writing about a male players, an author might ask, "How did they make it into the big time?" Writing about women, authors are forced to ask, "How did they get here at all?" This question adds a new dimension to the stories of women athletes. Players as young as today's collegians have had to overcome stereotypes. Many played on boys' teams -- or tried to. Gallaudet women have to overcome a double stereotype -- being not only female, but also deaf. There was a time when opposing teams would openly ridicule deaf basketball players. One player was devastated as a high school student when a coach from a Christian academy openly laughed at her speech. She made the team but never forgot the experience. However, the players want to be taken seriously as athletes. They do not want or need pity or condescension. To Coffey's credit, the book focuses on basketball, not deafness. We learn how players and teams compensate for a silent world. They can hear someone dribbling behind them. Referees are briefed: players can't hear the whistle so they may not stop playing immediately. And players on "hearing" teams need ASL translators who understand basketball terms. Yet ultimately the story is about the game: coming together as a team and working to win. Like any sports book, there are stories of triumphs as well as tears. We come to care about the players as they, like all college athletes, balance basketball and books. Perhaps the most difficult story takes place after the book was written. Ronda Jo Miller, an All-American center, cannot reach her goal of playing on a WNBA team. In stories posted on the internet, we can learn that she earned admiration of players and coaches during the tryout camp. She eventually played professionally in Denmark, with a "hearing" team, and has played in Kansas City with an expansion league, the WNBL. What happens to the other athletes? Playing on a winning team can change lives and I found myself hoping they will continue to feel like winners, long after the season has ended.

The Gallaudet womens basketball team has just defeated the number one ranked team in the country, the College of New Jersey. A reporter, not wanting to be insensitive, delicately broaches the obvious question: How can you play so well despite your hearing impairment? Nanette Virnig, a forward for Gallaudet, puts him at ease. Were not hearing impaired, she says. Were deaf. Winning Sounds Like This is the remarkable story of the nations most unique and inspiring womens basketball team and its 19992000 season. It is a touching chronicle of players who dont hear buzzers or cheers, a coach who has never used a whistle, and a university that is a mecca for deaf culture throughout the world. Author Wayne Coffey offers an intimate and unsparing look at the players lives on and off the court, their struggles to overcome the mistreatment and misconceptions of the hearing world, and their deeply rooted connection to one another. Interwoven with an overview of the shameful history of education for the deaf, Coffey explores the players hopes and dreams and introduces us to such unforgettable people as Ronda Jo Miller, a Minnesota farm girl who is the most decorated athlete in school history; Touria Ouahid, a point guard from Morocco who had to overcome

the fierce objections of her Muslim culture to pursue basketball and her education; and their relentlessly dedicated coach, Kitty Baldrige, who has led the Gallaudet womens team for nearly twenty-five years. On the bench for every game, on the bus for every trip, even living in the dorms and attending classes, Coffey presents sensitively crafted portraits of ten remarkable women who adamantly reject the notion that they are disabled in any way. Their goal in life is not to be able to hear, but simply to be accepted and respected. Nearly fifteen years ago, I. King Jordan, Gallaudets president and a towering figure in contemporary deaf history, issued a famous quote: Deaf people can do everything but hear. Much more than just a basketball story, *Winning Sounds Like This* is a celebration of community, of perseverance, and of young women who live out King Jordans words every day of their lives.

From Publishers Weekly  
Gallaudet's 1999-2000 team came close to an NCAA Division III championship with the combined talent of its dedicated ballplayers and their coach, Kitty Baldrige, then a 25-year veteran. Coffey, a sportswriter for the New York Daily News, explores a college sports culture that operates on separate sensory terms: students and parents roar in the stands with their hands; players sign the set plays and swear at referees. Through this courtside sociology of deaf athletes, Coffey slowly burrows into Gallaudet college basketball until deafness is less alien than the big egos of Division I and the salaries of the NBA. He builds a pyramid of court action, game bus rides, personality profiles and sidebars on Gallaudet (in Washington, D.C.) school history. Coffey is capable of deft finger rolls of prose as he describes such players as Ronda Jo Miller and Moroccan point guard Touria Ouahid. A great story in a good storyteller's hands, this volume is a refreshing read for the basketball fan. Coaches everywhere would do well to visit this account of women's play whenever they need a reminder of the passion that keeps players late in the gym. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.  
From Library Journal  
Sportswriter Coffey of the New York Daily News got permission to accompany Washington, DC's Gallaudet University women's basketball team for the 1999-2000 season. This is a team chronicle with a twist: the Bison players are all deaf. Their hearing coach, whose first language was American Sign Language, coaches with sign language and gestures instead of using a whistle. The Division III Bisons compete against hearing teams, and their success transforms fan curiosity into respect. Coffey intertwines player profiles, where we learn about their often tortuous roads to athletic success, with excursions into such topics as the history of deaf education, the controversy over sign language vs. lip reading, and the importance of deaf culture. Readers come away with great respect for these players, who somehow manage to master the intricacies of basketball without being able to yell out defensive assignment changes or hear referees' whistles. At least the coach can insult the referees in sign language without getting a technical! A good addition for public and college libraries. Kathy Ruffle, Coll. of New Caledonia Lib., Prince George, BC  
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From Booklist  
Coffey's account of the 1999-2000 women's basketball season at Gallaudet University not only follows the team from game to game but also examines the school's close-knit deaf community. On buses and benches, in locker rooms and dorms, Coffey observes Coach Kitty Baldrige and her dedicated players, recording the ups and downs of what turned out to be a rocky season. The team, which was predicted to reach the Final Four, quickly ran into trouble, and conflicts arose between players and coach. Coffey nicely captures the fragility of the game: the magic when everything meshes, the frustration when that magic disappears. Mixed in with the stats and game action are profiles of key players, background on the history of the university, and insights into the ongoing debate between signing and speaking. What comes through most clearly is the independence and identity that Gallaudet and basketball foster in these determined young women. As one player states it, "We just can't hear. Otherwise, we're no different from you." Reading this revealing, even inspiring book, you can't help but believe it. Candace Smith  
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