



## NJSIAA TRAILBLAZER

Doris Sable Burke was seven years old when Title IX of Education Acts of 1972 was signed into law.

The landmark federal legislation created unprecedented educational and athletic opportunities for women, who have benefited from its passage ever since.

Coincidentally, 1972 was the same year that her large family (she is the youngest of eight children) moved from Long Island to Manasquan.

She's been taken full advantage of opportunities created by both Title IX and the move to the Shore ever since.

Growing up playing sports in her new home town propelled her to sensational athletic career at Manasquan High School, where she graduated in 1983 as its all-time leading basketball scorer with 1,384 points.



She then moved on to Providence College, and became a three-time All-Big East selection, and graduated in 1987 as its all-time assist leader with 602 and fourth leading scorer with 1,372 points.

She was later named to the Athletic Hall of Fame at both schools.

She spent a couple of years as an assistant at Providence, and also got married, gave birth to two children and earned a graduate degree. She worked her first games - starting with the Providence women on the radio, during that period as well. Her rise in broadcasting ever since has been mercurial, to the point where ESPN in 2017 named to the position of national NBA game analyst, making her the first woman to serve full time in that job. In 2018, she was given one of the most prestigious awards in basketball media when she was named winner of the Curt Gowdy Media Award by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame presents that award each year to a broadcaster and writer, and she was the first woman broadcaster and only the second female overall to receive that honor.



**TITLE IX<sup>50</sup>**  
Celebrating and Growing Opportunities



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And it all began after a fortuitous happening immediately after the move to Manasquan.

The home happened to be next to Indian Hill Park. The prior owners also left a basketball in the back yard. And since a 7-year old isn't much help during a move-in, her mom handed her the ball and pointed her to the court at the the park. Not only did the basketball hoop there serve its purpose that first day, the park became her sanctuary in all the years that followed, right through high school.

At Manasquan, where she also played softball, she was a savvy point guard who led the Warriors to the 1983 Shore Conference Tournament title, and she was also a two-time All-Shore selection.



At Providence, she led the team in assists in three of her four seasons. As a freshman, she became the first player in program history to be named to the Big East All-Rookie team. She led the conference in assists as a senior, when she was also named to the District All-American team.



She was also selected to the Big East All-Tournament Team as a junior and senior, and was the school's Co-Female Athlete of the Year in 1987.

One thing she had never done was any sort of broadcasting until first attempting it. There was a learning process, but she impressed enough people to keep getting better assignments, all while raising her family.

For more than a decade starting in 1990, Burke had a number of broadcasting jobs, including radio analyst for Providence women's games, and as television analyst for several conferences, including the Big East, among other assignments. Her TV assignments were initially women's games, until she started working men's games as well in 1996.

Burke then starting calling New York Liberty games on MSG Network, and in 2000 became the first woman to call a Knicks game for MSG. She's also worked several decades for ESPN, where in addition to the NBA, she's been a commentator for men's and women's college basketball as well as the WNBA. She's also been lead sideline reporter for the NBA Finals on ABC.



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