

# Dallas Morning News

Arts/Entertainment

## Film reflects late coach's influence

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For more than a decade, filmmaker Rick Derby has been chronicling the story of an unusual high school basketball team: the Lady Chieftains of Shiprock, N.M. The all-Navajo team has been flourishing since the late 1980s, when a now-deceased black coach from Texas named Jerry Richardson took over the impoverished program.

Mr. Derby's film, *Rocks With Wings*, named after a nearby mountain and debuting at 7 p.m. Sunday on KERA-TV (Channel 13), follows Mr. Richardson's transformation of the program and the girls who played on the team, including A.D. Goodluck.

After winning several championships in the late '80s and early '90s, he left for a college job and then died in a car accident. Since 1990, Mr. Derby has been spending time in Shiprock, part of the Navajo Nation, filming Mr. Richardson's impact on the town, the school and the students.

*Rocks With Wings* repeats Tuesday, Dec. 28 and Dec. 29.

*Manuel Mendoza*

## Star-Telegram

LIVING - WHAT TO WATCH

Friday, December 20, 2002

### **Rocks With Wings**

**7 p.m. Sunday, KERA/Channel 13**

If you liked the movie *Hoop Dreams*, this documentary, which also tells an unlikely basketball story, is probably for you. It's about the Shiprock, N.M., Lady Chieftains, a girls' basketball team from a poor Navajo community, and its success in the 1980s, when it became one of New Mexico's dominant basketball powers. Racial issues figure into the girls' struggle, as they become winners under the direction of a tough-minded black head coach and take on a mostly white cross-town rival.

-- *Robert Philpot*