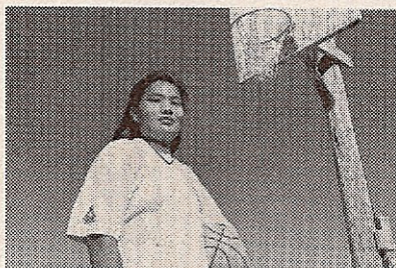


DOCU #17



Rocks with Wings

USA ~ 2001 ~ Beta SP ~ 113min ~
Writer/Director/Producer: Rick Derby

This heartfelt documentary traces the inspirational journey of Jerry Richardson and the Lady Chieftains, a high school basketball team from the small Navajo community of Shiprock, New Mexico. Fresh out of college, Jerry accepts a challenge to turn a group of shy, quiet young women into fighters on the basketball court. What results is a story of winning, losing and the bumps along the way. As the girl's struggle to overcome prejudice and self-doubt, Jerry draws a parallel from his own pain growing up African-American in the forced-integration of the South. A bond of outsiders is forged that allows the man and his team to rise above the odds and emerge as champions. Rick Derby focuses on the Navajo's serene and spiritual philosophy in contrast to the harshness of their isolated environment. A coming-of-age story that everyone can relate to, you can't help but cheer.