



# NJSIAA TRAILBLAZER

When Kim Ng graduated from The University of Chicago in 1990, the subject of her graduate thesis was Title IX.

Back then, her knowledge of the landmark 1972 federal legislation, which brought equality to women in education and athletics, was primarily based on research.

But fast forward to current times, and the 1986 graduate of Ridgewood High School, where she starred in tennis and especially in softball, can be considered an expert based on her own life experiences.

In 2020, after holding many positions throughout Major League Baseball, she was hired as General Manager of the Miami Marlins. It made her not only the first woman GM of a MLB team, but also the first in any of the four main American sports.

“The single-most inspiring event in terms of pursuing a career in sports was my research on Title IX for my senior thesis paper,” she said in a prior interview. “I wanted to do it on a topic that I was passionate about. Through my research, I learned quite a bit about the evolution of women’s roles in sports and gained an understanding of the root of some of the experiences and opportunities I was afforded as a child.”

She was originally from New York, living in Queens and Long Island, but after the death of her father, Kim (then 12), her mom and four younger sisters moved to Ridgewood.

A born leader, she quickly fit in at her new hometown. She played tennis for the Maroons, but her forte was softball. She broke into the lineup as a sophomore second baseman, but was a standout shortstop by the time she graduated.

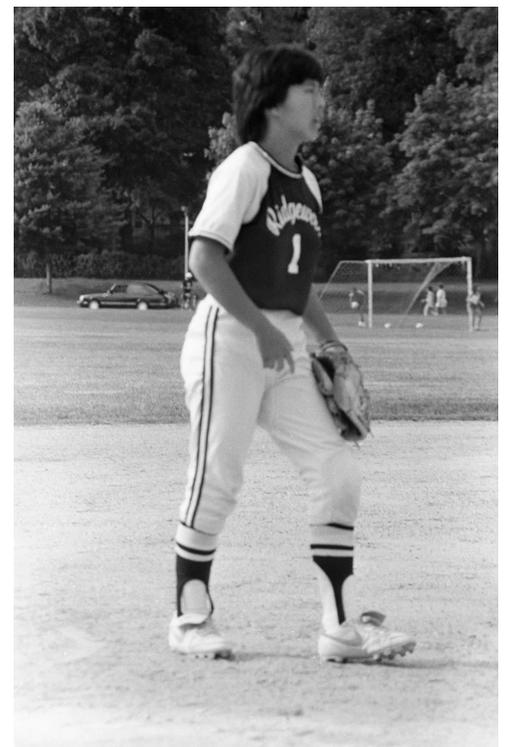
During her senior season in 1986, she led Ridgewood on a late-season run that ended with a 2-1 loss to Eastern in the NJSIAA Group 4 state final. The leadoff batter, she had two RBI in the sectional final and scored twice Ridgewood's state semifinal victory.

In college, she continued to be a spark on the softball diamond, and was a captain and team MVP. She also graduated with a degree in Public Policy.

Afterwards, she found out that even though Title IX had brought unprecedented opportunities to women, some old-school thinking still developed within pro baseball.

Her first job out of college was an internship with the Chicago White Sox. In 1991, she was hired full time by the White Sox as a special projects analyst, making her an early expert on the analytical trend that is now rampant in the game. Four years later, was promoted to Assistant Director of Baseball Operations. That year, she became both the youngest person and first woman to represent a team in a salary arbitration case versus a player, and she won.

That victory on behalf of management increased her profile within the sport, and in 1997, she joined the American League office as Director of Waivers and Transactions.





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A year later, she was hired at age 29 by the New York Yankees as Assistant General Manager, becoming the youngest overall and second woman to hold such a position. She left the Yankees to become Assistant GM of the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2001.

But after that, despite her qualifications, teams were reluctant to make her a trailblazing GM. She left the Dodgers in 2011 to become Senior Vice President of Baseball Operations for MLB, making her the highest-ranking woman in the sport. She was frequently reported as a GM candidate over the years before the Marlins made their history-making move after the 2020 season.

In 2015, Forbes ranked her No. 13 on its list of most influential minorities in sports, and No. 5 on its list of most powerful women in sports. Her hire in Miami drew attention from trailblazing women's sports figures like Billie Jean King, and from many younger women also trying to move up the ladder in the sports business.

And it all began in her days as a scrappy infielder at Ridgewood.

"It means the world to me," she said of the congratulatory praise she received upon her Marlins hire. "Anyone who knows me, knows I have spent countless hours advocating for young girls and women and helping them advance their careers. That's very important to me. There's an old adage: 'You can't be it if you can't see it. I would suggest to them: Now you can see it.'"

