

The Miami Herald > Entertainment > TV & Radio

# TV & Radio

Wednesday, 06.08.11 Welcome Guest Login Register

Current: 88°  
90° / 76°  
Weather Forecast

HOME DELIVERY **EXTRA**  
Sunday's Miami Herald  
6 months for just \$20!

People | Restaurants | Movies | Music & Nightlife | Performing Arts | Visual Arts | Books | TV | Comics & Games

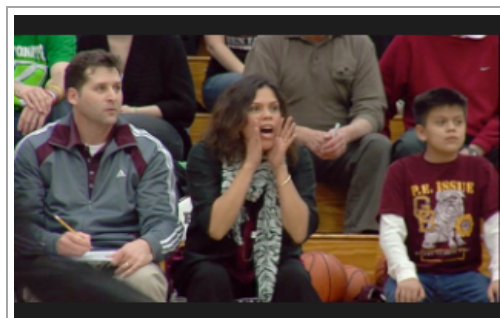
Posted on Saturday, 05.14.11

 Share  email print comment reprint

TELEVISION REVIEW

## Plenty of net gains and personal losses for a budding sports star

Off the Rez. 9-11 p.m. Saturday. TLC.



Shoni's parents, Rick Schimmel and Cecilee Moses, coaching from the sidelines. Their son, Job Schimmel, is seated next to them. TLC

BY GLENN GARVIN  
GGARVIN@MIAMIHERALD.COM

A couple of years ago, women's basketball fans all over the country were perplexed by Shoni Schimmel, the fireball guard who was slashing high-school opponents to ribbons all over Oregon. Practically every recruiting service in the country ranked her among the top 10 players, and dozens of colleges were begging her to join their programs. But Shoni ignored them all. She wouldn't even take phone calls from coaches. The first date for signing a scholarship letter of intent passed, then the second, and still there was only mysterious silence from Shoni.

If fans could have seen the hours of footage being shot by director Jonathan Hock for his

documentary *Off the Rez*, they might have understood. It's a soul-searing tale of a teenage girl burdened with the dashed dreams and unfulfilled expectations of an entire people scarred by insults and betrayals committed years, even centuries, before her birth. It's 120 minutes of anguished brilliance, and if you don't watch it you're flat-out nuts.

The "rez" of the title is the northeast Oregon reservation of the Umatilla Indian tribe, of which Shoni is a member. As the documentary opens, she is leaving the reservation with Ceci Moses, her mother and coach. They're headed for a bigger high school across the state in Portland, which they hope will serve as a better platform for Shoni to win a basketball scholarship, which no Umatilla has ever done, and for Ceci to prove she can be more than a volunteer coach at a tiny school off all known sports maps.

But Shoni obviously is playing for far more than a college education. In the collective consciousness of the reservation, purposefully or not, she's become the instrument for everything from validation of her parents' interracial marriage to redemption of the Umatilla tribe's hornswooggling by Washington 155 years earlier.

A lot of frustrated jocks, no doubt, live vicariously through the athletic achievements of their kids. But in Shoni's case, the mélange of old disappointments and thwarted ambitions carries a poisonous streak of race. Her white father Ray was a major-league baseball prospect until he dropped out of Stanford to marry her pregnant mother — a marriage that caused much of his town, including his father, to quit speaking to him. Ceci is convinced that her promising high-school basketball career was blighted by a racist coach. And other members of the tribe chime in with tales of Umatillas whose journey to stardom

 Web Search powered by **YAHOO!SEARCH**

Search: Obituaries | Horoscopes | Data Sleuth | Events



MORE TV & RADIO

Center stage beckons for Jason Sudeikis of 'SNL'

Partners made for each other on 'DWTS'

A new World War II documentary honors a long day's dying at the beach

WSVN-7 drops Jose Luis Sin Censura after complaints by gay, Hispanic groups

'Childrens Hospital' is thriving on Cartoon Network's 'Adult Swim'

This new legal buddy show is hardly a trial  
More

VIDEOS

was waylaid by alcohol or racism. For Shoni’s grandmother, what’s at stake is nothing less than compensation for the loss of the tribe’s nomadic life when it was confined to the reservation.

“We’re awfully hurt,” she murmurs. “We’re a hurt people.”

But Shoni’s success on the court in Portland does little to heal the old hurts, especially for her mother. Ceci’s eyes glow with a hellfire rage as she coaches her team to view every game as a war against the rest of the world. Every missed shot, every lost ball, every bad call by a referee is part of a conspiracy against her players.

“Jump on them like they jump on us!” she screams during a timeout in one close game. “[Bleep], you gonna foul, foul good and hard! ...You dig down deep, and you go hard, and you take it away from them. You take it away from all those people who don’t want you to have it!”

But *Off The Rez* is something far more complex than simply a standard text on victimology. Ceci, for all her sensitivity to every real and imagined sleight, acknowledges that not every setback can be chalked up to racism.

“The reservation life is a good thing, but it can also be a bad thing,” she says in a reflective moment. It could hold you down and hold you back. Because there are a ton of Indians that have a lot of talent, and they just don’t do anything with it. ... I was actually one of those.”

Buffeted by such angry torrents (as well as others more temporal; after Ray loses his job in a corporate shuffle, the family faces foreclosure on its new Portland home), it’s hardly a surprise that Shoni grows more taciturn by the day, letting her basketball game do her talking. That part of her story, at least, has a happy ending, as anyone who watched the NCAA women’s basketball tournament this spring knows. What remains to be seen is whether the Schimmel family can answer its own prayer.

“Every night,” Ceci says, “I’m like, ‘God, help me to be a better person. Help me to be better, because I don’t want to be mad. I have a lot to be happy about.’ And I’m trying to get to that point.”

The Miami Herald dealsaver  
Be entered to win \$400 of gas  
Sign-up now

On the Cheap SAVE \$650  
The Miami Herald  
THE NEW K...  
The most in-depth news.  
Now at 50% off regular home delivery!  
Just SUBSCRIBE NOW! \$20

email print Share Twitter Like 10

### Join the discussion

The Miami Herald is pleased to provide this opportunity to share information, experiences and observations about what’s in the news. Some of the comments may be reprinted elsewhere in the site or in the newspaper. We encourage lively, open debate on the issues of the day, and ask that you refrain from profanity, hate speech, personal comments and remarks that are off point. Thank you for taking the time to offer your thoughts.

We have introduced a new commenting system called Disqus for our articles. This allows readers the option of signing in using their Facebook, Twitter, Disqus or existing MiamiHerald.com username and password.

[Read more about the new commenting system on MiamiHerald.com.](#)

1 Comment

ADD NEW COMMENT

Logout

Real-time updating is **enabled**. (Pause)

SHOWING 1 COMMENT

Sort by oldest first

**jdizzle**

The documentary may treat the subject of racism with sophistication, but that won’t stop you from seeing it as vindication for your reactionary views.

### VIDEO FROM OUR PARTNERS

NDN VIDEO

### ON FACEBOOK

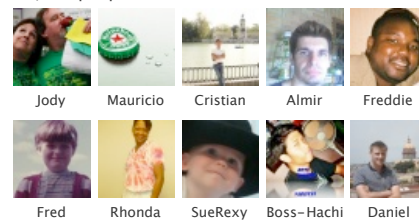
#### Find us on Facebook



The Miami Herald

Like

18,908 people like The Miami Herald.



Facebook social plugin

#### Recommendations

- Hot dog! Spirit Airlines runs Weiner sale - Business**  
246 people shared this.
- Witness releases new video of fatal police-involved shooting during Urban Beach Week - Miami Beach -**  
1,479 people shared this.
- Welfare drug testing signed into law by Fla. Gov. Scott - Politics Wires**  
1,817 people shared this.
- Bahrain media charge that U.S. backs regime's overthrow - World Wires**  
443 people shared this.

3 weeks ago 1 Like Report Abuse

Like Reply

✉ [Subscribe by email](#)  [RSS](#)

**DISH® - Official Site**  
3 Free Mos HBO, Starz or Cinemax! Packages Start at \$24.99/mo for 1yr  
[www.DishNetwork.com](http://www.DishNetwork.com)

**\$79/Hr Job - 434 Openings**  
Make \$79/hr Working From Home. Requirements: Computer. As Seen On MSN.  
[www.gofreelance.com/](http://www.gofreelance.com/)

**Introducing Windows Phone**  
Check Out the New Features of Windows® Phone. View the Demos.  
[Microsoft.com](http://Microsoft.com)

**ADS BY YAHOO!**

 Facebook social plugin

CONCERT TICKETS IN YOUR AREA

- Stevie Wonder**  
7:00 pm, June 13 2011 at Apollo Theater (New York)
- New Kids on the Block with Backstreet Boys**  
7:30 pm, June 12 2011 at Izod Center
- New Kids on the Block with Backstreet Boys**  
7:30 pm, June 13 2011 at Izod Center
- Hall and Oates**  
7:30 pm, June 11 2011 at Nikon at Jones Beach Theater
- The Dodos**  
8:00 pm, June 10 2011 at Music Hall of Williamsburg

QUICK JOB SEARCH

Enter Keyword(s)

Enter City

Select a State

Select a Category

Advanced Job Search  
Search by Category

powered by **careerbuilder.com**

NEWS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | BUSINESS | LIVING | OPINION | CLASSIFIEDS | SERVICES | Site Map

 [RSS](#) |  [My Yahoo](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Widgets](#) | [Mobile](#) | [Alerts](#) | [Twitter](#)

[Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [About our ads](#) | [Copyright](#) | [About The Miami Herald](#) | [About the McClatchy Company](#) | [Corrections](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Work for Us](#)

**Partners:** [El Nuevo Herald](#) | [Newspaper in Education](#) | [WLRN](#) | [Miami Herald News](#) | [CBS4 WFOR-TV](#) | [More](#)

Copyright 2011 Miami Herald Media Co. All rights reserved