



# Women in Baseball Newsletter

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**Kent State University**

## Editor's Note

Welcome to our final edition of our newsletter for 2008. As the year draws to a close there are some exciting things to look back on and look forward to in 2009.

Our committee continues to be active with lots of people writing and playing. We had good attendance and an excellent presentation by Justine Siegel at our Annual meeting in July. We have ideas underway for the 2009 conference and would encourage those of you doing research to think about submitting a proposal to present your findings.

Within the last couple of weeks Eri Yoshida was drafted for an independent league team in Japan. She is their first female professional player. She is a knuckleball pitcher who was

drafted along with 31 other players, though she is only 16.

If you are looking for somewhere to go in February you might think about Hong Kong, the host of the 2009 Women's Baseball world Cup. One of the star players for the United States will be pitcher Jen Liu from Niles. Niles, like the other ball players has to pay her own way to go and is currently raising funds to help make this possible. Check out her website at [www.sportfund.com/pitcherjen](http://www.sportfund.com/pitcherjen).

Ashley Stephenson of Mississauga, Canada is one of eleven athletes being considered for the 2008 Tip O'Neill Award from the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame. She is the only woman under consideration based on her

performance at the World Cup. She helped Canada come home with the Silver Medal. She was their team MVP as well as an all-star third baseman at the tournament.

A recent letter reveals that Ethel Condon played with the NY Bloomer Girls when she was only 15 and not 18 as she told the manager in 1925. She played for the team through 1933 when the club disbanded due to the Depression.

These stories and many others are all out there waiting to be documented and passed on. Please help by sending any information you find to us so we can share these history making stories.

Happy holidays!!

Final Edition, 2008

December 2008  
Editor, Leslie Heaphy

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## Women's World Cup 2008

Matsuyama Japan hosted the 2008 World Cup from August 24-29th with eight countries participating. Japan came away the winner with a record of 6-0. Second place belonged to the team from Canada at 4-2 while the United States captured third

place, also at 4-2. The remaining teams included Australia, Korea, India, Chinese Taipei and Hong Kong.

Japan defeated Canada 11-3 in the championship game while the US beat Australia for the bronze behind the strong pitching of All-

Star Marti Sementelli. The final score was 2-1.

Congratulations to all the participants and to the organizers in Japan. Watch for details for the 2009 tournament soon.



**Articles Available\*\*—thanks to Wayne Stivers, Jean Ardell, Rod Nelson, Merrie Fidler, Peter Mancuso, Matthew Bohn, Anne Aronson and Larry Lester.**

“Twice Perfect”—about Jean Faut by Bob Gorman \*\* (11 pages)

“Dottie Collins, 84, Star Pitcher of Women’s Baseball League Dies.”-by Richard Goldstein \*\*

“All American Girls” by Bob Gorman \*\* (9 pages)

Catching the Moon by Crystal Hubbard—children’s book about Toni Stone.

“Players in Pigtailed” short DVD based on book by Shana Corey.

“Baseball Conduct and True Womanhood” by Carol Pierman in Women’s Studies Journal.

“A Game of Her Own”—about Mamie Johnson \*\* (7 pages)

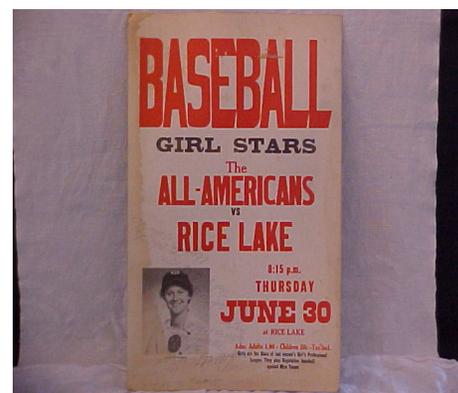
“Japanese Girl, 16, Makes Pitch to go Pro” \*\*

“Finally, a Tough Ticket in St. George”—about GM Jane Rogers \*\* (2 pages)

“Baseball Dream Crushed” \*\*

“Girls Deserve an Equal Shot at the Great American Pastime” Minnesota StarTribune, April 10, 2007

“Leveling the Playing Field: Women’s Baseball in Australia.” Elysian Fields Quarterly, Vol 23: No. 4, Fall 2007



**National Women’s Baseball Hall of Fame**

Melissa Gibbons was recently inducted in to the National Women’s Baseball Hall of Fame for 2008. She is captain for the Blue Crush baseball team and plays pitcher and shortstop. She started the team in 2004 and they play in the Philadelphia Women’s Baseball League.

The other inductee for 2008 was Rosie Weaver, pitcher and catcher for the Virginia Flames for nine seasons.

Both ladies join twenty five other inductees in the Hall.



*Check out their website for further stories about all the inductees.*

*<http://www.eteamz.com/hallfame/>*

**Chicago Women’s Baseball League**

The Gems reached the finals in the Roy Hobbs Tournament in Tucson, AZ and came away with the Silver Medal. They lost 3-0 to the New England Red Sox when their starting pitcher pitched a no-hitter.

The Riveters won the Chicago Women’s Baseball League for 2008 by beating the Comets 11-4 in the championship. Runners up were the Skylines and Turtle rocks. This championship culminated a season that began on June 1st with with much fanfare and

Bridget Venturi Veenema throwing out the first pitch at Bedford Park, IL.

The 2007 winner had been the Turtle Rocks but they gave up their title to the Riveters.



## Those we have lost

Fran Janssen, Nov. 27, 2008 in South Bend, Indiana. She pitched in the league from 1948 to 1952 for seven different ball clubs.

Charlotte Armstrong, November 24, 2008. She played two seasons for the South Bend Blue Sox as a pitcher.



Mary Lou Baskovich, November 8, 2008 in Yorkville, IL. She played in 1949 and 1950 as an outfielder.

Delores Mueller Bajda, September 2, 2008. She pitched and played third base for the South Bend Blue Sox in 1949.

Dottie Collins, August 12, 2008 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She pitched for six seasons in the AAGPBL. She helped form the players association years later and worked with the Hall of Fame to begin the exhibit on Women's baseball that anyone can now visit.

Gai Berlage, August 7, 2008 in Darien, Connecticut. Dr. Berlage wrote a groundbreaking book on women's baseball and lots of scholarly articles on the topic over the years.

## Can you guess this player?

Outfielder, righthanded.

Racine Belles 1943-50, Admiral Music Maids 1951-52.

One of the fastest runners of the AAGPBL, she stole 481 career bases, including a career high 63 in 1944 while playing for the Belles.

A solid hitter, she reached a high of 63 RBIs also in 1944 and ended up 7th on the AAGPBL career list with 392 RBIs.

A noted defensive left-fielder, with a strong throwing arm, she batted .240 in her career in

the AAGPBL. After Racine moved she joined the Music Maids.

If you think you know who this is send your guesses to [Lheaphy@kent.edu](mailto:Lheaphy@kent.edu) and the winner will be listed in the next newsletter. Be sure to include a mailing address with your reply since the winner will receive a small prize.

*Have a story for the newsletter? Want to write a review of a book or movie? Please do so and send to [Lheaphy@kent.edu](mailto:Lheaphy@kent.edu) for publication.*

## WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME CLASSIC BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

by Merrie Fidler

The first Women's Hall of Fame Classic Baseball Tournament opened July 4, 2008, and featured the rededication of Kenosha, Wisconsin's Simmon's Field as the home field of the All-American Girls Base Ball League's (AAGBBL) Kenosha Comets from 1948 through 1951. From 1943 through 1947, the Comets played at Kenosha's Lake Front Stadium which has since been converted into a

## Kenosha Tournament (continued)

marina. The AAGBBL is now familiarly known as the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League or AAGPBL. The field re-dedication ceremonies concluded with former Comet Dolly Brumfield White and Kenoshan Francesca Marrone, dressed in an original Comet uniform, unveiling a plaque commemorating the AAGBBL and the 1948 Com-

American along with a brief recap of her historic baseball exploits. The presentation of the colors by two female army soldiers flanked by four Brownies brought smiles to most faces. Fans and participants further enjoyed collecting All-American autographs which former players graciously penned for over two hours at the end of the morning contest, which saw the New England Red Sox win 6-5 over the

in leading the Stars to a third-place finish, including four shutout innings in the bronze medal win over the Chicago Pioneers.

Players were intense and competition was keen since personnel from the American Women's Baseball Federation were on hand to hold try-outs July 3, and rate USA players during tournament play to represent

ets. The plaque will henceforth be displayed at Simmon's Field.

Besides Dolly White, former Comet players on hand for the celebration were Mamie Redman, Joan Holderness, and Jackie Mattson Baumgart. Other former All-Americans attending the event included Betsy Jochum, Shirley Burkovich, Joyce Hill Aussie Hearts in 12 innings.

The three day tournament's five competing women's baseball teams featured the New England Women's Red Sox, the Nashua Pride (also from New England), the Chicago Pioneers, the Washington (state) Stars, and Australia's Aussie Hearts. The three day tournament ended with the Aussie Hearts outscoring the New England Red Sox

the U.S. at the upcoming Women's World Cup of Baseball. The Women's World Cup was held in Matsuyama, Japan August 24-29, 2008. It featured eight elite teams from Australia, Canada, Japan, India, Hong Kong, Korea, Chinese Taipei, and the United States.

Kenosha's Women's Hall of Fame Classic Baseball Tournament administrators

Westerman, Betty Moczynski, Dolly Konwinski, Anastasia "Stash" Batikis, Lou Erickson Sauer, Dolly Vanderlip Ozburn, Donna Becker, Jeneane DesCombes Lesko, Lou Arnold, and former AAGBBL umpire Emil Pietrangeli.

Some highlights of July 4<sup>th</sup>'s events included an introduction of each former All-

7-1 for the gold medal, and the Washington



Stars pitcher Marty Sementelli was selected as the tournament MVP. She earned a 2-0 record

Stars outdueling the Chicago Pioneers 16 to 4 for the bronze medal. At tournament's end, Washington

Tom Carlson and Mark Hornickel are to be commended for organizing and supervising a competition which connected a generation of women baseball players from the 1940s and 1950s to support and encourage the present generation of women players. The tournament competitors showed that they, in turn, revere and respect their elders.

1951 or 1952 National Chicago League



Joyce Ricketts- back row second from the left,  
played professional softball for the Music  
Maids before the Grand Rapids Chicks recruited  
her to play professional baseball.

## Society for American Baseball Research

### Women in Baseball Committee Newsletter Winter 2008



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*Thanks for sending materials, stories and other materials to us. We depend on your help to get the news out to our members. Feel free to send ideas, stories, photos and other materials including research requests so we can share what is happening in women's baseball.*

*Be thinking about possible presentations for the Annual SABR Conference in Washington, DC in 2009.*

*Watch for a new book coming out in 2009 from new committee member Jennifer Ring called *Stolen Bases: Why American Girls Don't Play Baseball*.*

*Keep sending all your stories and ideas.*

*Happy holidays,*

*Leslie and Claudia*

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## Research Requests

Anyone have any information on a Negro Women's League that may have played in Houston, Texas in the 1930s and 1940s? If you have any leads please send to [Lheaphy@kent.edu](mailto:Lheaphy@kent.edu) and the details will be passed on.

Jean Penzo is looking for any information anyone might have on Maggie Riley who played from 1923 to 1933. If you know anything at all please send her details at [LaLaPenzo@aol.com](mailto:LaLaPenzo@aol.com). She is Maggie's granddaughter.

If anyone is looking for information on the Racine Belles Jason Arndt has offered his assistance in locating materials since he lives in the city. You can contact him at

[J\\_arndt2001@hotmail.com](mailto:J_arndt2001@hotmail.com)

We have another member looking for informa-

tion on Stella Friss who played as a bloomer girl. If you have information please pass on to Jay Nolan at [jaynolan@optonline.net](mailto:jaynolan@optonline.net)

Anyone with any information on the St. Louis Black Bronchos ladies team? Please pass on to [Lheaphy@kent.edu](mailto:Lheaphy@kent.edu) and the details will be given to another member of our committee.

Looking for stories about any of the managers from the AAGPBL, especially from South Bend. Please send to [Lheaphy@kent.edu](mailto:Lheaphy@kent.edu) as we have a couple of interested members.

