

Women in Baseball Newsletter

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Society for American Baseball Research

Special points of interest:

- SABR 39 in Washington, DC
- Olympics 2016
- Research needs
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- College game

Editor-Leslie Heaphy

KSU Stark
6000 Frank Rd
North Canton, OH
44720

Lheaphy@kent.edu

330-244-3304

May 2009

News on the women's baseball front

Welcome to another year of baseball. The major league season is underway and there is lots of baseball happening on many fronts.

Hopefully many of you are planning on attending SABR 39 in Washington, DC in late July. Our committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 30th at 8 a.m. We hope to have some exciting news and presentations during that time. It has just been confirmed that the Negro League Panel at the conference will include Mamie "Peanut" Johnson.

On a variety of other fronts there is a lot going on to make you aware of. There is a big push on right now for women's baseball in the 2016 Olympics. We just witnessed the first all-

college women's baseball game in 100 years and Justine Siegal just got hired as a baseball coach for a professional men's team for the summer.

If you have a facebook account you can join a number of groups promoting women's baseball including the Pawtucket Slaterettes as well as the women's game in general and the AAGPBL.

As you come across articles and stories please share with us so we can all learn and help educate others. Jim Sargent recently shared a video clip —<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfXG2--b6ys> Check it out and see Bonnie Baker from the AAGPBL.

The Betsy Ross museum in Philadelphia has a new baseball exhibit on display that includes photos and text about the Philadelphia Bobbies.

Keep up the good work in promoting and playing the game.
See you in D.C.



Leslie and Claudia-WIBC Co-chairs

1st College Game in 100 Years

SPRINGFIELD - Springfield College sophomore Danielle Sabinski grew up watching her older brother and dad throwing a baseball around in the backyard.

"Oh, I want to try that," she remembered saying.

And so Sabinski did, and she has been playing base-

ball ever since.

Sabinski was one of 24 women representing 10 different colleges who played in yesterday's Friendship Game in the rain at Berry-Allen Field. It is believed to be the first baseball game played entirely by all college women in more than 100 years.

"My goal is to start college baseball for women," Justine Siegal said.

"We have 250,000 girls playing baseball in this country alone, and we want to give them a place to keep playing," said Siegal—Info from Republican Sports Desk, 3 May 2009



Alex Hebert

Women's game takes off in Europe

The speed with which women are taking up baseball in Europe is coming at just the right time for the sport's international profile.

The first US women's team was created in 2004 yet now the success of the International Baseball Federation's campaign to grow women's baseball around the world has sparked the proposal for a women's competition at the Olympics.

Alexander Ratner, second vice-president of the Confederation of European Baseball (CEB)

confirmed, "There are seven European teams taking part in the Baseball World Cup and 22 all together. The fact that the Baseball World Cup will be staged in seven different European countries can also help to promote women's baseball on the continent."

Baseball is one of seven sports competing for perhaps two slots at the Games in 2016 and added its women's competition amendment in April.

IBAF president Harvey Schiller explains: "The growth of the sport in places where baseball

is already popular, as well as the request by new federations to increase the number of young girls playing in baseball, led us to move ahead on this.

—more can be found on this story at Sports Feature Communications or on facebook as a fan of women's baseball at the Olympics

**"My life's work has been about increasing opportunities for girls to play any and all sports.-
Donna Lopiano**

Baseball to Add Women to their Olympic Bid—Frederick Frommer

The IBF has added women's baseball to their bid for reinstatement at the 2016 Olympic games, according to IBF President Harvey Schiller. They decided to add women's baseball because of the growth in the game and in hopes of increasing baseball's overall chance of being accepted for play.

About 300-500,000 girls and women play baseball around the world according to the IBF. This increase has sur-

prised some in the softball world who did not realize there were that many playing.

Baseball player Lilly Jacobson thinks this is a wonderful opportunity for female players who often have to stop after little league because there are no other options besides softball teams. She has played on the Vassar men's baseball team as well as the U.S. National team in international competition. She is hoping this will help

the United States grow more supportive of women's baseball since there are many other countries far ahead of the U. S. in their efforts.

Japan, for example, just signed their first professional female player, Eri Yoshida, to the Kansei Independent League.

This information and much more on this bid can be found at

www.abf.org/

Mackenzie Brown

Mackenzie Brown became the first girl in the history of Bayonne Little League to pitch a perfect game. She retired all 18 boys she faced which is a rare feat for anyone to accomplish. Her feat has led to interviews, national appearances and lots of requests for her autograph. While that is all new, playing baseball is not as Mackenzie has been playing since she was six years old. She has always played with her two

brothers, Daniel and Matthew. Unfortunately when her little league career ends this spring she will be making the switch to softball in hope so being able to play in college. She may also play basketball since she excels at point guard.

More information can be found on the AWF website about Mackenzie and lots of other women's baseball news.



SABR Project

SABR/AAGPBL-PA JOINT BIOGRAPHY PROJECT

The SABR/AAGPBL-Players' Association Joint Biography Project is underway with 13 writers signed up to author 29 All-American biographies. To date, eight of these bios have been completed and are posted on both the SABR and AAGPBL-PA websites.

Since more than 600 women played in the AAGPBL, there is no shortage

of subjects for anyone interested in writing an AAGPBL biography for publication on the two websites. Bill Nowlin (bnowlin@rounder.com) is the SABR coordinator and Merrie Fidler (rcscape1@suddenlink.net) is the AAGPBL-PA coordinator for the project. Contact either one to sign on and obtain SABR's biography standards and guidelines.

Any college teachers/professors who can incorporate biography writing into their curriculum are en-

couraged to suggest the option of writing an AAGPBL player biography to their students—especially any baseball/softball playing students or students who are baseball/softball fans. They'll be held to SABR's high standards for writing biographies; they'll meet some wonderful and interesting ladies; and they'll have the opportunity to be published on the websites. Contact Merrie Fidler for AAGPBL players located in students' home states and possibly even home towns.

“Baseball is a great sport for anyone who wants to play regardless of who they are or where they come from.”

Brockton Rocks and other updates

The Brockton Rocks, an independent men's club from Massachusetts have recently hired Justine Siegal as the first woman coach of a men's baseball club. This is an exciting opportunity for Justine and we congratulate her on this new role.

Marilyn Cohen just finished **No Girls in the Clubhouse**, published by McFarland in 2009.

I know there are others out there working on projects—keep us posted so we can read what you have written.

New book called **Stolen Bases** by Jennifer Ring, published by the University of Illinois Press.



AAGPBL Panel at the Hall of Fame, 2006

Research Requests

Did players typically travel by bus or train to join teams in the AAGPBL?

Looking for information or even photos of the ball parks the South Bend Blue Sox played in back in the 1940s and 1950s. Any help please send to Leslie (lheaphy@kent.edu) and it will be passed on.

Any info. On the files of Art Meyerhoff from the days of the AAGPBL?

Any one with articles from the 2008 women's baseball season—please send them along. Can never have too many copies.

Have a reader looking for information on Edith Houghton—any good sources you are aware of?

Another reader is looking for information about female little league players—if you have names, years, cities that would be great. She is try-

ing to make a case for her daughter to play.

Remember anything you find related to women's baseball please send along so we can share this with others. Never assume someone else sent copies.

Send all to Lheaphy@kent.edu or Leslie Heaphy KSU Stark 6000 Frank Rd, North Canton, OH 44720

Thanks!!

THE NEW YORK NGBBL—Excerpts

by Merrie Fidler

On June 18, 1948, the *New York Post Home News* reported that “The entrenched All-American Girls’ Baseball League and the newly-organized National Girls’ League, which will make its debut as a four-team professional circuit in New York next year, have agreed to harmony and will sign a mutual pact of friendship in the near future.” The article went on to say that Max Carey had met with “Lou Haneles and Eddie Ainsmith, president and director of operations respectively on the newly organized National League,” and the trio had reached accord on five points of a working agreement:

The rival loops would respect each others’ contracts.

The rival loops would respect each others’ territorial rights.

Both loops agree to mutual swapping of players.

Raiding of players is banned.

Organization of minor leagues in the East and West.

The plan included employing a paid commissioner of girls’ baseball to settle disputes and act as overseer of both leagues. “Pennant races would be held in each loop with the flag winners tangling in a World Series.” Both leagues would use a 10-inch ball and there was a plan to interest schools and colleges to add girls’ baseball to the sports curriculum. The article also reported that “According to Haneles, the girls in his league would be attired in colorful satin sport dresses flared four inches above the knee” and shorts reinforced with sliding pads. The first tryouts were to be held June 19, 1948 at “Sterling Oval, 165th St. and Teller Av., starting at 10 a.m. and continuing until 2 p.m.”

A follow-up newspaper article reported that Haneles, a former City College baseball captain, coach, professional player and manager, had big plans for the NY NGBBL reminiscent of the AAGBBL:

“They’ll go to spring training in Mexico or Cuba and play exhibition games back to New York.

Tentative plans call for this new girls’ major league to start the season May 1, 1949, with a 130 game schedule through Labor Day. They will play night ball, except on Sunday afternoons.

Research Available—1 stamp per 4 pages

Articles shared by Merrie Fidler, Larry Lester, Peter Mancuso, Fred Schuld, Justine Siegal, Wayne Stivers,

“Finally, A Tough Ticket in St. George” Staten Island Advance, 2008 **

“Girl Kicks her Way into History” Chicago Tribune. **

“Japanese Girl, 16, Makes Pitch to go Pro.” Chicago Tribune. **

“Alex Hebert of Webster Thomas Living a Baseball Dream,” Democrat Chronicle. **

“Female Baseball Player Feels at Home with the Boys,” The Miscellany News. **

“A League of their own Here in D. C.” **

Patrick Walsh “Despite rule Change, the Diamond is Men Only.” **

“Baseball Focuses on Europe for 2016.”**

“Justine Siegal Joins Brockton Rocks Coaching Staff,” **

“The Friendship Game is the First Baseball Game Played by all College Women in over 100 Years,” www.masslive.com**

“Ferguson Thankful to God for help in Fulfilling Her Dreams,” Standard-Speaker.**

“All American Girls on display,” 3/4/09**

“In a League of Her Own, Nevada Appeal**

“No Knuckling Under for Her,” Christian Science Monitor**

Thanks to all who send in materials.

Enjoy the 2009 baseball season—Leslie and Claudia

Co-chairs WIBC

