



SABR WOMEN IN BASEBALL COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1, NO. 1  
JUNE, 1991

By the time you receive this newsletter many of you should be returning from the 1991 SABR convention. Just one week ago, I had to cancel my plans to attend this year's meeting. As of this writing I've been unable to arrange for a replacement to chair our Saturday morning committee meeting, but I trust that will occur before you get this mailing. In addition to our meeting there will be a series of committee chair meetings which Peter Bjarkman and Mark Rucker, the SABR Board liaisons are aware that I'll be missing, so hopefully they'll arrange to pass along any materials from those meetings.

The Committee Chair meetings are scheduled beginning Thursday evening. The topics of discussion include the following issues:

- 1) Who should belong to SABR research committees and receive newsletters? Should non-members pay a fee for membership?
- 2) Should fees be charged committee members to cover copying and mailing? Should there be dues in addition to the SABR dues? Should fees be waived for research contributions?
- 3) Should committee newsletters be sent to the SABR office for bulk mailing?
- 4) Should newsletters be restricted to a similar format to cut costs?
- 5) Should committees raise any funds of their own? If so, what approval must be obtained? Should committees publish without the approval of the Publications Director and central office?
- 6) What should be the term of office for a committee chairperson? What policy should be adopted to train new chairs? Should each committee have a co-chair or assistant chair who rotates into the chair?
- 7) What is the mission of the SABR research committees? Should they advocate or lobby for political positions?

So, as you can see, many of the committees are concerned with trying to get guidelines as to just how we should be functioning. I hope that you will have had an opportunity to get together and discuss your feelings about these issues at the convention.

"...OUR GIRLS BASE BALL CLUB (IS ON A) LIVELY TOUR OF NEW ENGLAND...SPECTATORS TEASE THEM UNMERCIFULLY, SOMETIMES TRIP THEM UP AS THEY RUN, AND EVEN SEIZE AND KISS THEM..."

Muskegon News and Reporter

August 13, 1879

Submitted by Julie Avery

#### MORE THAN ONE WAY

Barbara Gregorich with thanks to Rory Metcalf

When 17-year-old southpaw Jackie Mitchell was signed by the minor league Chattanooga Lookouts in 1931, Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis voided her contract before 24 hours had passed. Similarly, when the Harrisburg Senators signed Eleanor Engle in 1952, George Trautman, President of the National Association, consulted with Commissioner Ford Frick and ruled that women could not be signed to contracts in organized baseball.

The woman who first plays major league baseball will most likely come up through the ranks of Little League, college, and the minors. But according to the Cincinnati Post, one woman (and only one) has already batted in the major leagues.

This was Kitty Burke, who, at a July 31, 1935 Reds vs Cardinals game at Crosley Field heckled the Cardinals so thoroughly that the angry players responded by challenging her to do better. Burke, a nightclub entertainer, stepped to the plate and faced the pitcher.

In an item titled "Slices of Cincinnati", the August 9, 1990 issue of the Post reports that Burke made an out, but doesn't report how. The Cardinals

wanted the out to count against the Reds, but apparently the umpire disallowed it.

Maybe there's a lesson here for those who want social change: make noise about it--and take lots of batting practice.

#### A NOTE FROM THE MOVIES

According to former All American Girls Baseball player Jayne Krick, tryouts were recently held in Skokie, Ill., for the real veteran players who wished to audition for a role in the upcoming feature movie about the Wrigley girls baseball league. Sixty former professional women ballplayers were on hand for the auditions. The veterans had an opportunity to show the Hollywood starlets, including Madonna, how to play real baseball. Krick

didn't seem hopeful that the starlets would ever pose a serious threat to the Major League rosters.

Contrary to earlier announcements, actress Deborah Winger, is apparently no longer under contract to play the lead role in A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN. Krick reports that Tom Hanks is still contending for the lead male role in the film. Penny Marshall, producer, remains a popular favorite with the women of the All American Girls Professional Baseball League Player's Association. Marshall first persuaded the League Association to consider her interest in doing their story when she put in a personal appearance at the Nation Baseball Hall of Fame opening of the Women In Baseball exhibit in 1988. Her approachability was a major factor in the development of a working agreement for the film. After a year's delay, filming is once again scheduled to begin this July, with several sites including Evansville, Indiana and Cooperstown, New York slated to be major focal points of the action shots.

---Submitted by Sharon Roepke

#### CLOSING TIDBITS

Please send news about the SABR convention and any new items about women in baseball for the next newsletter. I am hopeful that we'll have sufficient news to publish the newsletter at least quarterly in this upcoming year. Does anyone have a preference for what we call our publication? If so, please give me your suggestions. I hope to give you a new directory of interested members by September. I'll be working on including additional stories you've sent in newsletter No.2. Please send future articles by Sept. 15th. Have a great summer---see you at the ball park!

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PS

Before going to press I was able to reach Barbara Gregorich who graciously agreed to chair the Women In Baseball Committee meeting. Despite some confusion over the absence of an identified committee meeting time in the convention schedule I'm sure Barbara managed to get several of you together. I look forward to her post convention report. In the next issue I'll pass along Barbara's committee report.

