

**Women in Baseball
Committee Newsletter**

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Send info., questions, submissions, etc to Leslie Heaphy, 135 Hillcrest Ave North Canton, OH 44720, or e-mail; Lheaphy@kent.edu

As fall approaches baseball is gearing up on all fronts for the end of the season fireworks with playoffs and the World Series coming. The Women's World Series this year is being held at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex from October 7-10, 2005. The format is a little different this year with three divisions of teams. There will be the International Division for the World Series champion plus a women's division and a 13 and under division. This is an exciting development to allow more women to compete on a higher level.

We had an exciting committee meeting in Toronto at the National SABR meeting. Lots of people attended our meeting and you can read about all the events elsewhere in the newsletter in a review by Jean Ardell. In addition to our committee time we also were treated to a wonderful session on Women's baseball moderated by Jean Ardell that included Patrick McCauley from Canadian Women's baseball, a Canadian player and Shawna Kook an umpire. Those who attended learned a great deal about the recent history and present situation of women's baseball in Canada. It was an encouraging picture. Please send me any and all articles, programs, citations etc that you find. It will be better for me to receive the information four times than not at all. You can either mail the materials to me or attach them as e-mails or even fax an article to me at 330-494-6121. Thanks in advance for your continued help in preserving the history of women in baseball.

Encyclopedia Update: McFarland has begun publicizing the book and it should be out this November. Lots of photos and articles plus an extensive bibliography are included. We hope it will generate lots of new research as we see all the things we know and all that is still missing. This is a starting point to continue to add to so please keep sending articles.



TEAM USA Celebrating in 2004 at the World Cup—photo from Jim Glennie

Recent books, articles, websites and other projects. Thanks to the following people for sending material.

Jean Ardell, Evelyn Begley, Dick Clark, Jim Glennie, Claudia Perry, Justine Siegel, Wayne Stivers,
(*Denotes item available for a SASE, 1 stamp per 4 pages).

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Research Requests

Hello, I am a fellow SABR member.

I have been doing research on baseball's longest and shortest games for the past 42 years, and I am very interested in discovering more about the longest and shortest games in women's baseball.

Is there any possibility that you can post this to your Committee Newsletter/e-mail list/website, and distribute this to the attendees at your committee meeting in August at the Toronto convention? I am very appreciative of your help.

I am hoping that some of your members may be able to help me with perhaps some games that have been omitted, that I have not discovered yet.

Thank you very much.

Phil Lowry
4323 Woodhill Road
Minnetonka, MN 55345
USA
(612) 281-2713

RAIN DELAYS OF 3 OR MORE HOURS

none found yet

DOUBLEHEADERS TAKING 25 OR MORE INNINGS (only one found yet)

28 ? Marsh Field, Muskegon, Michigan ?
?/?/1949 ? All-American Girls? League ?
Muskegon Lassies 1 Rockford Peaches 0 in 3:02
and 22 innings, then Rockford 3 Muskegon 1 in 6
innings.

GAMES LASTING 20 OR MORE INNINGS (only four found so far)

22 innings ? Horlick Athletic Field, Racine,
Wisconsin ? 7/31/1947 ? South Bend Blue Sox 4
Racine Belles 3 in 4:30 - 1456 fans.

20 ? Playland Park, South Bend, Indiana ?
9/10/1948 ? South Bend Blue Sox 3 Grand Rapids
Chicks 2. time of game? attendance?

22 ? Marsh Field, Muskegon, Michigan ?
?/?/1949 ? Muskegon Lassies 1 Rockford
Peaches 0 in 3:02, then Rockford 3 Muskegon 1 in
6 innings. date? time of game in second game?
attendance?

65 ? Tucson Electric Park, Tucson, Arizona -
10/18/2003 and 10/19/2003 ? American Women's
League - African Gray Birds 127 Red-Eyed Nites
110 in 24:12 ? 100 fans at start, 50 fans at 6 PM,
25 fans at Midnight, 0 fans at 6 AM, 12 fans at end
- finished at 12:20 PM on 10/19 ? planned
marathon.

GAMES ENDING AFTER 1 AM LOCAL TIME (only two found so far)

3:30 AM ? Al Lang Field, St. Petersburg, Florida ?
9/3/2002 ? American Women's League/Women's
World Series II ? rain/hurricane delay 5:00 in prior
game, Australia 12 Canada 2 in 2:30.

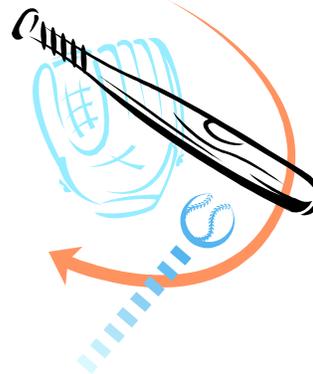
12:20 PM ? Tucson Electric Park, Tucson,
Arizona - 10/18/2003 and 10/19/2003 ? African
Gray Birds 127 Red-Eyed Nites 110 in 24:12 and
65 innings - 100 fans at start, 50 fans at 6 PM, 25
fans at Midnight, 0 fans at 6 AM, 12 fans at end ?
planned marathon.

GAMES TAKING SIX OR MORE HOURS (none found so far)

longest found: 4:30 ? Horlick Athletic Field,
Racine, Wisconsin ? 7/31/1947 ? All-American
Girls? League ? South Bend Blue Sox 4 Racine
Belles 3 in 22 innings.

What are you looking for? What are you
currently working on? Let us know and we
can help one another as we are doing our
research.

If you have a topic you are researching let me
know what it is and I can now check the
bibliography I have for what articles,
collections etc I am aware of on all kinds of
subjects.



Ever get a chance to interview any women
ball players? We need to be thinking about
documenting the current game as women are
playing so that we are not searching for the
stories 30 years from now. What about taking
pictures at a game and saving them? Evelyn
Begely recently completed an interview with
former AAGPBL Player Gloria Cordes for the
Oral history committee and shared copies of
that interview for our archives. It is a
wonderful resource.

Toronto Recap:

The Women's Committee meeting in Toronto was somewhat different this year because three female authors spoke about their experiences in writing about women in baseball. We were honored to have Dorothy Jane Mills, the widow of the noted baseball historian Harold Seymour, speak about how and why she wrote "A Woman's Work: Writing Baseball History with Harold Seymour" (McFarland & Co., 2004). The operative word here is "with", because Dorothy was the unacknowledged co-author of the trilogy of baseball histories, "Baseball: The Early Years," "Baseball: The Golden Age," and "Baseball: The People's Game," that gained her husband recognition as the game's pre-eminent historian. Even Harold's ground-breaking dissertation for Cornell University (the first such on baseball history) was intensively researched and extensively edited by Dorothy. Dorothy explained how she sandwiched her own writing, she has published about 20 books, between her work for Seymour. "A Woman's Work" is testimony as to how "things were done" in mid-20th-century America, and well worth the read.

Carolyn M. Trombe, the author of the biography "Dottie Wiltse Collins: Strikeout Queen of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League" (McFarland, 2005) explained that while the overall story of the AAGPBL has been told in book form, too few biographies of the individual players have been produced. Members of the committee are urged to consider contacting the players of the AAGPBL in their areas in order to get on record their personal stories -- as oral history or biography.

Jean Ardell spoke about her twelve-year odyssey in writing "Breaking into Baseball: Women and the National Pastime" (Southern Illinois University Press, 2005). What began as a "short" book, with nine manila folders (for the envisioned nine chapters) grew to a 288-page story of women's involvement in all aspects of the game -- as fans, amateur and professional players, umpires, front office executives and owners, in the media, as well as Baseball Annies. The research accumulated outgrew the nine folders to fill a bank of 16 metal file drawers. Message: there is much more work waiting to be done on the subject.

Susan Dellinger talked about her forthcoming book "Red Legs and Black Sox: Edd Roush and the Untold Story of the 1919 World Series." Due out February 2006. The Women's Encyclopedia of Baseball and John Kovach's book were also brought to people's attention.

In the best spirit of SABR, the attendees of the meeting congratulated one another on the work accomplished

and encouraged one another on works in progress. Write on, everyone!

Submitted by Jean Ardell

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL CLUB FORMED

(Notre Dame, Indiana) After two years of research and planning, a collegiate baseball opportunity for women is now a reality! Saint Mary's College celebrates the 100th anniversary of when baseball was first played on its campus by announcing that it will offer a club sport opportunity in baseball for its students and the female students from the University of Notre Dame. According to club sponsor John Kovach, the Archivist at Saint Mary's and a member of AAU Women's Baseball Committee, 26 different colleges and universities in the Midwest and east had expressed an interest in forming a women's baseball club. "Many of these institutions though, were looking for a model of a program already in place and Saint Mary's has chosen to be the leader in this movement," according to Kovach. "Since the first organized women's baseball was played at a women's college (Vassar), it makes sense that a women's college should be the leader in the new movement. Plus, from Saint Mary's perspective with it being the 100th anniversary of baseball introduced on campus, it's historically important as well," he went on to add. The women from Saint Mary's and Notre Dame will attend baseball clinics led by college and professional baseball coaches. They will have the opportunity to play a number of games this fall and will look to tentatively close the baseball season with a Women's Baseball Festival at Stanley Coveleski Regional Stadium in South Bend, Indiana. Finally, the student-athletes will get an opportunity to learn about the history of girls and women in baseball along with current issues that exist in the lack of baseball opportunity for females.

The organizational aspects of creating a women's baseball club on the collegiate level will be available later this fall on CD and more discussions with officials from the NCAA and NAIA will take place to help the programs evolve. "This information is meant to be a guideline that can be tweaked for the special needs on any size college or university," said Kovach. "This is a strong grass roots opportunity which will give many women a chance to experience or re-experience baseball. These women may join existing teams in their area or decide to create teams where there are none. Eventually, we could see women's baseball as an intercollegiate sports opportunity. Right now however, we take it a step at a time," Kovach went on to say.

For more information on the collegiate women's baseball club sport, contact Kovach at jkovach@saintmarys.edu.

Congrats Great Lakes League on your 10 year anniversary, great job!!

Melanie Laspina
Cal Women's Baseball

I just wanted to let you know that I just successfully defended my master's thesis in history at Arizona State University. The topic is the history of two women's fastpitch softball teams in Phoenix from 1932 to 1965 that won national championships.

>> The thesis also contains information about 17 women who played in the AAGPBL league and also played softball on these two teams in Phoenix. One team, the A-1 Queens, was semi-pro from 1947 - 1954. My thesis lists the salaries of a few of the women, including the salaries of former AAGPBL players Carolyn Morris, Charlotte Armstrong, Mary Weddle, Sophie Kurys, Joanne Winter, and Dot Whalen. I also included photographs of the softball players.

There are photographs of several former AAGPBL players, including Merle Keagle, Kay Rohrer, Dodie Nelson, and Helene Machado, Carolyn

>Morris, and Charlotte Armstrong.

>> Anyway, the exact title is THE QUEENS AND THE RAMBLERS: WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP SOFTBALL IN PHOENIX, 1932-1965. It is a master's thesis in history at Arizona State University, December 2004. It should be available on microfilm or microfiche someday. Anyone who wants a printed copy can email me.

>> Laura Purcell

>> Phoenix, Arizona

>> laurapurcell@go.com

Breaking Into Baseball: Women and the National Pastime, By Jean Hastings

Ardell (Southern Illinois University Press, 279pp.)

Women have played different roles in baseball's history and Ardell's thorough, well-written book takes just about all of them into account. You read of players past, present and future, fans, owners, umpires and front office types. No book before this one has tried to encompass all aspects of women's involvement with baseball. From tight pants to pitching high and tight, it's all here. Ardell also offers some analysis of baseball's inherent

femininity with quotes from those who view the diamond and ballpark entrances as womblike. Whether you favor this sort of ovarian thinking or not, it's a perspective that male authors are not likely to explore, even to dismiss. In one of the most harrowing sections of the book, a Baseball Annie tells her story of being willing to subjugate her identity to be close to a player. In her words, she sees herself as making the big leagues in her own way until she realizes what it costs her for her bit part in "The Show".

In the same vein, Ardell's writing about Ila Borders' struggle to pitch against men at college and in the independent leagues is dazzling. Borders burns to play, but her gender makes that burning desire peculiar and suspect in the eyes of many.

If you buy one book about women and baseball this year, this is the one. A perfect gift for every girl who wants to know how women have changed and enhanced the game.

-- Claudia Perry

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"Vanden grad makes pitch for baseball
Dominisha Britton is seen as an ambassador
for women who just love to play the sport."
By Brian McCaleb/Sports Writer
TheReporter.Com

What does Vanden High School graduate Dominisha Britton have in common with Will Ferrell, a two-foot tall Japanese robot named "QRIO", and former U.S. President William Howard Taft? Not a heckuva lot. But all four figures have - or will have after tonight - thrown out the ceremonial first pitch at a Major League Baseball game, when Britton, 19, winds up and delivers before tonight's Chicago Cubs-Cincinnati Reds game at Wrigley Field.

"It's going to be a lot of fun being out there in front of thousands of people," Britton said. The Morgan State University sophomore's moment in the Midwest sun will be twice as nice since she'll be opening the game for her favorite manager's team.

"I was at a San Francisco Giants game in 1994 and he gave me an autographed ball," Britton said, downplaying the encounter with Dusty Baker considerably.

"I didn't even know who he was because I was pretty young," Britton added. "But everybody else was yelling his name, so I did too. He picked me out of the crowd and took me into his office and signed a ball and gave it to me."

Britton said she still keeps up with Baker from time to time on the phone, talking about baseball. It's a common passion.

And Britton's compiling up a resume that might look better than Baker's soon.

Britton helped pitch the first ever U.S. National Women's Baseball team to the gold medal in the 2004 World Cup, an achievement she had prepared for while striking out boys her age in various Solano County little leagues as a youngster.

Her youthful love affair began with T-ball in Hayward and blossomed in the East Vallejo Little League after her family moved there. Another move, to Suisun City, meant new leagues, and Britton became a force in both the Suisun American Little League and the Fairfield Pony League.

When she got to Vanden, Britton played on the freshman baseball team because she didn't want to give the sport up.

"A lot of coaches tried to get girls to switch to softball, but I never wanted to," Britton said, though she gave softball half a try with the Vikings one year.

But Britton never did give baseball up – and still hasn't. In addition to the World Cup last year, she's played in the 1999 and 2001 American Women's Baseball League World Series, and most recently, Britton pitched for the San Francisco Fillies of the California Women's Baseball League.

It's that stubborn loyalty to baseball that put Britton on the mound at Wrigley to honor girls playing little league baseball and women who continue in the sport once they are older.

She's been touring the country in the last year promoting the game and a female's place in it, using her U.S. National Team credentials to get her foot in the door at such events as a Philadelphia 76ers-Los Angeles Clippers game and the 25th Annual Salute to Women in Sports Awards Gala in New York.

Now, Britton is a two-sport scholarship athlete at Morgan State in Baltimore, Md. After getting into the swing of college life her freshman year, the sophomore negotiated a partial scholarship to play basketball as well as softball for the Lady Bears in 2005-06.

However, since finding a women's competitive baseball league to join can be difficult, especially during the summer, Britton hasn't thrown that much in the last year.

"It's kind of hard to work out just pitching," Britton said. "I try to, but if I find any leagues to play in, I'll do it."

Any rust that has settled on her right arm isn't nearly enough to worry her about bouncing one to the plate at Wrigley.

"Playing in a World Cup game taught me about pressure," Britton said. "I wasn't nervous then so I think I'll be able to just be excited for the moment," though she admitted butterflies could always sneak up on her. "Hopefully I'll make it over the plate."

And out of Britton, Ferrell, QRIO and Taft ...Britton's the only one likely to throw a strike.

Just finished reading John Kovach's pictorial history of women's baseball, published by Arcadia. If you have not yet seen a copy I highly recommend it. There are some great pictures in this book, many that you will have never seen before. Nice Job John!!

Check out Women's Baseball League for the up-to-date results of recent tournaments and upcoming games.

If you could create your own Mt. Rushmore of Women's Baseball what four would you place on your mountain and why? Please send your choices to me and I will include the results in our next newsletter.

Please send correspondence, questions, suggestions, ideas to Leslie Heaphy for future newsletters. Our committee is only as active as you the members help to make it. Thanks for your help in keeping our list updated. Just a reminder that some of you have not paid your dues to SABR yet this year and should send that in if you also want to continue receiving other SABR publications.

Thanks,
Leslie and Claudia



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