

Spring 2018 Vol. 6

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Women in Baseball Newsletter

© Society for American Baseball Research

The 2018 baseball season is underway and we are excited as always to see what it brings. There is also lots of women's baseball being played as well.

Excited to report that we are seeking applications for our second annual women's [baseball scholarships](#). The deadline for essays is August 13th. If you are willing to contribute please donate online and indicate it is for the women's committee scholarship or send in a check to SABR with the same note. Thanks in advance.

Second, we named the inaugural Dorothy Seymour mills Lifetime Achievement Award winner, Perry Barber. The award will be presented at our meeting in Pittsburgh at the end of June. **Our meeting will be Thursday June 21st from 1:45 – 2:45** with A. J. Richard as our guest speaker. A. J. is the founder of the Women Belong in Baseball networking group and Baseball For All volunteer. Also, if you will be in **Pittsburgh plan on joining us for our annual get-together at 4:15 p.m. on the 21st—place to be announced.** Watch for the call for nominations for the 2018 award in early spring. Deadline for 2018 nominations is September 4, 2018.

We are also continuing our partnership with The International Women's Baseball Center with our 2nd Art Competition. Check SABR website for more details. Please spread the word. The deadline is July 9th.

This coming year is the 75th Anniversary of the AAGPBL and there will be many events happening all over the country so watch for news and please share what you hear and attend. Rockford is hosting a series of events May 30, June 1-3, 2018. The IWBC has begun their work to raise funds to build a museum in Rockford, IL, home of the Rockford Peaches. Check out their [website](#) for the 2018 calendars and bobbleheads they have available.

The Women's Baseball [World Cup](#) will be played in Viero, FL from August 17-26, 2018. Mark your calendars for this exciting event happening in the US.

If you are aware of events/programs or news related to women in baseball, please share that news. If you attend any games, please share photos and game accounts. If you have research to share or want to write a review of a book, please do so and share. We would love to share anything you provide with our readers. Just send any information to

lheaphy@kent.edu.

Leslie Heaphy, Committee Chair

Follow all the news at Twitter @womenbaseball1

In the News

Announcers

Emma Tiedemann is the newest announcer for the Lexington Legends—[video link](#). And [article](#).

Article about [Jessica Mendoza](#).

[Suzie Cool](#) begins announcing for the Salem Red Sox.

Justine Siegal stories and interviews:

Speaking at the [Women in Strategy](#) Summit in Chicago this November.

[Justine Siegal](#) coaching the pitchers at the Trailblazer Series.

Baseball Games/Tournaments

Eastern Women's Baseball Conference [Diamond Classic 2018](#).

2018 [Trailblazers Series information](#). Held April 12-16, 2018.

Women's Baseball [Asian Championship](#) announced.

[New South Wales](#) won Australian Women's baseball Championship for 2018.

Girls baseball coming to [Nova Scotia](#).

[Alexia Jorge](#) catching for her Lyndhurst baseball team.

[Olivia Roberto](#) is pitching for Calhoun HS. Has been playing since she was five.

Baseball For All Nationals 2018

August 2-5, 2018: Rockford, IL

- Divisions: 11u, 13u, 14u, 18u
- 200+ girls expected to attend.
- Opening Ceremonies at Beyer Stadium (home of the AAGPBL Rockford Peaches).
- Any interested players should contact Baseball For All for particulars.
- Be Ready to Have Some FUN!

BFA Regional Tournaments:

1. Maria Pepe Baseball Series

Postponed till Fall 2018, Due to Rainout

Edgewater, NJ: May 19-20

- Divisions: 8u, 11u, 13u, 18u

2. East Bay, CA: June 22-24

- Affiliate tournament
- Divisions: 9u, 11u, 13u, 18u
- Open to all girls who love baseball.
- Email BFA for more details.
- Be Ready to Have Some FUN!

[Girls Travel Baseball](#), July 2017 story.

75th Anniversary Stories

“Seventy-five Years ago, Women’s Baseball Players took the Field,” [Smithsonian article](#)

[Rockford Peaches](#) and the city of Rockford. Peaches and Rockford ready to [celebrate](#) this summer.

Claire Eccles

Back with the [Harbour Cats](#) in 2018. June 10, 2018 is Claire Eccles [Bobblehead Day](#).

World Cup Stories

[World Cup](#) qualifier schedule—Pan Am games. “Women claim [their place](#) in the World of baseball.”

[World Cup](#) to be in Viera in August.

Umpires

[Jen Pawol](#) continuing to make history.

[Women Umpire](#) to join professional Mexican Baseball League in 2018.

[Jen Pawol](#) calling game in Spring Training for the Detroit Tigers.

Obituaries

[Lois “Tommie” Barker](#) (4/4/23-2/14/2018)

[Christine Beckett](#) (Jewitt) (8/326-4/24/2018).

[Gertrude Benner](#) (9/21/31-2/27/2018).

[Gloria Elliott](#) (Cordes) (9/21/30-3/13/2018).

[Jane Moffet](#) (7/2/30-3/16/2018.)

[Ruth Richard](#) (9/20/28- 5/6/2018).

Other Baseball Stories

[Lisa Norrie](#) 1st woman to coach in the Australian Baseball League.

[Emily Jaenson](#) named as Gm for the Reno Aces ball club.

A woman in the Sabermetrics world—[Sherrie Nichols](#).

[Book review](#) of Bloomer Girls.

MLB to host [camps](#) for girls youth baseball.

[Jackie Mitchell](#) and the bloomer girls.

Presentation about [Alta Weiss](#) recap.

[Heather Luna](#) becomes Assistant Gm for San Rafael Pacifics.

“Beyond the Baselines: [Celebrating Women in Baseball](#)”- Seattle Mariners Event on August 21, 2018.

[Ontario Women’s Baseball](#) held two days of clinics on April 28-29, 2018.

Baseball isn't just for boys as [Ava Klein](#) discovered.

What are the chances to [continue to play](#) after Little League?

[London Studer](#) playing for USSSA Baseball.

[Violet Mendez](#) playing baseball in Indian River County.

Miami Marlins hire two women, [Alexandria Rigoli and Melissa Hampton](#).

World's women's baseball elite coming to Viera for 12-team World Cup in August

[Dave Berman](#), FLORIDA TODAY Published 5:06 p.m. ET Feb. 21, 2018 | Updated 5:38 p.m. ET Feb. 21, 2018



(Photo: Women's Baseball Softball Confederation photo)

The national women's baseball teams from 12 countries will be coming to Viera this summer to compete in the Women's Baseball World Cup.

The competition will be held Aug. 22-31 at the U.S. Specialty Sports Association Space Coast Complex, formerly known as Space Coast Stadium. It will attract teams from five continents, and will be broadcast throughout the world.

"The eyes of the sporting world will be on our community, as we welcome guests from around the world to Florida's Space Coast," Space Coast Tourism Director Eric Garvey said.

Officials of the World Baseball Softball Confederation finalized the deal with the Viera-based U.S. Specialty Sports Association this week to hold the event in Viera.

"USSSA's Space Coast Complex is a first-class facility, and promises to be the home of the biggest-ever Women's Baseball World Cup," World Baseball Softball Confederation President Riccardo Fraccari said in a statement. "The Space Coast will be an incredible stage for the players, as well as the fans in the stands and spectators watching around the world."

USSSA officials detailed plans for the event to local community leaders this week, during a meeting at the stadium complex, which has 15 artificial-turf, lighted fields and a broadcast complex.

"The international viability will be huge" for the Space Coast, said USSSA International Vice President D.J. Wabick, who played professional baseball for six years as an outfielder and first baseman in the New York Mets organization.

Wabick said each team in the Women's Baseball World Cup will have 26 people in its official delegation coming to the competition, including players, managers, coaches and other team representatives. Many of the teams also are expected to have large contingents of fans at the competition.

Wabick said many of the teams will come to the Space Coast several weeks before the World Cup begins to train at the USSSA Space Coast Complex.

The World Cup will give a boost to hotels, restaurants, retailers and tourism venues like the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex and the Brevard Zoo.

Garvey said the community needs to be prepared for the World Cup and the 11 foreign nations that will be here, and "really deliver the experience" the Space Coast has to offer.

Garvey said the event presents opportunities for the region to build its future international tourism, as more people from other countries become familiar with the Space Coast through the Women's Baseball World Cup broadcasts.

"I think it's a complete paradigm shift," Garvey said.

USSSA officials say promotional videos about the Space Coast and its attractions will be provided for the game broadcasts.

The Women's Baseball World Cup is held every other year, and is the top competition for women's baseball, which — unlike women's softball — is not an Olympic sport. The 2018 event in Viera will be the eighth Women's Baseball World Cup.

Wabick said he hopes the World Cup event in Viera will lead to other international competitions coming to the USSSA Space Coast Complex — and potentially to having the Switzerland-based World Baseball Softball Confederation having a more extensive presence here.

The confederation has national federation members in 173 countries and territories across Africa, Asia, Europe, North American, Oceania and South America. It was formed in 2013, with the merger of the world governing body of baseball, the International Baseball Federation, and the world governing body of softball, the International Softball Federation.

The hope, Wabick said, is for the World Baseball Softball Confederation to "use the World Cup as their entryway into the United States."

"This is an exciting opportunity for USSSA, the WBSC and the county," with the "hope that this is just the start to additional international opportunities," Wabick said. "We feel that this can be a hub for international sport," particularly baseball and softball.

Kevin Reynolds, general manager of the USSSA Space Coast Complex, said attracting more international events to the Viera complex will depend in part on attracting large and enthusiastic crowds to the World Cup games.

"We want this community to blow their socks off," Reynolds said, and to have the games during the tournament look good on the television broadcasts that will be transmitted worldwide, with filled seats in the stadium. "We want to blow them away."

Garvey said he will be working with the local chambers of commerce and others in the business community to coordinate the efforts to increase public awareness of the Women's Baseball World Cup coming to Viera.

Reynolds said one idea being kicked around is to have each team participating in the World Cup matched up with a local high school, whose students and staff would be fans of the team for the event.

"We want to build that excitement," Reynolds said.

Reynolds said there are also plans for speakers of the teams' native languages to act in the capacity of "team hosts" during the competition.

County Commissioner Jim Barfield said the tournament coming to the Space Coast "is good, clean activity for the county, and I think it's perfect."

"Hosting the WBSC Women's Baseball World Cup is just a dream come true," USSSA Chairman, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer Don DeDonatis said. "It is going to be the main event of the summer" at the USSSA Space Coast Complex.

Opening ceremonies will be Aug. 22. Reynolds said there will be up to three games going on simultaneously during the tournament, with up to six games a day in all. Some will be held in the 8,100-seat main Space Coast Stadium.

The stadium previously was the spring training home for three major league baseball teams.

USSSA recently completed a \$30 million redevelopment of the complex, funded by USSSA

and revenue generated by Brevard County's 5 percent tourist development tax on hotel rooms and other short-term rentals.

USSSA became a World Baseball Softball Confederation associate member in October.

The most recent Women's Baseball World Cup was held in 2016 in Gijang, Korea.

Berman is government editor at FLORIDA TODAY.

About the Women's Baseball World Cup

When: Aug. 22-31

Where: U.S. Specialty Sports Association Space Coast Complex, Viera

Who's playing: Ten nations have qualified for the 12-team Women's Baseball World Cup in Viera: Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei (the international sports team name for Taiwan), Cuba, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, United States and Venezuela.

The two remaining berths will be decided at the inaugural Pan Am Women's Baseball World Cup Qualifier, hosted by the Dominican Baseball Federation in Santo Domingo from March 22-26.

Event format: 44 total games, with an opening round, a "super round," a bronze-medal game and a gold-medal game.

2016 finals: Japan defeated Canada, 10-0, for Japan's fifth straight title.

Dorothy Seymour Mills Lifetime Achievement Award

Nominees.

Read the story about the award winner on the [SABR website](#).

2018 SPECIAL 75TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

[2018 SPECIAL 75TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION](#)

AAGPBL-PA 75 MEMORIAL REUNION - KANSAS CITY, MO
SEPT 6 9, 2018: HOTEL RESERVATIONS AVAILABLE SOON



[Nancy Faust](#) is one of three inductees for 2018 into the Shrine of the Eternals. Faust was the long-time organist at Comiskey Park. She began playing at the park at the age of 23 in 1970 and continued to entertain the fans through 2010.

Toni Stone Bobblehead being given away on June 10, 2018 by the St. Paul Saints. The article that accompanies the story does have an error as it says Stone played in the AAGPBL which she did not. Stone played in the Negro Leagues during the 1950s.

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Calhoun's First Female Pitcher Finishes History-Making Season



<http://www.bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us/news/story.aspx?id=63226>

From the little league mound at age 5 to the hill at Calhoun High School, freshman pitcher Olivia Roberto has completed her debut season as the school's first female baseball player.

"The team has been very welcoming to me," Roberto said. "I have built a trust with them and that carried over onto the field."

With a 4-1 record and 1.71 ERA, Roberto said she trained six days a week on the mound and with a personal trainer on Sundays. She also plays on a travel league, the Oil City Bandits.

Coach John Cruz described Roberto as focused and competitive.

"Her hard work off the field has been the reason she has been successful," he added. "She is a great teammate/player."

The junior varsity squad finished the spring season 11-6.

Final Notes

Please send any and all stories to me for distribution. If you have a research question or need please send that. If

you are at a game, tournament or other women's baseball event, please send photos. Send all to lheaphy@kent.edu

Thanks

Leslie



On June 1, 2018, from 3:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., pick up your Rockford Peaches 75th Anniversary Card with the logo you see here at any of the businesses listed. After you get at least 7 punches as you drink, dine and shop yourself silly, drop it in a "PEACH CRATE" at these same locations to be entered to win a \$500 "Peach Crate" of your own. It'll have you saying, "ZOWIE!"

Remember, the fun begins at 3:30 p.m. on June 1st!

PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES

Chocolat by Daniel, 211 E. State St.
Arch Apothecary, 214 E. State St.
Carlyle Brewing Co., 215 E. State St.
The Collector's Bench, 218 E. State St.
Minglewood, 333 E. State St.
Ground Floor Skateboards, 333 E. State St.
Wired Cafe, 414 E. State St.
EuroStyle Plus, 510 E. State St.
Luna Datura's Curious Gifts, 117 S. 3rd St.

Before June 1st, look for different Peaches 75th Collector Cards at these businesses and throughout River District in downtown Rockford. More businesses will be added to the list with each Collector Card.

*That same night,
June 1st,
check out Rockford Peaches
Day
at City Market,
3:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.,
and
"A League of Their Own"
at Friday Night Flix,
Dusk to 9:30 p.m.,
at Davis Park.*

All events are free to the public.