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SUMMER 2017 | VOLUME 39 | NUMBER 3 | THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE HALL OF FAME

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MEMORIES *and Dreams*

The Official Magazine of the Hall of Fame

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JON SHESTAKOVSKY



ON THE COVER

In this uncredited photo from 1945, Grand Rapids Chicks team members (from left) Betty Wicken, Twi Shively, Joyce Hill, Marge Wenzell and Philomena Gian Fransico chat on the field prior to an All-American Girls Professional Baseball League game. Color has been added to the original photo, taken with black and white film, for the cover of *Memories and Dreams*.



The Baseball Hall of Fame has celebrated the historical role that women have played in baseball in a variety of ways over the

decades. In this issue of *Memories and Dreams*, we explore the impact and contributions women have been making to our National Pastime for the last 150 years.

Perhaps the greatest single impact women have had on our game came during World War II with the formation of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. The AAGPBL was in existence from 1943-54, and over those 12 seasons more than 600 women suited up in tunics to play in a league of their own. Attendance peaked in 1948 when more than

900,000 fans attended games. It was evident that Phil Wrigley's idea to form the league had great merit; it was extremely popular with fans and it provided a new outlet for women to play baseball.

Even the league's official song, called "Victory Song," encouraged women to "play ball," as evidenced in the first verse:

*Batter up!
Hear that call!
The time has come for one and all
To play ball.*

In 1988, the Museum opened its first exhibit to showcase the important history of women's baseball. Our Chief Curator at the time, Ted Spencer, worked with former AAGPBL player Dottie Collins, who spread the word that

we were in need of bats, balls, gloves and tunics to open the exhibit. With Dottie's perseverance and Ted's storytelling, we opened a terrific exhibit!

We invited all of the surviving AAGPBL members to attend, and 150 alumni showed up in Cooperstown for the opening. They were thrilled, as was actress-turned-legendary director Penny Marshall, who decided to attend after reading of the opening in *The New York Times*. She was so moved by the event and by the ladies of the AAGPBL that she decided to tell their great story on the silver screen.

Fast-forward four years to 1992 and the debut of *A League of Their Own*, which was so beloved in theaters that it almost immediately achieved classic status. To show her appreciation to the Museum for inspiring her, Marshall had scenes at Doubleday Field and inside the Hall of Fame at the beginning and end of the film. The result was a much deeper appreciation and understanding of the important role in the history of baseball of the AAGPBL.

The Museum's attendance became more robust, and the sudden interest by women in baseball and the league led to many more artifacts being donated to the Museum. The Library added biographical files of hundreds of former AAGPBL players to its archive, and as a result, our depth of knowledge about the role of women in baseball became greater than ever.

With women taking a more active role in the game on the field and in industries related to the game in the two decades since opening our initial exhibit, we felt a need to expand the story in the Museum. In 2006, we opened a much more comprehensive exhibit called *Diamond Dreams* to show the many ways women embrace baseball, and we also dedicated a statue of an AAGPBL player in our sculpture garden in Cooper Park as a lasting tribute to every girl who played in the league.

Today, there are more than 300,000 girls playing in the various divisions of Little League Softball, and anecdotal evidence shows that participation by girls in baseball has increased over the years, particularly in the youngest divisions.

Additionally, the increasing number of women involved in the game continue to make impressive strides on the diamond and in the front office. One day, Effa Manley, the first female baseball executive to be elected to the Hall of Fame, may have teammates in Cooperstown.



The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League provided women with a chance to show they could excel at the National Pastime.

SHORT HOPS

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For more information and news from the Hall of Fame, visit baseballhall.org.

STAFF SELECTIONS



MILO STEWART / NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Name: Gabrielle Augustine

Position: Assistant Curator

Hall of Fame Experience:

Officially accepted the job June 2, 2016. Since I had to move across the country (I was working in southern Texas), I didn't start until July 18, the week before Induction.

Hometown: Palmerton, Pa.

Favorite Museum Artifact: While it would be easy to pick an artifact of my favorite player (Derek Jeter), my favorite actually is Christy Mathewson's sweater that he wore for the 1913-14 World Tour. As a knitter, I love and appreciate the details throughout the sweater, such as the finer yarn used to create the red pocket welts. For being over 100 years old, this sweater is in amazing condition and I'm thrilled the Hall of Fame has been entrusted with its care and preservation.

Memorable Museum Moment:

During the busier summer months, the entire Hall of Fame staff takes turns with "Plaque Gallery duty" where we ensure visitors' safety, help them find specific plaques and answer their questions. While I was working my first shift, there was a young boy who was attempting to pull out a loose tooth in the gallery so he could say he lost it at the Hall of Fame. It took over 45 minutes, but he eventually got it out with help from his siblings. While I don't recommend that route for every young baseball fan, I bet he'll always remember it!

CORRECTION

On page 13 of the Opening Day issue of *Memories and Dreams*, Christy Mathewson's place of burial was misidentified. Mathewson was buried in Lewisburg, Pa.

MEMBERS MAILBAG

The Healing Power of Baseball

My brother Matthew and I were huge baseball fans growing up, and we were fortunate that our mother always let us plan vacations around visits to Major League Baseball stadiums.

My brother had cancer growing up, and I think that made him an even bigger baseball fan, because the larger-than-life players and games were something he could watch and follow from a hospital bed. In 1998, we went to the All-Star Game and Home Run Derby. My brother was in a wheelchair and had the privilege of watching Ken Griffey Jr. win the Derby. My brother was beside himself, over the moon with excitement.

Four months later, my brother passed and my family found ourselves in a very depressing and difficult state. We used baseball as a healing tool and a way to deal with loss and depression. My brother would have turned 30 years old in the summer of 2016, the same week as Ken Griffey's induction into the Hall of Fame. We knew it was no coincidence and loaded up our family and traveled to Cooperstown to celebrate the festivities surrounding his induction. We had an amazing time sitting on the lawn watching the Induction Ceremony, and couldn't imagine any other way to celebrate Matthew's birthday!

Jason Mason, Des Moines, Iowa



The Masons honored Matthew Mason's memory at the 2016 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in Cooperstown.

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Cooperstown's Finest

The Class of 2017 will be inducted July 30 as part of Hall of Fame Weekend.

BY CRAIG MUDER

They'll arrive from all directions, crossing state lines and international borders en route to the home of baseball.

They're here to see their heroes become immortals – and mingle with history itself. And it will all happen in the tiny Central New York village known as Cooperstown.

Over the past three Induction Weekends, an estimated 120,000-plus fans have come to Cooperstown to experience Hall of Fame

Weekend. And with a star-studded Class of 2017 on tap this July, the shores of Otsego Lake are once again expected to be filled with fans.

Jeff Bagwell, Tim Raines, Iván Rodríguez, John Schuerholz and Bud Selig form this year's class and will be inducted July 30 at the Clark Sports Center. The Induction Ceremony, which starts at 1:30 p.m. (ET) and will be televised live by MLB Network, is expected to feature more than four dozen returning Hall of Famers.

"It's been a day I've been waiting for a long



Former MLB Commissioner Allan H. "Bud" Selig (left) and Royals and Braves general manager John Schuerholz were elected as members of the Hall of Fame Class of 2017 by the Today's Game Era Committee in December.

time, at least for the last two years anyway," said Raines, who was elected to the Hall of Fame on his final appearance on the Baseball Writers' Association of America ballot in January. "It's kind of unbelievable."

Bagwell, Raines and Rodríguez were each elected by the BBWAA, while Schuerholz and Selig earned election via the Today's Game Era Committee in December.

Bagwell played his entire career with the Astros from 1991-2005, earning the 1991 National League Rookie of the Year Award and the 1994 NL Most Valuable Player Award along the way.

Raines stole 808 bases over 23 seasons with the Expos, White Sox, Yankees, Athletics, Orioles and Marlins. He is the only player in big league history with six straight seasons (1981-86) with at least 70 steals.

Rodríguez is the all-time leader in games caught with 2,427 and won a record 13 Gold Glove Awards as a catcher to go along with his 14 All-Star Game selections.

Schuerholz assembled World Series winners with the Royals (1985) and the Braves (1995) as a general manager for almost three decades. His Braves teams qualified for 14 consecutive Postseasons.

Selig was baseball's commissioner for 23 seasons, overseeing record growth as well as two rounds of expansion and the institution of the expanded Postseason.

Hall of Fame Weekend gets underway on Friday, July 28, with the annual PLAY Ball with Ozzie Smith event. Ozzie and his Hall of Famer guests will greet fans in the Museum's Plaque Gallery before heading out to a



Left to right: Iván Rodríguez, Tim Raines and Jeff Bagwell were elected as the Baseball Writers' Association of America's Hall of Fame Class of 2017 in January.



MILIO STEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Hall of Famer Tony La Russa signs autographs for fans during the *Parade of Legends* in 2016. The event features returning Hall of Famers on Main Street in Cooperstown on the evening before the annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. **Below:** Pedro Martínez celebrates during the 2015 Induction Ceremony, which featured thousands of fans from the Dominican Republic celebrating their countryman's induction. The election of Iván Rodríguez, who is a native of Puerto Rico, brings the number of Latin American-born Hall of Famers to 12.



MILIO STEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Cooperstown-area diamond to field grounders and reminisce about their playing days. The event, now in its 16th year, is a fundraiser for the Museum's educational outreach programs. Spots can be reserved by calling (607) 547-0397.

Saturday of Induction Weekend features the annual *Awards Presentation* at historic Doubleday Field. Starting at 4:30 p.m. on July 29, the event will feature J.G. Taylor Spink Award winner Claire Smith and the posthumous awarding of the Ford C. Frick Award to Bill King.

Smith, a groundbreaking journalist who currently works for ESPN, will receive the BBWAA's Spink Award, which honors meritorious contributions to baseball writing. King, who called Oakland Athletics games for a quarter of a century, will be honored with the Hall of Fame's Frick Award for broadcast excellence.

Admission to the *Awards Presentation* is free. Immediately following the *Awards Presentation* will be the *Parade of Legends*, featuring the returning Hall of Famers riding down Main Street in trucks provided by the Ford Motor Company.

Sunday, July 30, is highlighted by the *Induction Ceremony*, which is expected to last two to three hours. The five electees will deliver speeches in front of the assembled returning Hall of Famers and a huge crowd that is expected to rival that of recent years. Admission to the *Induction Ceremony* is free.

Hall of Fame Weekend concludes on Monday, July 31, with the *Legends of the Game Roundtable* at Doubleday Field. Bagwell, Raines, Rodríguez, Schuerholz and Selig will take part in the event, which is open to participants in the Museum's Membership Program. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12-and-under. Tickets are available at the Museum's Membership Desk or by calling (607) 547-0397.

The Museum will feature special hours during Hall of Fame Weekend (including opening one hour early for Members on Saturday, Sunday and Monday), and commemorative Hall of Fame Weekend merchandise will be available at the Museum Store.

For more information and a complete schedule of Hall of Fame Weekend events, please visit baseballhall.org/HOFW. 📞

Craig Muder is the director of communications for the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.



HALL OF FAME WEEKEND 2017 PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Schedule subject to change



Friday, July 28

Museum Open 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.

8 a.m. – Noon

PLAY Ball with Ozzie Smith & Special Guests

Hall of Fame Plaque Gallery and Cooperstown-area diamond

Saturday, July 29

Museum Open 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Open at 7 a.m. for Members

4:30 p.m.

Hall of Fame Awards Presentation

Doubleday Field

6 p.m.

Hall of Fame Parade of Legends

(immediately following *Awards Presentation*)

Main Street, concluding in front of Museum

Sunday, July 30

Museum Open 8 a.m. until 9 p.m.

Open at 7 a.m. for Members

1:30 p.m.

Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Clark Sports Center

Monday, July 31

Museum Open 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.

Open at 8 a.m. for Members

10:30-11:30 a.m.

Legends of the Game Roundtable featuring Jeff Bagwell, Tim Lincecum, Iván Rodríguez, John Schuerholz and Bud Selig

Doubleday Field; Tickets Available Exclusively to Participants in Hall of Fame Membership Program

For more information on Hall of Fame Weekend, please call (607) 547-0397

SALUTING THE GIRLS OF SUMMER

WOMEN HAVE STARRED ON THE DIAMOND AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE GAME FOR MORE THAN 150 YEARS.

BY DEBRA SHATTUCK

The 2017 baseball season is in full swing. Before it is finished, millions of baseball fans will root, root, root for the home team at major and minor league ballparks throughout the country and watch games on televisions, smartphones and iPads. Millions more will gather on groomed fields, vacant lots or wherever they can lay out a baseball diamond to recreate their own field of dreams and play the game they love.

The sport we know as baseball has a rich history, stretching back into antebellum America and sharing a family tree with myriad bat and ball games played in England and Europe as early as the Middle Ages and with games like One Old Cat, Trap Ball, Wicket, Rounders and Townball in the early Republic. What many fans of the modern sport do not realize is that girls and women have played baseball alongside boys and men ever since promoters first began touting the game as the National Pastime.

During the 1850s, male and female students at Eagleswood School in Perth Amboy, N.J., played baseball; so did their counterparts at rural schools in western New York. In the 1860s, girls and women played baseball on college teams in New York and Illinois, on school teams in California, Connecticut and Maine, and on civic and pick-up teams in Michigan, Florida, New York, Ohio, New Jersey and Indiana.

By 1869, some male baseball players were being paid to play; by 1875, so were some female players. As men's professional baseball teams multiplied during the latter third of the 19th century, so did women's professional teams. The first took the field in Springfield, Ill., in August 1875 and folded just two months later. Four years after that, young women joined professional baseball troupes in Manhattan and Philadelphia. The Philadelphia group did particularly well, traveling more than 3,000 miles and drawing more than 34,000 spectators to the 23 of 28 games for which attendance statistics are available. The team drew more fans to those 23 games than five of the eight National League teams drew to all 40 of their home games that season. African-American women played

baseball, too, on teams like the Dolly Varden 1, Dolly Varden 2 and Captain Jinks clubs of Philadelphia and Chester, Pa., in 1883.

Though many of the early female baseball troupes had a theatrical cast and featured female teams playing each other, by the late 19th century, male baseball entrepreneurs were fielding teams of talented female athletes who went head-to-head against men's teams. One of the most successful of these was the female Cincinnati Reds, organized in 1891 in New York City. The team featured ace pitcher Lizzie Arlington, who was only 14 when she signed her first contract. During her second season with the Reds, Arlington, whose real name was Elizabeth Stride, was joined by another standout pitcher, Clementina Brida (who played as Maud Bradi and, later, Maud Nelson. Players often used aliases during the early days of the game).

Arlington and Nelson both had stellar baseball careers. Arlington played on women's barnstorming teams like the Reds, the Young Ladies Base Ball Club of New York and the New England Bloomer Girls before being signed by Atlantic League president (and future New York Yankees president and Hall of Famer) Ed Barrow to pitch for Atlantic League teams during the Spanish-American War in 1898. In 1899, Arlington returned to female baseball teams and played on into the early 20th century.

Nelson's baseball career spanned four decades. After two seasons with the Reds, she played on several other women's squads, including the popular Boston Bloomer Girls and Chicago Star Bloomer Girls. Between 1910 and 1927, she co-owned and played on the Western Bloomer Girls,

1. Hall of Famer Phil Niekro (front row, center) managed the Colorado Silver Bullets, a women's professional baseball team that toured the United States from 1994-1997.
2. Jackie Mitchell (left) shows her pitching grip to her new House of David teammates, Harry Laufer (middle) and George Anderson (right).
3. From 1943-1954, the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) showcased the finest female athletes in America. The league was the precursor for the growth of women's sports that continues to this day.
4. Alta Weiss became a nationally known athlete in the first years of the 20th century thanks to her pitching skill.
5. The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has collected hundreds of artifacts related to women in baseball, including many pieces from the AAGPBL.



MICHELLE STEWART INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League fielded teams from 1943 through 1954, giving some of the best female athletes of that era the chance to excel on the diamond while subjecting themselves to the same physical tests of male athletes. But women played baseball long before the AAGPBL. Edith Houghton (lower left) was a baseball prodigy in the 1920s and barnstormed with teams across the United States.

All-Star Athletic Girls and All-Star Ranger Girls baseball teams.

While women like Arlington and Nelson were stars on barnstorming female baseball teams, countless girls and women continued to play on civic, pick-up, scholastic and college teams throughout the country. During the 1870s and 1880s, Minnesota, Kansas, Iowa, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Kentucky, Missouri, Wisconsin, Rhode Island, Alabama, Montana, Colorado, North and South Dakota, West Virginia, New Mexico and Texas got their first home-grown female baseball teams. By 1900, Nebraska, Wyoming, Georgia, South Carolina and Arizona had female teams, too.

While the majority of girls and women played on all-female baseball teams, some talented players joined men's teams. In 1905, Ruth Egan of Kansas City drew rave reviews from local media for her baseball prowess as captain and pitcher for her youth team, the Bellevue Blues. Egan played baseball for the next 17 years – including a stint with the Kansas City Bloomer Girls in 1906. Pitcher Carrie Viola Moyer, of Macungie, Pa., earned money and accolades pitching on boys' and men's baseball teams as early as 1906. Her notoriety was eclipsed by Ohioan Alta Weiss, whose pitching exploits for the Vermilion Independents (1907) and Weiss All-Stars (1908) were proclaimed in newspapers across the country.

Weiss' reputation for excellence was confirmed by Cleveland Naps player-manager Larry "Nap" Lajoie, who saw her play at League Park and admitted, "I was surprised to find that she could pitch so well."

Weiss had a relatively short-lived baseball career; she used her earnings to put herself through medical school. A decade later, first basewoman Mary Elizabeth Murphy began a 20-year career playing for men's teams in New England, including the Providence (R.I.) Independents and Ed Carr's All-Stars of Boston. She retired in 1935.

During the 1920s and 1930s, public opinion began to solidify around the notion that baseball was for boys and men, even though girls and women had been playing the game for decades. Well-meaning physical educators promoted baseball surrogates like softball and "women's baseball" and actively discouraged girls and women from playing genuine "hardball." Despite the obstacles, some girls and women refused to give up on their baseball dreams.

In 1928, 14-year-old Margaret Gisolo helped her Blanford, Ind., American Legion men's baseball team win county, district, sectional and state championships. Gisolo hit .429 and notched 10 putouts and 28 assists in the field with no charged errors. When opposing teams protested her presence on the field, the American Legion's National Americanism



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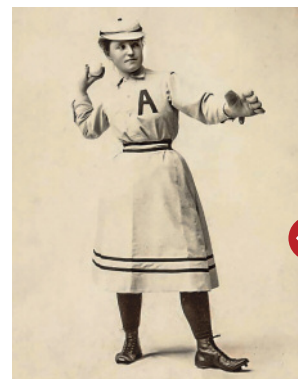
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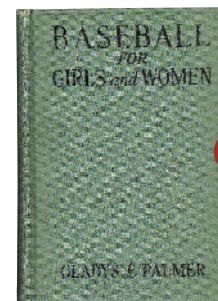


NOTABLE FIRSTS FOR WOMEN BASEBALL PLAYERS

- 1859 Earliest documented girls' scholastic teams: Eagleswood School, Perth Amboy, N.J.
- Spring 1866 Earliest documented women's collegiate teams: Vassar College's Laurel and Abenakis, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
- July 1867 Earliest documented women's civic/pick-up teams: Pensacola, Fla., and Dowagiac, Saranac and Niles, Mich.
- Aug-Sep 1875 Earliest documented women's professional teams: Blondes and Brunettes of Springfield, Ill.
- August 31, 1890 Largest crowd ever for a single women's baseball game in 19th century: Chicago Black Stockings vs. Allertons (men's team) at Monitor Park in Weehawken, N.J.; 7,000-10,000 spectators
- Summer 1898 First woman signed to a contract with men's minor league: **Lizzie Arlington** (Elizabeth Stride), signed by Atlantic League president Edward Barrow
- 1918 Paramount-Mack Sennett featured female baseball players in their movie *Those Athletic Girls*
- 1918 Recreational baseball leagues began springing up in large cities; the Cleveland Recreation Survey reported that 44 percent of female employees in Cleveland played baseball
- 1919 Industrial women's baseball league established in Duluth, Minn.; organized by the YWCA; comprised of eight teams
- 1929 Physical Educator **Gladys Palmer** published "Baseball for Girls and Women"; accelerated the trend toward steering girls and women away from "hardball" baseball to modified versions of the sport such as softball
- April 2, 1931 Pitcher **Virne Beatrice "Jackie" Mitchell** became famous for striking out Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig back-to-back in an exhibition game between the Chattanooga Lookouts and the New York Yankees
- 1932 Babe Ruth appeared in the movie *Fancy Curves*, in which he teaches a group of sorority members to play baseball so they can challenge a men's fraternity to a game
- Spring 1934 Olympic gold medalist Mildred "Babe" Didrikson pitched batting practice for several major league baseball teams during Spring Training
- 1943-1954 All-American Girls Professional Baseball League operated; largest and most successful women's professional baseball league to date
- 1949-1954 Marcenia Lyle "Toni" Stone played for two Negro Leagues teams
- 1952 Shortstop Eleanor Engle became the first woman since Lizzie Arlington to sign a contract to play baseball with a minor league team (Harrisburg Senators); she never took the field; MLB commissioner Ford Frick voided her contract
- June 23, 1952 MLB Commissioner Ford Frick banned women from the minor leagues
- 1953-1955 Mamie "Peanut" Johnson became the first female pitcher to play in the Negro Leagues
- 1993 Chicago White Sox picked 18-year-old pitcher Carey Schueler in the 43rd round of the MLB Draft
- 1994-1997 The Colorado Silver Bullets became the first all-female professional baseball team since the demise of Allington's All-Stars (1955-1958)
- 1994-1998 Pitcher **Ila Borders** achieved numerous firsts for women baseball players: first to earn a college baseball scholarship; first to pitch and win a men's NCAA baseball game; first in modern era to win a professional men's baseball game
- 2001 New York Women's Baseball Association founded
- 2001-2003 Women's Baseball World Series held annually
- 2004-present Women's Baseball World Cup established to play biannually; 12 international teams competed in 2016
- Feb 2011 Justine Siegal became the first woman to pitch batting practice during the regular season for a Major League Baseball team (Cleveland Indians)
- 2014 **Mo'ne Davis** became the first girl to win and pitch a shutout in Little League World Series history
- 2017 MLB Trailblazer Series, a girls' baseball tournament, debuts



← 1898



← 1929

1931



AP IMAGES



→ 1994-1998

ELSA HASCHICKEY IMAGES



→ 2014

WILCO STEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Commission referred the matter to MLB Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis, who determined that American Legion rules did not ban female players. Gisolo's team kept its championship.

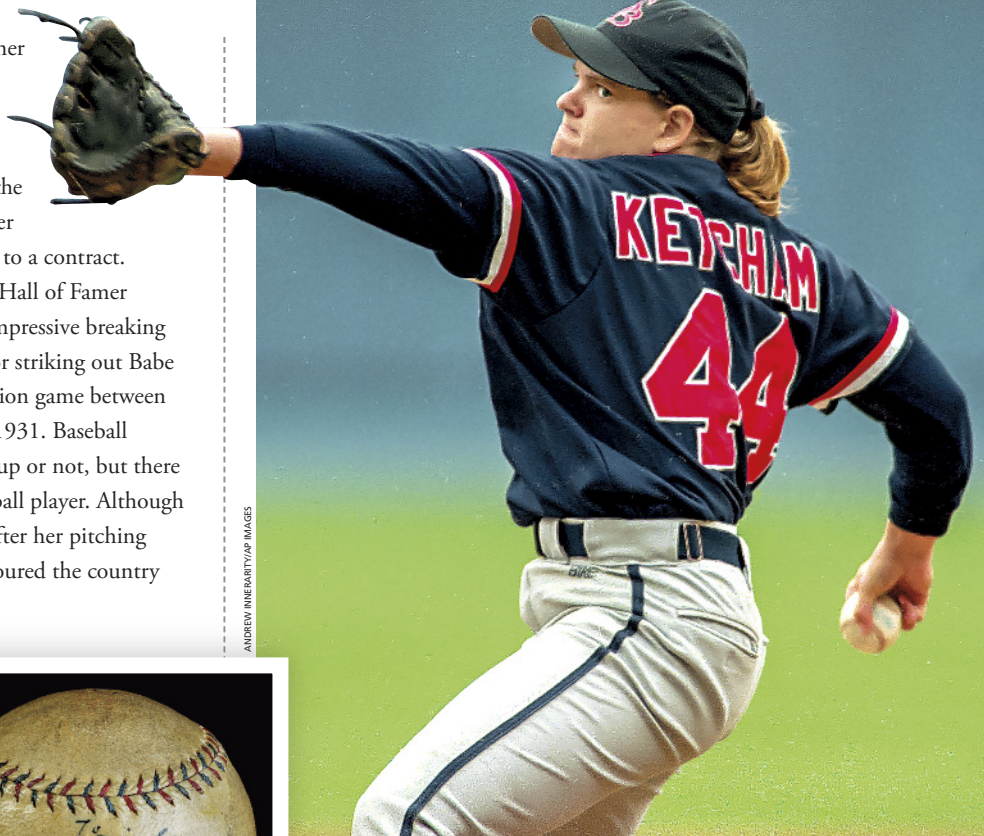
Landis addressed a similar situation in 1931 when the "Barnum of Baseball," Chattanooga Lookouts manager Joe Engel, signed 17-year-old Virne "Jackie" Mitchell to a contract. Mitchell, who had received pitching tips from future Hall of Famer Arthur "Dazzy" Vance as a youngster, developed an impressive breaking ball. She is forever immortalized in baseball history for striking out Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig back-to-back during an exhibition game between the Lookouts and the New York Yankees on April 2, 1931. Baseball purists still debate whether the whole affair was a set-up or not, but there is no question that Mitchell was a highly skilled baseball player. Although Commissioner Landis voided her contract just days after her pitching debut, Mitchell continued to impress crowds as she toured the country with exhibition teams for the next several years.

Babe Didrikson, a highly talented athlete and Olympic gold medalist, pitched for several major league baseball teams in preseason exhibition games in 1935. On March 20 of that year, Didrikson pitched a scoreless inning for the Philadelphia Athletics against the Brooklyn Dodgers; two days later, she surrendered three earned runs to the Boston Red Sox while pitching for the St. Louis Cardinals. She redeemed herself on March 25, pitching two shutout innings for the Cleveland Indians against their minor league affiliate, the New Orleans Pelicans. Didrikson recorded two assists in the field and had one base hit in the game.

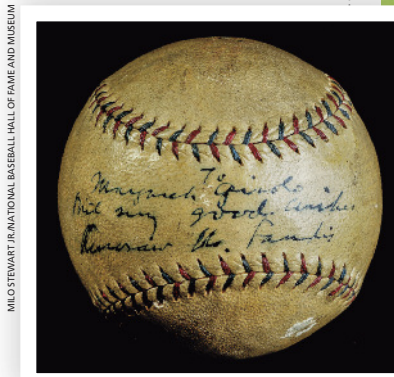
By 1940, the popularity of softball drove most Bloomer Girl baseball teams out of business. Fortunately for young women who enjoyed playing baseball, World War II brought them an unprecedented opportunity to be part of a women's professional baseball league. Initially organized by Chicago Cubs owner Philip K. Wrigley in 1943 as a softball league to entertain war workers, the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League gave more than 600 young women the opportunity to earn a living playing baseball during its 12-year existence. The league drew millions of fans to games in cities like South Bend and Fort Wayne (Indiana), Kenosha and Racine (Wisconsin), Peoria and Rockford (Illinois), and Kalamazoo, Battle Creek and Muskegon (Michigan).

The talented athletes of the AAGPBL not only entertained fans, but they inspired subsequent generations of female players like Ila Borders, Carey Schueler, Justine Siegal, Tiffany Brooks, Sarah Hudek and Kelsie Whitmore, who persevered on the field even when detractors railed against them for playing a "man's game."

There were no black women in the AAGPBL although there were countless, supremely talented black players in the country at that time. Three of them, second basewomen Toni Stone and Connie Morgan and pitcher Mamie "Peanut" Johnson, earned roster spots in the men's Negro Leagues in the early 1950s. Like many white players, these women



Lee Anne Ketcham, who played varsity baseball at Vestavia Hills High School (Alabama) and then starred for the Oklahoma State softball team, pitched for the Colorado Silver Bullets from 1994 through 1996. **Inset:** This baseball, autographed by Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis to American Legion baseball star Margaret Gisolo, is part of the Museum's collection.



MILO STEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

ANDREW INNEBARY/AP IMAGES

grew up with a deep love for the game and worked hard to find opportunities to play baseball at a time when most girls were steered into softball. Their perseverance paid off and helped open doors to subsequent generations of female players.

The future looks bright for women in baseball. More and more Americans recognize that baseball and softball are two different games and that girls and women should be allowed to play whichever game appeals to them most. The Colorado Silver Bullets, a touring team that was in existence from 1994 through 1997, gave dozens of women the opportunity to play professional baseball again; a number of former players, like Julie Croteau and Lee Anne Ketcham, continued to play on men's baseball teams.

Girls and women around the world are embracing baseball, too. Since 2001 – when the United States, Canada, Japan and Australia competed in the first Women's Baseball World Series – the number of teams competing in the biennial Women's Baseball World Cup has grown steadily. The 2016 competition featured entries from 12 countries, including the United States, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Cuba, Venezuela, India, Pakistan and the Netherlands.

Groups like Baseball for All, the International Women's Baseball Center, the New York Women's Baseball Association and Girls Travel Baseball are working tirelessly to give girls and women the opportunity to play baseball and to preserve the artifacts of women's baseball history. 📖

Dr. Debra Shattuck is provost and associate professor of history and leadership at John Witherspoon College in Rapid City, S.D. She recently published "Bloomer Girls: Women Baseball Pioneers."

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WOMAN'S WORLD

HALL OF FAME EFFA MANLEY BLAZED A TRAIL FOR FEMALE EXECUTIVES IN BASEBALL.

BY SCOTT PITONIAK

It didn't take long for Effa Manley to ruffle a few feathers.

At her very first Negro Leagues owners meeting in 1937, she voiced unflattering comments about the way black baseball was being run. As we learned in Bob Luke's compelling biography, "The Most Famous Woman in Baseball," Manley's audacious opinions at a time when many Americans believed women should be seen but not heard went over like a lead baseball. Once the meeting

ended, angry Pittsburgh Crawfords owner Gus Greenlee grabbed Manley's husband, Abe, by the arm and told him: "Next time, keep your wife at home."

Abe, who co-owned the Newark Eagles with Effa, shrugged off the advice. He had no desire to muzzle his wife and business partner – nor would he have been able to even if he had wanted, because Effa Manley was a force of nature. Stopping her would be like stopping a tornado.

During the next decade, she would storm through the racial and gender barriers of the times and help the Eagles and Negro Leagues baseball thrive. She also would become an influential civil rights crusader, launching a successful "Don't Buy Where You Can't Work" campaign that compelled Harlem retailers to hire black employees. Combining savvy entrepreneurial skills, an ocean-deep passion for baseball and dogged determination, the headstrong Manley blazed a trail for black and female executives in her sport and beyond.

In an era when a woman's place supposedly was in the home, Manley made her place in a ballpark. And in 2006, 25 years after her death at age 84, she found a permanent place in Cooperstown when she became the first woman inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

From Philadelphia to Newark

Manley's complicated life got off to a complicated start. Reports differ, but many indicate her mother was white and her father was black, but Effa later discovered she had been conceived from an affair her seamstress mother had with a white stockbroker. Her parents would divorce and her mother remarried another African-American man. Effa, who was born in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1897, wound up being raised by a black father and white mother and had mixed-race siblings.

She and everyone else just assumed she was a light-skinned African American. Manley said she didn't learn about her biological father until

she was a teenager, and by that time, her racial identity had been formed. Leslie Heaphy, a Kent State University history professor and leading black baseball scholar, believes Manley's challenging childhood shaped her into becoming an aggressive businesswoman and reformer.

"She learned early on not to be overlooked," Heaphy said in a 2006 *New York Times* interview.

After graduating from high school, Manley moved to New York City, where she worked in the fashion industry and fell in love with baseball – and Abraham Lincoln Manley. A big fan of Babe Ruth, Effa met Abe at a game at Yankee Stadium. They were married in 1935, and that year they bought the Brooklyn Eagles, a Negro American League team, and merged them with the Newark Dodgers. Abe had made his money in real estate and racketeering. Although he funded the Eagles and was voted treasurer of the league, he would hold titles in name only. His flamboyant, outspoken wife would become the brains and face of the franchise and also oversee the league's finances. Effa ran the Eagles' day-to-day operations, arranging game schedules, planning travel, managing payroll, negotiating players' contracts, purchasing equipment and coordinating publicity and promotions.

"She was unique and effervescent and knowledgeable," said Monte Irvin, one of several Hall of Famers to play for the Eagles. "She ran the whole business end of the team."

Helping the Eagles soar

A fiery competitor, Manley could be impatient and impetuous. After the Eagles lost, 21-7, in the 1935 season opener at Brooklyn's Ebbets Field (a game in which she convinced New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia to throw out the ceremonial first pitch), Manley was beside herself. That inauspicious start was a harbinger of a losing season. Following the final game, she demanded first baseman George Giles replace Ben Taylor as manager.

"When she was displeased, the world would come to an end; she'd stop traffic," Giles recalled years later. "Mrs. Manley loved baseball, but she couldn't stand to lose. I was a pretty hard loser myself, but I think she took it more seriously than anybody."

Legend has it that Manley occasionally would meddle during games, instructing her players to bunt by signaling to them by crossing or uncrossing her legs from her box seat. She also was a strict disciplinarian.

"She would call you in and tell you how to dress, what to do, who to



Effa Manley was raised in a diverse household and identified as an African American from an early age.

associate with,” said Eagles pitcher James Walker. “When you had problems, if they were personal, you went to Mrs. Manley, and she was very understanding, as long as you toed the line.”

As author James Overmyer explained in his book, “Queen of the Negro Leagues,” Manley believed her team had an obligation “to uphold the black community’s best standards.” She often used Eagles games to promote civic causes. In 1939, she held an “Anti-Lynching Day” at the ballpark and also devoted ticket and advertising revenue to fund the Booker T. Washington Community Hospital, which was one of the few institutions in America offering training for black doctors and nurses. She also gave thousands of free tickets to inner-city youth.

Though she could be demanding, the majority of her players adored her because she was their biggest advocate. Unlike most owners, Manley believed the players deserved decent salaries and working conditions. She and her husband eventually bought an air-conditioned, luxury bus for team travel and sponsored a ball club in the Puerto Rico Winter League so their players would have offseason work. She also became godmother to Larry Doby’s first child and loaned money to Irvin for a down payment on his first home and to Lenny Pearson to open a tavern.

Manley had the business sense to realize the Eagles would not be able to compete with Major League Baseball’s Dodgers in Brooklyn, so she convinced her husband to move the team across the river to Newark, N.J., in 1936. The Eagles flourished there, thanks to Manley’s marketing acumen and eye for baseball talent, which included signing star players Irvin, Doby, Don Newcombe, Leon Day and Mule Suttles. The apex would come in 1946 when Newark beat the legendary Kansas City Monarchs to win the Negro Leagues World Series.

Over time, several of the hardline owners, including one who initially grouched that “baseball ain’t no place for women,” grudgingly praised her, adopting her proposals for an independent commissioner and a new constitution that helped black baseball run more professionally.

“Negro baseball can take a few tips from the lady member of the league,” acknowledged Homestead Grays owner Cumberland Posey, who also was inducted into the Hall in 2006.

Changing history

Branch Rickey’s signing of Jackie Robinson to a minor league contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1945 was the first step in the integration of MLB and the demise of the Negro Leagues, which had become one of the most successful black-run businesses in America. Manley took on Rickey for “poaching” Robinson and, soon after, Newcombe without compensating their Negro League clubs. She wound up receiving \$15,000 from Bill Veeck when the Cleveland Indians signed Doby, and an agreement was struck where black teams would receive a minimum of \$5,000 per signing. As Luke states in his biography, these were times of mixed emotions for Manley and others who wanted to see black stars finally receive their due, but realized it would lead to the death of their business.

Declining attendance forced the Manleys to sell the Eagles in 1948. After the sale, Effa became more active with the Newark chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She would have loved to continue her career as an executive in the major leagues, but that wasn’t going to happen, even though she had proven herself eminently qualified.

During the final decades of her life, Manley wrote letters to Baseball Hall of Fame executives and media outlets advocating enshrinement for numerous Negro

Leagues players and managers. In 1976, she co-wrote a book, titled “Negro Baseball ... Before Integration,” in which she listed 73 players she believed to be Cooperstown-worthy. She also spent many a day poring over the enormous Negro Leagues scrapbook she had assembled.

“People say, ‘Don’t live in the past,’” Manley said in an interview a few years before her death. “But I guess it depends on how interesting your past is.”

Her past is compelling. And so much of it was devoted to the game that became her life. The epitaph on her gravestone at Holy Cross Cemetery in Culver City, Calif., succinctly captures it all: “She loved baseball.”

Scott Pitoniak is a freelance writer from Penfield, N.Y.



Effa Manley championed several Negro Leagues players for induction into the Hall of Fame. She became the first woman elected in 2006.



Left: Effa Manley (group photo: back row, far right) worked to keep the Negro Leagues stories alive during her years after the leagues ceased operations. Manley’s Newark Eagles of the late 1940s are considered the last Negro Leagues dynasty. **Right:** Manley remained close to the game she loved until her passing in 1981.



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PHOTO CREDIT: RON VESELY

2017 NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

QUARTER-CENTURY OF THEIR OWN

PENNY MARSHALL'S FILM CELEBRATING THE AAGPBL RESONATES WITH FANS 25 YEARS AFTER ITS RELEASE.

BY BILL FRANCIS

This summer marks the 25th anniversary of the release of *A League of Their Own*, a film that memorably told the story of a near-forgotten era in baseball history.

The bittersweet comedy is based on the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, which began play in 1943, lasted a dozen years and gave more than 600 women an opportunity that had never before existed.

The so-called “lipstick league” was the brainchild of Chicago Cubs owner Philip K. Wrigley as a way to keep the ballparks busy during World War II if manpower shortages threatened big league baseball. While the AAGPBL thrived during the war, it eventually folded in the 1950s.

“The way that I first found out about these ‘girls’ who played professional baseball was from a documentary that was brought to me



This promotional poster for *A League of Their Own* is featured in the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum’s “Baseball at the Movies” exhibit.

about the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League,” said Penny Marshall, the movie’s director, in a video accessible in the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum’s *Diamond Dreams* exhibit. “When I saw this, I said, ‘I didn’t know they played baseball in the ’40s and ’50s. If I don’t know about it, other people don’t know.’ So I thought it was important to make a film about these women and let other people in the world know that this league existed.

“The big screen is a great way to give information. I didn’t want to preach it, but I wanted to make them identify with the women and what they went through. It was history – and it was part of our American history. And it also gave kids, young girls of today, some real-life idols to look up to because they got to see women doing things outside the box, outside their normal roles in life. And more girls are in sports today than ever before. When a father told me he can now play catch with his girl, it touched my heart. The main thing about this movie is: Don’t be ashamed of your talent. Whatever it is, be proud.”

A League of Their Own, the fourth film Marshall directed, is set in 1943 and focuses on the Rockford Peaches, one of four clubs that made up the AAGPBL in its first season. The fictionalized story deals with the combative relationship between the team’s catcher, Dottie Hinson, portrayed by Geena Davis, and her sister, Kit Keller, the pitcher, played by Lori Petty. It also stars Tom Hanks as Jimmy Dugan, a washed-up former big league slugger turned skeptical team manager, and Madonna as Mae Mordabito, a street-smart and wisecracking outfielder.

Also cast in *A League of Their Own* as members of the Peaches are Rosie O’Donnell, Tracy Reiner, Ann Cusack, Anne Ramsay, Megan Cavanagh and Bitty Schram. Jon Lovitz, the comic actor, plays Ernie Capadino, a cynical baseball scout; Garry Marshall, the director’s brother, plays the originator of the league, Walter Harvey; and David Strathairn portrays Harvey’s advertising/promotion expert, Ira Lowenstein.

MILO STEWART / NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



Director Penny Marshall (right) and former All-American Girls Professional Baseball League player Sarah Jane (Ferguson) Sands pose with artifacts from the movie *A League of Their Own* at the Hall of Fame during a celebration of the film's 10th anniversary in 2002.

Elliot Abbott, a producer of *A League of Their Own*, recently reflected about the film's origins.

"Penny and I were partners and we had seen this documentary, also called *A League of Their Own*, and we called Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel (the writers behind such hit films as *City Slickers*, *Parenthood* and *Splash*), the guys who wrote it for us, and we sent it to them. They're big baseball fans and they had never heard of this. It was one of those rare, fresh stories," Abbott said.

"So we convinced Lowell and Babaloo to fly back to Cooperstown because the Hall of Fame was doing a special tribute to the women," he continued. "We scheduled a dinner with about 15 to 20 of the women, along with Penny and I and Lowell and Babaloo. And I don't think we said two words. It was like being with an old squadron of fighter pilots who were reliving war stories, except they were playing baseball.

"When the dinner was over, and it lasted a long time, I said to the guys, 'What do you think?' And they said, 'We got it.' The first draft we read they had it. They really nailed it."

According to Mandel, in a 1992 interview with the *Chicago Tribune*, what struck him and his writing partner was what a bold thing these women did.

"We wanted to get the sense of, 'You're 18, it's 1943, and you're a woman sitting in the middle of Oregon who is expected to stay home and marry the mailman and have about 700 kids,'" Mandel said. "And you get on this train and you got to Chicago to play baseball. We hope what we've done in this movie is get a sense of, 'Wow, what a move that was!'"

Abbott would add that once he and Marshall had the screenplay for *A League of Their Own*, they turned it in to the studio, which was FOX at the time.

"And they loved it and wanted to make it right away. But Penny and I had just started on *Awakenings*, so we told them we were going to have to wait. And that drove the studio crazy," Abbott said. "But they ended up moving off of it and we ended up at Sony. They loved it and wanted to do it and off we went and did it."

Filming began in Chicago for a few weeks

in July 1991, proceeded to the Evansville, Indiana, area for more than two months, and ended in October with a week in Cooperstown. The Baseball Hall of Fame and nearby Doubleday Field are featured prominently at the beginning and end of the picture.

Davis, who had won an Oscar for best supporting actress for 1989's *The Accidental Tourist*, said at the time of *A League of Their Own*'s release that the idea of bringing these female athletes' stories to life was what really got her excited about doing the movie.

"I had no idea this league even existed. Even in the fattest baseball stats books, nothing's mentioned of these women and what they accomplished," Davis said. "They were courageous – going out into a man's world at that time – and they were also terrific athletes. It's first and foremost an entertaining comedy, by Penny, of course, but has some things to say about how society can treat women who just want to fulfill themselves."

Davis, who had taken over the lead in the film from Debra Winger late in the process,



The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League operated from 1943 through 1954 and featured teams throughout the Midwest, such as the Muskegon Lassies (above). The story of the AAGPBL was told for a mass audience for the first time by director Penny Marshall in the seminal 1992 film *A League of Their Own*.

had only three weeks to get up to the speed of her co-stars, who had been practicing for months.

"I was supposed to play the best baseball player anyone has ever seen, but I didn't know how to play baseball at all – any other sport, really! I had to learn how to look like I was that player," said Davis in a 2012 interview with *Parade* magazine. "They had tremendous major league coaches who were really great and I remember one of the coaches even saying, 'Hey! You're picking this up pretty fast. Looks like you have some untapped athletic ability!' It was a challenge, but I got to where I was pretty good."

Davis' scouting report on her fellow actors: "Rosie O'Donnell was the best coming in; she had played a lot of ball. Lori Petty had the most raw talent; she learned how to pitch great. And Madonna ... well, she tried hard."

Petty, who grew up playing baseball and softball, found life on the mound taxing: "It was consistently difficult. It was just all day, every day. I pitched more in one week than major league guys pitch in months. I had to pitch 100 pitches a day, and then the next day 100 more."

Hanks had to put on weight for his role because Marshall thought he looked too young.

"I never got on a scale, because the last thing I wanted to know was what I was tipping at," Hanks said. "When you're in the Midwest, there's a Dairy Queen within four blocks of anyplace you might be. It's the land of family-style dining, where you have the choice of this fattening item or that fattening item."

When the film was released in July 1992, it received much acclaim. Vincent Canby, in his review for *The New York Times*, wrote, "*A League of Their Own* is one of the year's most cheerful, most relaxed, most easily enjoyable comedies. It's a serious film that's lighter than air, a very funny movie that manages to score a few points for feminism in passing."

Roger Ebert, writing in the *Chicago Sun-Times*, ended his review: "The movie has a real bittersweet charm. The baseball sequences, we've seen before. What's fresh are the personalities of the players, the gradual unfolding of their coach and the way this early chapter of women's liberation fit into the hidebound traditions of professional baseball."

With an estimated budget of \$40 million, it's been reported that *A League of Their Own* has earned \$107 million. *Big* (1988) had made Marshall the first female director to pass \$100 million at the box office.

Shirley Burkovich, a veteran of the AAGPBL who debuted as a 16-year-old with the Muskegon Lassies in 1949 and later portrayed an older Alice "Skeeter" Gaspers in the movie, said in a recent telephone interview from her home in California that "if it hadn't been for the movie and Penny Marshall, we would still be obscure."

"I'll tell you one thing: I'm no actress. I can play ball, but I sure can't act. But it was just a thrill to be there," said the 84-year-old Burkovich. "And I still get young girls who weren't even born when the movie came out who come up to us and say, 'Thank you so much.' They want

to be baseball players. It's just amazing. And I have coaches come up to me and say, 'My team watches the movie before every game.' Those are the kind of things that just blow me away."

The film also has an important presence inside the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, as its *Baseball at the Movies* exhibit not only has an *A League of Their Own* movie poster near its entrance, but inside has the cap and shoes worn by Geena Davis, as well as movie props such as a *LIFE* magazine cover featuring Davis' character, game tickets and programs, a few Harvey Bars and a Jimmy Dugan baseball card.

"I've always been a champion of women and I've always loved sports, so for me this film was a perfect fit. And to get the role and be a part of this rich history that I didn't know about was amazing," said Anne Ramsay, who portrayed first baseman Helen Haley, in a recent telephone interview. "Then after the film came out, little girls would come up to us all excited because finally they had something that would represent them, that they could look up to. Lucky me."

As part of the *Diamond Dreams: Women in Baseball* exhibit, Museum patrons can not only see a number of real-life AAGPBL artifacts, including uniforms, team patches, shoes, gloves, caps and balls, but also a trio of *A League of Their Own* costume uniforms, among those the Rockford Peaches outfit worn by Davis.

The film's popularity not only spawned a short-lived television series, but in 2005, "There's no crying in baseball!" the famous line uttered by Hanks' exasperated Jimmy Dugan character, was ranked 54th in the American Film Institute's 100 greatest movie quotes of all time. Also, in 2012, the Library of Congress announced that *A League of Their Own* would be inducted into the National Film Registry.

"We've done some other movies and they did fine, but this movie for some reason just really seemed to connect on a different level," Abbott said. "I'm not sure what it is, but it was very honestly told. Maybe that was it."

Longtime film critic Jeffrey Lyons may have summed up the movie's enduring charm best when he once said: "One of the reasons why this picture will be seen 100, 200 years from now is that it is a comedy with tears and it's a drama with laughter." 🍌

Bill Francis is a Library Associate at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.



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FROM YOUR



FAMILY

THE KNUCKLE PRINCESS

ERI YOSHIDA'S GOAL IS TO PITCH IN THE BIG LEAGUES.

BY JEFF IDELSON

Women have been playing organized baseball since Abraham Lincoln was in Washington. And over the last half century, some modest strides have been made with ladies integrating men's teams.

From Little League pioneer Maria Pepe, to St. Mary's College of Maryland first baseman Julie Croteau, to Ila Borders, who pitched for the Northern League's St. Paul Saints, the ladder is being climbed. But will a woman ever play on a major league team? A young Japanese pitcher dreams of being the first.

The Tochigi Golden Braves play in the 10-team professional Baseball Challenge League. The league started in 2007 and has more than doubled in size over the last decade. The Golden Braves are one of the two new ball clubs that joined this past winter.

They play their home contests on the team's 72-game schedule in the Tochigi Prefecture, about 90 minutes north and east of Tokyo by Bullet Train. There are 23 players on the Tochigi team, 22 men and one woman: 25-year-old knuckleballer Eri Yoshida.

The Yokohama City native began playing

baseball at age eight on her older brother's teams. She was not a big baseball fan growing up, but became enamored with the knuckleball when watching videos that her father gave her of former major league pitcher Tim Wakefield.

"I didn't have any heroes until I was 15, and then Tim Wakefield became my hero," the young right-hander said before a preseason team workout in March.

"The first time I saw him pitch, I was amazed. I wasn't so sure I would be able to throw a knuckleball, but I wanted to get it into my rotation of pitches. I was a first baseman and pitched growing up."

Yoshida has the classic knuckleball grip of Wakefield, as well as Hall of Famers Hoyt Wilhelm and Phil Niekro, but is challenged with her much smaller hands.

Drafted in 2008 at age 16, and standing five feet tall and weighing 114 pounds, the right-hander took the mound for the Kobe 9 Cruise and became the first female to play professionally in an all-male league in Japan. She soon became known as "The Knuckle Princess."

Two years later, she was pitching for the Chico Outlaws in the Golden Baseball League in Northern California.

"I had already been pitching for three years



Eri Yoshida shows off her knuckleball grip. Yoshida has been throwing the pitch – which was made famous by Hall of Famers Hoyt Wilhelm and Phil Niekro – since she was 15 years old.

JEAN IRUTU/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



JEAN FRUTH/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

when I went to Chico,” Yoshida said. “I was really interested to see if I could get hitters out at that level, and see if I could be effective. I wasn’t as nervous as much as I was more anticipating how it would go.”

She ended up pitching in the United States for three years.

Playing in Chico in 2010 at the age of 18, Yoshida made history by becoming the first woman to pitch professionally in two countries. The jersey Yoshida wore and the bat she used to record an RBI single in her first at-bat with Chico are in Cooperstown.

“When the Hall of Fame contacted me, it

was a humbling experience and I was so honored that they would want something of mine,” Yoshida said. “The Hall of Fame is such a sacred place for all of baseball. I am honored and proud that my jersey and bat are in Cooperstown. I have my lifetime pass. I have not used it yet, but I will some day.”

Today, this baseball pioneer still has aspirations of pitching at a higher level.

“I am a Red Sox fan and Tim Wakefield is my favorite player,” she said with an ever-present smile. “I wear No. 49 because of my respect for him. My dream is to stand on the same mound as Tim did and pitch in a game.”

And even if she doesn’t, Yoshida is still an inspiration to women trying to make it in a male-dominated industry.

“When I started in baseball, it wasn’t a welcoming environment, being a girl,” she said. “I knew I would need to work hard and find a way to continue my career. I tell girls today to work hard as there are more opportunities to continue their careers.

“If you give everything to the sport, you will be satisfied at the end.” 🍎

Jeff Idelson is the president of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

TRIUMPHANT TRIO

TONI STONE, CONNIE MORGAN AND MAMIE JOHNSON
BLAZED A TRAIL FOR WOMEN IN THE NEGRO LEAGUES.

BY JOHN ROSENGREN

After Jackie Robinson led the exodus of talent out of the Negro Leagues and into the majors – and the fans followed – Syd Pollock, owner of the Indianapolis Clowns, was desperate to resuscitate interest in his team. The Negro National League had folded in 1948, and by 1953 the Clowns were one of only four teams left in the Negro American League. Pollock, whose promotional hijinks had earned the Clowns the designation as “the Harlem Globetrotters of baseball,” had tried dressing first baseman Richard “King Tut” King in a tuxedo and employing a daffy dwarf as a sideline entertainer.

But in the '50s, Pollock signed three women who had the talent to be more than simply gate attractions.

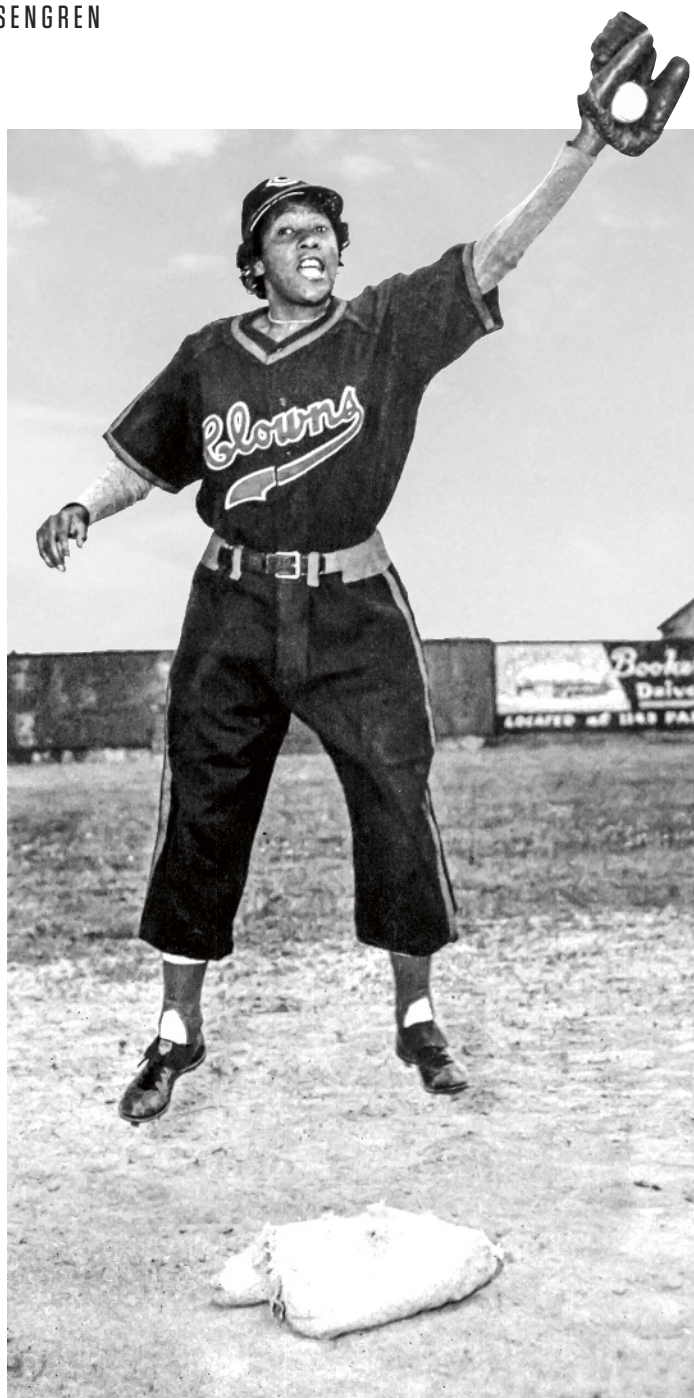
The first was Toni Stone, whom Pollock signed in 1953. Stone had played hardball with boys while growing up in St. Paul, Minn., and by age 16, she was pitching for the semipro Twin Cities Colored Giants. She would appear with two more semipro teams, the San Francisco Sea Lions and the New Orleans Creoles, before agreeing to play second base for the Clowns and become the first woman in the Negro American League.

The fans did turn out, and some rooted for Stone's success, but in the convention-bound '50s, not all of them were ready to embrace the idea of a woman playing on a men's team. They yelled at her from the stands: “Why don't you go home and fix your husband some biscuits?”

Her husband, Aurelious Alberga, whom she had married in 1950, might have preferred that, but Stone was determined to prove herself. Pollock wanted her to wear a skirt like the players in the All-American Girls Professional League. Stone said no.

Much as Jackie Robinson's white teammates in Brooklyn weren't all ready to have a different-colored teammate, not all of Stone's Indianapolis teammates accepted her as an equal. Some made passes at her, which she quickly rebuffed. Others tried to sabotage her play by throwing the ball to her at second base in such a way that it positioned her in the path of incoming spikes.

Toni Stone signed with the Indianapolis Clowns of the Negro American League in 1953, becoming the first woman to play in an official Negro Leagues game. A second baseman, she was a member of the Clowns in 1953 and played for the Kansas City Monarchs in 1954.



Playing on a men's team presented challenges off the field as well. Stone had to change in the room used by the umpires. On road trips, she often stayed at brothels, a practice that began when the proprietor of the hotel where the team stayed figured she must be a prostitute – when he saw her get off the bus with 28 men – and gave her directions to the nearest brothel. Stone, who could identify with the brothel workers as an outsider, was welcomed by them.

Stone did not play as often as she would have liked, appearing in only about 50 of the Clowns' 175 games in 1953. After the season, Pollock sold her contract to the Kansas City Monarchs, whom Stone played with in 1954 before retiring. During her two years in the Negro American League, she had a career batting average estimated to be .243, but at one point in the 1953 season was batting .364, fourth in the league, right behind Ernie Banks.

Legend has it she rapped a single off Satchel Paige, but the archives don't corroborate the story. Still, the persistence of those who believe the tale – including Martha Ackerman, author of the Stone biography "Curveball" – bears testament to Stone's skills, making such a feat plausible.

Determined to draw fans in support of his team, Pollock next signed 19-year-old Connie Morgan to replace Stone. The athletic Morgan had already played five seasons with the women's North Philadelphia Honey Drippers from her hometown (batting .368 over that period) and played semipro basketball. When she read a newspaper article about Stone playing for the Clowns, Morgan wrote Pollock to request a tryout.

Oscar Charleston, the Clowns' manager (and a Hall of Fame center fielder), had scouted Morgan and called her "one of the most sensational" female players he had ever seen. Perhaps upon his recommendation, Pollock granted Morgan's request when the Clowns played an exhibition in Baltimore against the Orioles. Impressed, he signed Morgan, who had been primarily a catcher for the Honey Drippers, to play second base.

She encountered many of the same gender barriers that Stone had. *The Baltimore Afro-American* ran a photo of Morgan in her uniform alongside another of her wearing a white dress and gloves with the caption: "Miss Connie Morgan: The baseball player and the lady." (The previous year, *Ebony* had published similar photos of Stone, one in her uniform, the other in a dress: "Dressed in street clothes, Toni Stone is an attractive young lady who could be someone's secretary, but once in uniform she is all ball player.")

Yet the *Afro-American* also recognized Morgan's outstanding baseball ability. In an account of a May game, it described how Morgan "electrified over 6,000 fans ... when she went far to her right to make a sensational stop, flipped to shortstop Bill Holder and started a lightning double play against the Birmingham Barons."

The New York Amsterdam News validated the talents and temperament of Stone, Morgan and Mamie Johnson (whom Pollock also signed in 1954) when the Clowns played the Monarchs in a doubleheader at Yankee Stadium: "The girls take a back seat to no one on the field."

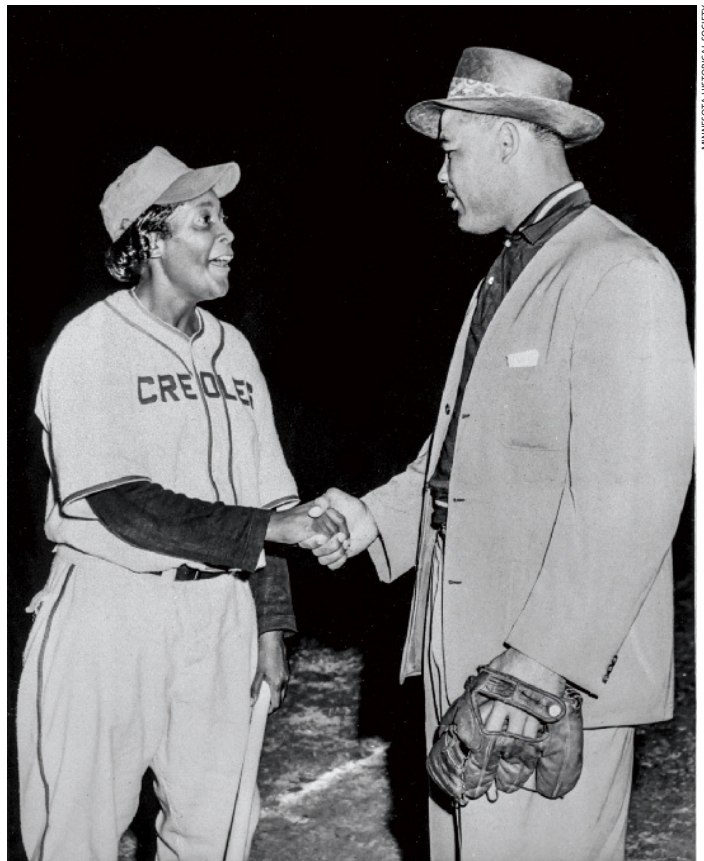
Morgan played just one season in the Negro American League, splitting time at second base with Ray Neiland, batting third and posting about a .300 average.

Top: Mamie "Peanut" Johnson pitched for the Indianapolis Clowns in 1954 and 1955. By her own account, Johnson won 33 games in league play. **Bottom:** Future Hall of Famer Oscar Charleston (center) poses with Richard "King Tut" King (left) and Connie Morgan of the Indianapolis Clowns. Morgan was one of three women who played in Negro American League games during the 1950s.





AL TELEMANS/GETTY IMAGES



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Left: Mamie "Peanut" Johnson excelled in several sports before finding a spot as a pitcher with the Negro American League's Indianapolis Clowns. **Above:** Toni Stone meets her idol, boxer Joe Lewis.



While Stone broke the gender barrier all alone, Morgan had the support of a female teammate in Johnson. Some accounts have Johnson barnstorming with the team in late 1953. A pitcher with a slider, circle change, screwball and a curveball she claimed to have learned from Paige, she did not throw hard but had good control.

They called the 5-foot-3 Johnson "Peanut." Story has it that in her first game pitching for the Clowns, Hank Baylis peered from the batter's box to the diminutive pitcher on the mound and called, "What makes you think

you can strike a batter out? Why, you aren't any larger than a peanut." She struck him out, and the nickname stuck.

Good story, but newspaper accounts of her signing with the Clowns already identified her as Mamie "Peanut" Johnson. Like Morgan, she was an excellent all-around athlete born in South Carolina who reportedly was the first girl at Long Branch (N.J.) High School to play football, basketball and baseball. In 1953, the 18-year-old Johnson went to Washington, D.C., for a tryout with the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League.

She and her friend, also African American, hadn't realized that the AAGPBL remained all white. After being ignored for 15 minutes, Johnson turned to her friend and said, "We better go. I don't think we're wanted here."

Johnson found a men's semipro team that did want her, which is where a scout for the Clowns saw her and recommended her to Pollock. The men were skeptical at first about this pint-sized pitcher, but she earned their respect with her talent.

"After you prove yourself as to what you came there for, then you don't have any problem out of them, either," she said in a 2003 interview with National Public Radio.

Johnson played into 1955 with the team but left before finishing the season, saying she wanted to spend more time with her young son. By her own account, Johnson went 33-8 during her time with the Clowns, though Negro Leagues historians question the validity of that record (the record books are incomplete on the subject).

Not disputed, though, is the fact that she was the first female pitcher in professional baseball and one of three courageous women to play in the Negro American League.

Though Stone, Morgan and Johnson faced resistance during their playing days, the years have been kind to their memory. Stone was inducted into the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame in 1985 and St. Paul named a city baseball field after her. Morgan was inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 1995. And in a ceremonial MLB draft of living Negro Leagues players in 2008, Johnson was selected by the Washington Nationals.

Long after they retired, these women, who challenged the way society viewed their gender, have earned the respect they deserved.

John Rosengren is a freelance writer from Minneapolis, Minn.



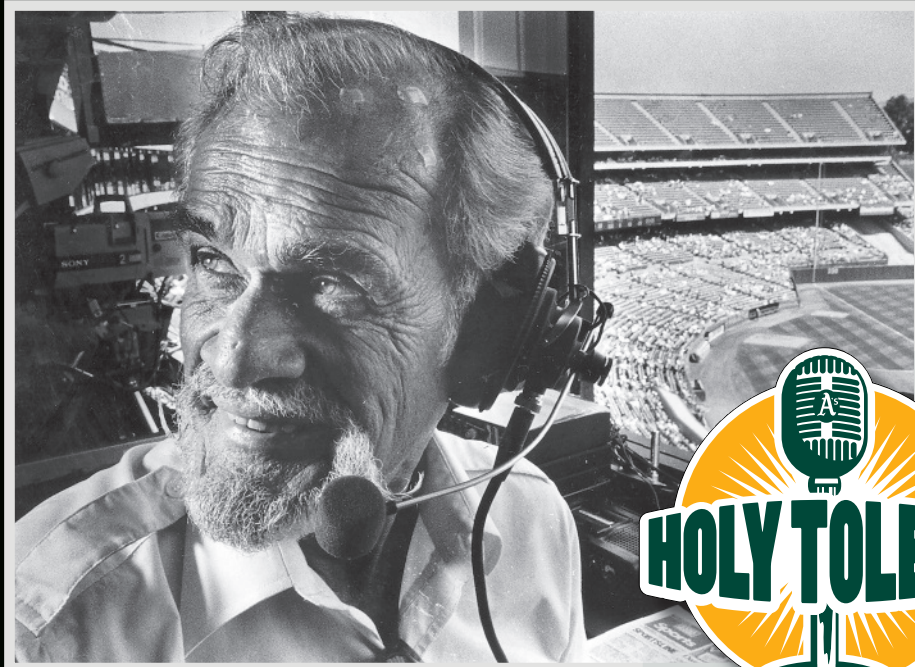
Jeff Bagwell

CONGRATULATIONS

J E F F B A G W E L L

2017 BASEBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

• FROM YOUR ASTROS FAMILY •
HOUSTON★ASTROS.



The Oakland A's
congratulate
Bill King
on his legendary career
and as the 2017 recipient
of the Ford C. Frick Award.



**CLASS
OF
1951**



First Base

JIMMIE FOXX

JAMES EMORY FOXX

Elected 1951 • Born: Oct. 22, 1907, Sudlersville, MD • Died: July 21, 1967, Miami, FL
 Batted: Right Threw: Right • Height: 6'0" Weight: 195 pounds
 Played for: Philadelphia Athletics (1925-35); Boston Red Sox (1936-42);
 Chicago Cubs (1942, 1944); Philadelphia Phillies (1945)



Year	Team	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BB	BA	SLG
1925	PHA	10	9	9	2	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	.667	.778
1926	PHA	26	35	32	8	10	2	1	0	5	1	1	.313	.498
1927	PHA	61	147	130	23	42	6	5	3	20	2	14	.323	.515
1928	PHA	118	473	400	85	131	29	10	13	79	3	60	.328	.548
1929	PHA	149	638	517	123	183	23	9	33	118	9	103	.354	.625
1930	PHA	153	674	562	127	188	33	13	37	156	7	93	.335	.637
1931	PHA	139	592	515	93	150	32	10	30	120	4	73	.291	.567
1932	PHA	154	702	585	151	213	33	9	58	169	3	116	.364	.749
1933	PHA	149	670	573	125	204	37	9	48	163	2	96	.356	.703
1934	PHA	150	662	539	120	180	28	6	44	130	11	111	.334	.653
1935	PHA	147	649	535	118	185	33	7	36	115	6	114	.346	.636
1936	BOS	155	693	585	130	198	32	8	41	143	13	105	.338	.631
1937	BOS	150	674	569	111	162	24	6	36	127	10	99	.285	.538
1938	BOS	149	665	565	139	197	33	9	50	175	5	119	.349	.704
1939	BOS	124	565	467	130	168	31	10	35	105	4	89	.360	.694
1940	BOS	144	618	515	106	153	30	4	36	119	4	101	.297	.581
1941	BOS	135	562	487	87	146	27	8	19	105	2	93	.300	.505
1942	BOS/CHC	100	348	305	43	69	12	0	8	33	1	40	.226	.344
1943														
1944	CHC	15	22	20	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	.050	100
1945	PHI	89	248	224	30	60	11	1	7	38	0	23	.268	.420
20 Yrs		2317	9676	8134	1751	2646	458	125	534	1922	87	1452	.325	.609

All statistics are from baseball-reference.com • *All bolded marks are league-leading totals • **Bolded and italicized marks are major league-best totals
Awards & Records: Three-time American League Most Valuable Player (1932, 1933, 1938) • Won 1933 American League Triple Crown • Nine-time All-Star

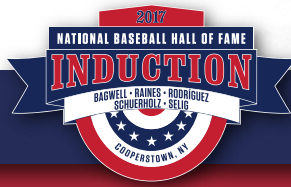
DID YOU KNOW...

- ★ ...that Jimmie Foxx's 438 total bases in 1932 is the fifth-best single-season total of all time?
- ★ ...that Foxx was the second player, after Babe Ruth, to reach the 500-home run mark, and his 534 home runs ranked second to Ruth until 1966 when Willie Mays moved into second place?
- ★ ...that in his final big league season in 1945, Foxx pitched in nine games for the Phillies, going 1-0 with a 1.59 ERA?

WHAT THEY SAY...

- ★ "Foxx was something to look up at the plate. He had great powerful arms, and he used to wear his sleeves cut off way up, and when he dug in and raised that bat, those muscles would bulge and ripple. His biceps looked like tires carrying thirty-five pounds." – HALL OF FAME PITCHER TED LYONS
- ★ "When Neil Armstrong first set foot on the moon, he and all the space scientists were puzzled by an unidentifiable white object. I knew immediately what it was. That was a home run ball hit off me in 1937 by Jimmie Foxx." – HALL OF FAME PITCHER LEFTY GOMEZ





OFFICIAL 2017 INDUCTION MERCHANDISE

MAJESTIC INDUCTION PLAYER JERSEYS

Replica jerseys from Majestic featuring the 2017 Inductees. Tackle twill team logo or wordmark on chest and player name & number on back, with Hall of Fame logo sleeve patch. 100% polyester. Sizes: S-XXL. 263605 | \$135.00 • Members **\$121.50**



INDUCTION PLAYER BASEBALLS

Inductee "jersey" baseballs include player name & number, career stats, replica signature, with team and Induction logo. 663036 Bagwell | 663037 Raines | 663038 Rodriguez \$9.95 • Members **\$8.96**



INDUCTION LOGO GOLD BASEBALL

Collectible Induction baseball with 2017 Induction logo and replica signatures of each member of the 2017 Class. 663035 | \$9.95 • Members **\$8.96**



LOUISVILLE SLUGGER INDUCTION REPLICA SIGNATURE BAT

A favorite with collectors, this limited edition collectible bat from Louisville Slugger features a mahogany finish with a laser etched Hall of Fame logo and replica signatures of the 2017 Class in gold. Limited edition of 1,000. Measures 34" in length. 441120 | \$130.00 • Members **\$117.00**

Members receive 10% off & FREE Standard Shipping

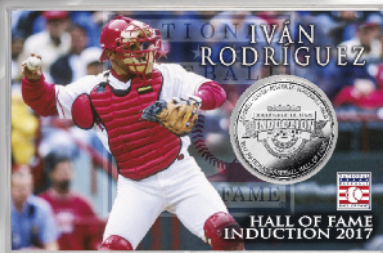
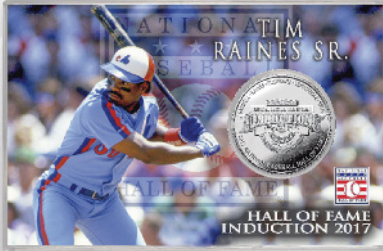


**MAJESTIC INDUCTION
PLAYER NAME & NUMBER
T-SHIRTS**

Soft 100% cotton t-shirt from Majestic with team logo on front, player name & number on back and Hall of Fame logo on the sleeve. Sizes: S-XXL. 263606 | \$31.00
Members \$27.90

INDUCTION PLAYER COIN CARDS

Individual inductee coins feature 2017 Induction logo and team logos. Includes acrylic case and insert card with player image, career stats & accomplishments. Measures 6" x 4". 502619 | \$19.95 • **Members \$17.96**



CHAMPION INDUCTION POLO SHIRT

Polyester knit striped polo with self collar and open sleeves from Champion. Features 2017 Induction logo woven patch on left chest. 100% polyester. Available in Navy with White stripes. Sizes S-XXL. 217003 | \$45.00 • **Members \$40.50**



INDUCTION PLAYER STAT BATS

Limited edition full-sized collectible bats available for each member of the 2017 Class. Features career statistics, 2017 Induction logo, jersey number and replica signature. Measures 34" in length. Limited edition of 500 per bat. 125214 Bagwell | 125215 Raines | 125216 Rodriguez \$130.00 • **Members \$117.00**



MAJESTIC INDUCTION PLAYER STAT T-SHIRTS
 Celebrate the storied careers of this year's Induction Class with these t-shirts from Majestic. Features player image and career stats, along with team and Hall of Fame logos. 100% cotton. Sizes: S-XXL. 263604 | \$25.00
Members \$22.50



ALL HALL OF FAMES T-SHIRT
 The 2017 Induction Class joins baseball's immortals on this fan favorite t-shirt. Full-chest graphic on front with a complete list of Hall of Famers on the back organized by position played. Oxford Gray. 100% cotton. Available in adult and youth sizes.
 Adult All Hall of Famer T-Shirt - Sizes S-3XL
 217000 | \$20.00 • **Members \$18.00**
 Youth All Hall of Famer T-Shirt - Sizes S-XL
 217002 | \$18.00 • **Members \$16.20**

ROSTER T-SHIRT
 This classic Induction t-shirt features a screen printed full-chest graphic and a listing of Hall of Famers on the back by year of Induction. Available in Navy. 100% cotton. Sizes: S-3XL
 217001 | \$20.00 • **Members \$18.00**



INDUCTION LOGO CAP
 Classic relaxed fit cap features the 2017 Induction logo on front, with embroidered Induction Ceremony date on the back. Available in Gray. 100% washed cotton. Size: Adjustable.
 280219 | \$18.00 • **Members \$16.20**



AMERICAN NEEDLE INDUCTEE SIGNATURE CAPS
 Structured 100% brushed cotton cap features 2017 Induction logo on front crown with embroidered inductee signature, team logo and jersey number of the right side. Induction Ceremony date on the back. Size: Adjustable.
 280220 | \$24.95 • **Members \$22.46**

Members receive 10% off & FREE Standard Shipping



NEW ERA INDUCTION LOGO TEAM CAPS

New Era 39THIRTY flex fit team logo caps feature 2017 Induction logo side patch. Structured mid-height crown is embroidered with team logo on front and team wordmark on back. Available for Astros (Bagwell), Expos (Raines) and Rangers (Rodriguez). Sizes: S-M, M-L and L-XL. 280221 | \$27.00 • Members \$24.30



UNDER ARMOUR INDUCTION PERFORMANCE T-SHIRT

Performance fabric Induction tee from Under Armour. Features moisture-wicking performance fabric with full-chest screen printed graphic. Available in Navy. Sizes: S-2XL. 217004 | \$35.00 • Members \$31.50



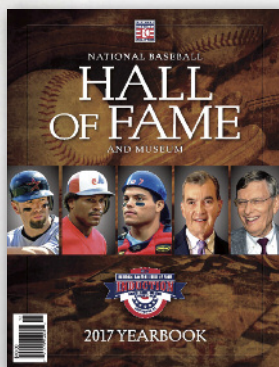
NEW ERA INDUCTION ALTERNATE 39THIRTY CAP

Performance Induction cap features raised embroidery with names of the 2017 inductees. Pre-curved bill and flex fit design. Polyester/Spandex blend. Available in Gray/Charcoal with Navy visor. Sizes: S/M, M/L, L/XL. 280222 | \$26.99 • Members \$24.29



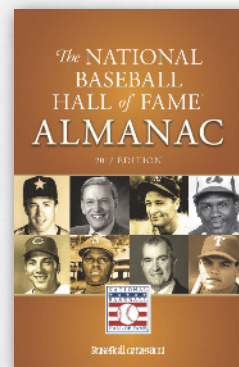
INDUCTION LOGO PATCH

Official 2017 Induction logo patch. Measures approximately 3" x 5". 522741 | \$12.95 • Members \$11.66



2017 HALL OF FAME YEARBOOK

Our annual yearbook celebrates the careers of the 2017 Induction Class with an in-depth feature story on each inductee. Also includes mini-bios of each Hall of Fame member. 117102 | \$10.00 • Members \$9.00



2017 HALL OF FAME ALMANAC

The ultimate Hall of Famer reference source with career summaries for each of the 317 Hall of Famers. Includes bio, career stats, photo, plaque image, post-season accomplishments & awards. 117103 | \$24.95 • Members \$22.46

INDUCTION JERSEY PIN SET

Three pin set includes home jersey pin for each member of the 2017 Class with display case. Limited edition of 2,017 consecutively numbered on a nameplate pin. Each pin measures approximately 1" x 1".
510145 | \$29.95 • **Members \$26.96**



INDUCTION PLAYER PINS

Collectible inductee action pins feature team and Hall of Fame logos. Approximately 1.5" x 1.5".
510141 Bagwell | 510142 Raines | 510143 Rodriguez
\$6.00 • **Members \$5.40**



INDUCTION ROSTER PIN

Special collector's pin includes the names of each member of the 2017 Class. Measures approximately 1 1/8" x 2".
500783 | \$8.00 • **Members \$7.20**



INDUCTION LOGO PIN

This classic pin featuring the 2017 Induction logo is a great way to commemorate this year's Induction. Measures 1 1/2" x 7/8".
520912 | \$6.00 • **Members \$5.40**



INDUCTION PLAYER OYO SPORTS FIGURINES

Collectible mini-figurines with poseable arms and legs. Available for each member of the 2017 Induction Class, as well as other Hall of Famers. Each figurine includes ball, bat, cap and stand. Measures 1.75" tall.
519018 | \$11.95 • **Members \$10.76**

Members receive 10% off & FREE Standard Shipping



INDUCTEE AUTOGRAPHED BASEBALLS

The ultimate Induction collectible. Individual Hall of Fame logo baseballs autographed by each member of the Class of 2017. Includes a display case with rich mahogany finish wood base and removable acrylic cover with an anti-UV protective coating. Each signature is independently authenticated and includes a certificate of authenticity.
 243136 Bagwell | 243096 Raines | 243098 Rodriguez
 \$199.00 - \$249.00
Members \$179.10 - \$224.10



HALL OF FAMER ACRYLIC PLAQUES

Finely crafted plaque replicas in acrylic with laser etched plaque image, wooden base and engraved nameplate. Measures 6.25" x 4.25".
2017 Inductees available for pre-order for shipment on July 30th.
 301980 | \$39.95 • Members \$35.96



HALL OF FAME PLAQUE POSTCARD SET

A favorite with collectors, these postcards capture images of the plaques found in the Hall of Fame Gallery. Available for each Hall of Fame member, or as a complete set.
2017 Inductees available for pre-order for shipment on July 30th.
 Plaque Postcard Set
 30165 | \$100.00 • Members \$90.00
 Individual Postcards
 30198 | \$0.50 • Members \$0.45



HALL OF FAMER CANVAS PLAQUES

Replica canvas prints of the plaques that hang in the Hall of Fame gallery in Cooperstown. Printed on archival canvas and mounted on sturdy wooden box frame. Each print ships ready to hang and measures 12" x 16". **2017 Inductees available for pre-order for shipment on July 30th.** 100080 | \$59.95 • Members \$53.96



INDUCTEE AUTOGRAPHED BATS

A new addition to the Hall of Fame line of autographed collectibles, these limited edition bats are hand-signed by 2017 Inductees Jeff Bagwell, Tim Raines and Ivan Rodriguez. Each hardwood ash bat measures 34" and features a special engraved graphic for each inductee. Signatures are independently authenticated and include a certificate of authenticity. Limited edition of 12 bats per inductee.
 243135 Bagwell | 243131 Raines
 243127 Rodriguez
 \$499.00 • Members \$450.00



INDUCTION PLAYER PENNANTS

Classic wool felt pennants featuring 2017 inductees Jeff Bagwell, Tim Raines and Ivan Rodriguez. Includes jersey number, team logo, player replica signature and 2017 Induction logo. Measures 13" x 32".
 590065 | \$35.00 • Members \$31.50



INDUCTION TANKARD

Collectible ceramic tankard includes the 2017 Induction logo and an alphabetical listing of every Hall of Famer. Measures 6 1/8" tall x 4 1/2" wide, and holds 28 ounces.
 100578 | \$22.00 • Members \$19.80



INDUCTION PINT GLASS

Collectible Induction glassware featuring images of Jeff Bagwell, Tim Raines and Ivan Rodriguez, the 2017 Induction logo, and Hall of Fame logo. Pint glasses hold approximately 16 fluid ounces.
 501168 | \$12.95 • Members \$11.66



INDUCTION MUG

Collectible coffee mugs hold approximately 8 fluid ounces.
 501169 | \$12.00 • Members \$10.80



INDUCTION SHOT GLASS

Collectible shot glasses hold approximately 1.5 fluid ounces.
 501167 | \$8.95 • Members \$8.06

Members receive 10% off & FREE Standard Shipping

MOUNDS OF ACHIEVEMENT

PHIL NIEKRO'S JOURNEY TO COOPERSTOWN STARTED WITH HIS FATHER AND THE KNUCKLEBALL.

BY HAL BODLEY

Somebody once said hitting Phil Niekro's knuckleball was like eating soup with a fork. It would float across the plate, seemingly the only pitch with backspin, like a butterfly with hiccups.

Ball players called it the moth, the dancer, the bubble.

Hitters hated it. So did catchers.

Mention *knuckleball* to Niekro and there's brief laughter, then seriousness.

"That was the only thing I had to get to the big leagues," he said, almost apologizing. "That was my ticket, my train ride."

Then, on the lighter side: "My fastball never exceeded the federal speed limit. A beach ball could beat it to the plate."

But what about the knuckleball?

There's a moment of silence.

"It's like the day I was inducted into the Hall of Fame," he said, with obvious emotion in his voice. "I was trying to get through my speech, one of the most fearful things I've ever done. When I got to my dad, I broke down."

Niekro, inducted in 1997, grew up in Lansing, Ohio, the son of a coal miner who pitched semipro baseball. Phil Sr. had a 92 mile-an-hour fastball until he injured his arm.

"Another coal miner taught him to throw the knuckler, so when we were kids, dad taught my brother Joe and me how to throw the knuckleball," said Niekro.

That knuckleball propelled Niekro, who turned 78 on April 1, to Cooperstown.

When he threw his first major league pitch on April 15, 1964, a knuckleball, of course, Lyndon B. Johnson was president. His final pitch – on Sept. 27, 1987 – was also a knuckleball. By then, Ronald Reagan was in the White House.

"I'm most proud of the 121 games I won after turning 40," he said. "That's the most wins by anyone over that age in baseball history."

"Knucksie" won 318 games and pitched in the big leagues until he was 48. He twice led the National League in wins, and his 23 victories in 1969 lifted the Atlanta Braves to their first division title in that city.

Three times he won 20 or more games, was a five-time All-Star, and in 1973 pitched a no-hitter against the San Diego Padres.

He says that when he and his brother Joe, who died at 61 in 2006, passed the duo of Jim and Gaylord Perry for most victories by brothers, "It was one of the top moments of my career. I'm not sure that will ever be done again."

It happened on June 1, 1987, when Phil pitched the Indians to a 9-6 victory over the Tigers. The Niekros ended with a combined 539 wins, 10 more than the Perrys.



Hall of Famers Ozzie Smith (left) and Phil Niekro have developed a friendly competition over the years as coaches of the two teams at the annual Hall of Fame Classic. The game is played over Memorial Day Weekend at Cooperstown's Doubleday Field and includes several Hall of Famers and former players representing all 30 major league teams.

MILIO STEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

From the moment Niekro managed to finish his Induction speech, the Hall of Fame has remained one of his shining achievements.

“When you’re able to sign ‘HOF’ after your name, it’s good forever,” he said. “And once you get your plaque in Cooperstown, everything is so different. I just cannot describe the feeling.”

Now, Niekro returns to Cooperstown each spring for the Hall of Fame Classic, a weekend when Hall of Famers and former players from all 30 teams compete in a fun-filled exhibition, with other events, spread over Memorial Day Weekend. He skips one of the teams; fellow Hall of Famer Ozzie Smith manages the other.

Though chosen for five All-Star Games, Niekro only pitched in two, the second of which came back to pay dividends more than a decade later when he was managing the Colorado Silver Bullets women’s baseball team.

Hall of Famer Tommy Lasorda, the former Dodgers skipper, managed the NL All-Stars in 1978 when the game was played in San Diego.

Always a sentimentalist, with two outs in the ninth inning, Lasorda removed the Cubs’ Bruce Sutter (the winning pitcher) and summoned Knucksie. Niekro got the Royals’ Darrell Porter to pop out to end the game.

“I wanted Knucksie to pitch because he was 39 and it was probably going to be his last All-Star Game,” Lasorda said.

“Years later, when he was in charge of the Silver Bullets, I called him,” Lasorda said. “I had a niece (Alyson Habetz) who was pitching for the University of Southwestern Louisiana and pretty good.

“I wanted her to play on that team, so I called Knucksie and said, ‘Remember when I picked you and put you in the ‘78 All-Star Game?’ He said, ‘How can I ever forget that? I’ll always be grateful.’ He put her on the team and she played very well.”

Said Niekro: “She was a great pitcher, mostly used in relief. I remember in 1996 she struck out 25 batters in 36 2/3 innings. Every time I see Tommy, I mention her to him.”

Niekro managed the Silver Bullets from 1994-96 and was their general manager in 1997. He recruited the best female ballplayers in the country, mostly top college softball players, who went up against minor league and college baseball teams.

After 20 seasons with the Milwaukee (1964-65) and Atlanta Braves (1966-83), Niekro signed as a free agent with the Yankees.

It was with the Yankees that he, at age 46, would become the 18th and oldest player in major league history to reach 300 victories.

It happened on Sunday, Oct. 6, 1985, the last day of the regular season, with a four-hit, 8-0 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays and his former manager and close friend, Hall of Famer Bobby Cox. The irony of this defining accomplishment is that the pitch that was the fabric of his Hall of Fame career wasn’t used until the last batter he faced.

“A lot of people felt I couldn’t get anybody out without the knuckler,” said Niekro, who also became the oldest major leaguer to hurl a shutout (a mark since eclipsed by Jamie Moyer).

By winning the previous day’s game, the Blue Jays clinched their division.

“So I was pitching the last game of the season and going for my 300th,” remembered Niekro. “Maybe those guys (Blue Jays) had too much champagne Saturday night. I got them out the first inning or two and we scored some runs.”

Working on a shutout and with history in sight, Niekro got two quick outs in the ninth before pinch-hitter Tony Fernandez doubled.

“My catcher, Butch Wynegar, came to the mound after the double and asked, ‘What’s going on?’ I said, ‘What do you mean?’ and he answered, ‘You’re not throwing any knuckleballs.’”

Jeff Burroughs was up next.

Niekro: “I got two quick strikes on Burroughs. Butch came back out to the mound and said, ‘You want to throw the knuckleball, don’t you?’ I said, ‘Well I can’t think of a better way to win my 300th game.’ So, I struck him out.”

With the knuckleball.

“I figured if there’s any way I’m going to win my 300th game by striking a guy out, I was going to do it with the pitch that got me here.”

Niekro and Hoyt Wilhelm are the only knuckleball pitchers in the Hall of Fame. Niekro believes the pitch’s popularity has waned, but he does still get requests from minor league players for him to teach it.

Today, Niekro and his wife, Nancy, enjoy semi-retirement at their home in Flowery Branch, Ga., near Lake Lanier.

“We do a lot of golf and fishing, and spend hours with our grandchildren,” said Niekro, a father of three who celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with Nancy last August 6.

No matter the topic, the conversation inevitably drifts back to family.

“I remember when I got the call that I’d been



Phil Niekro throws out a ceremonial first pitch for the Colorado Silver Bullets. The Hall of Famer managed the women’s professional baseball team from 1994-96 and spent another year as their general manager.

elected to the Hall of Fame,” Niekro said. “I got in the car and was driving to the Atlanta airport (for the trip to New York) and asked myself, ‘What does this all mean?’ and all I kept seeing was me and my dad in the backyard doing this (as he demonstrates the classic fingernail grip and straight-arm push of the knuckleball).

“Every game I won kept floating back to me, to my dad in the backyard.”

After a long pause, he added, “Yes, I’ve been very blessed and fortunate to have been able to play the game for as long as I did and not have had any serious arm injuries. I guess you could say my life was the knuckleball.”

Wrong.

It was all about a father, two sons and chasing a dream that came true. 🍬

Hal Bodley, dean of American baseball writers, is correspondent emeritus for MLB.com. He’s covered Major League Baseball since 1958 and was USA TODAY baseball editor/columnist for 25 years.



Lasting Legacy

Katy Feeney is remembered as groundbreaking MLB executive.

BY ALEX COFFEY

Forty years after her first year in baseball, Katy Feeney still kept the letters. She would never go as far as calling herself a female pioneer, but after rising from a public relations secretary in the National League to MLB's Senior Vice President for Club Relations and Scheduling, it certainly didn't hurt to remember where she came from.

"Back in 1977 (when she started working for the National League), women were slowly being allowed into clubhouses, but it was still a battle," Feeney said in an interview with the Hall of Fame this year. "I have some old letters from clubs about what their policies were on women being in clubhouses. That obviously has changed. It was a bit of a different world, but probably changed faster than a lot of the other sports."

Feeney, who held a variety of roles during her 40 years at Major League Baseball, passed away April 1 following her retirement last winter. She was a mainstay at All-Star Games, World Series and Hall of Fame Inductions, where she served as both league representative and a friendly face for media and club officials alike.

"Katy was first and foremost a baseball fan," said Phyllis Merhige, who had worked alongside Feeney at MLB since the 1970s. "She had a thorough understanding and appreciation for the game, but she was also a complete professional ... organized, knowledgeable and efficient."

"She was a rock-solid person."

The daughter of New York (and later San Francisco) Giants executive Charles S. "Chub" Feeney and the great-granddaughter of Giants owner Charles Stoneham, Katy spent much of her childhood in and around ballparks. She was fluent in the language of the game and



Katy Feeney worked in the National League office and later the MLB office (after the leagues merged their front offices) for parts of five decades.

intrinsically understood its most mundane of traits and wildest of idiosyncrasies. But after graduating from Cal-Berkeley as a sociology major in 1971, the last place she envisioned herself working was in baseball.

"It was more accidental than anything else," Feeney said. "I thought I was going to be a teacher, but at the time there was a flood of teachers and a declining school population. The NL office, which was in San Francisco, was getting ready to move to New York."

"They needed somebody to take the place of the PR secretary until they moved to New York. My father's administrative assistant ended up asking me to move to New York for a year. It was a long year."

After staying on as an assistant in the National League public relations office, she

served as an Assistant Director of Public Relations and ultimately rose to Senior Vice President of Club Relations and Scheduling at MLB. But her titles don't do justice to the broad impact she had on the game.

"Katy was a great listener, gave thoughtful and practical counsel and was always game to try new things and new places," said Merhige, who served as Feeney's American League counterpart before retiring after the 2016 season. "She was tolerant and respectful of all people and the differences between them, and was sensitive to their needs, strengths and weaknesses."

From her meticulous work on the National League's annual "Green Book" of records to her ever-present work as moderator at press conferences, Feeney's influence reached the farthest corners of the game. She ended her time at MLB with what she called the most "challenging" job she had ever worked: The oversight and maintenance of the 162-game baseball schedule.

"One of the real unsung accomplishments of Katy was her work with the schedule," said Bill Madden of the (New York) *Daily News*. "I cannot think of a more complex, difficult job. And making it even more challenging was the fact that every time players, managers, writers or whoever was annoyed or aggravated over the schedule – night games without a day off the next day, rescheduling and rainouts, whatever – their complaints all went to Katy. And, invariably, she handled them deftly without losing her patience or her temper."

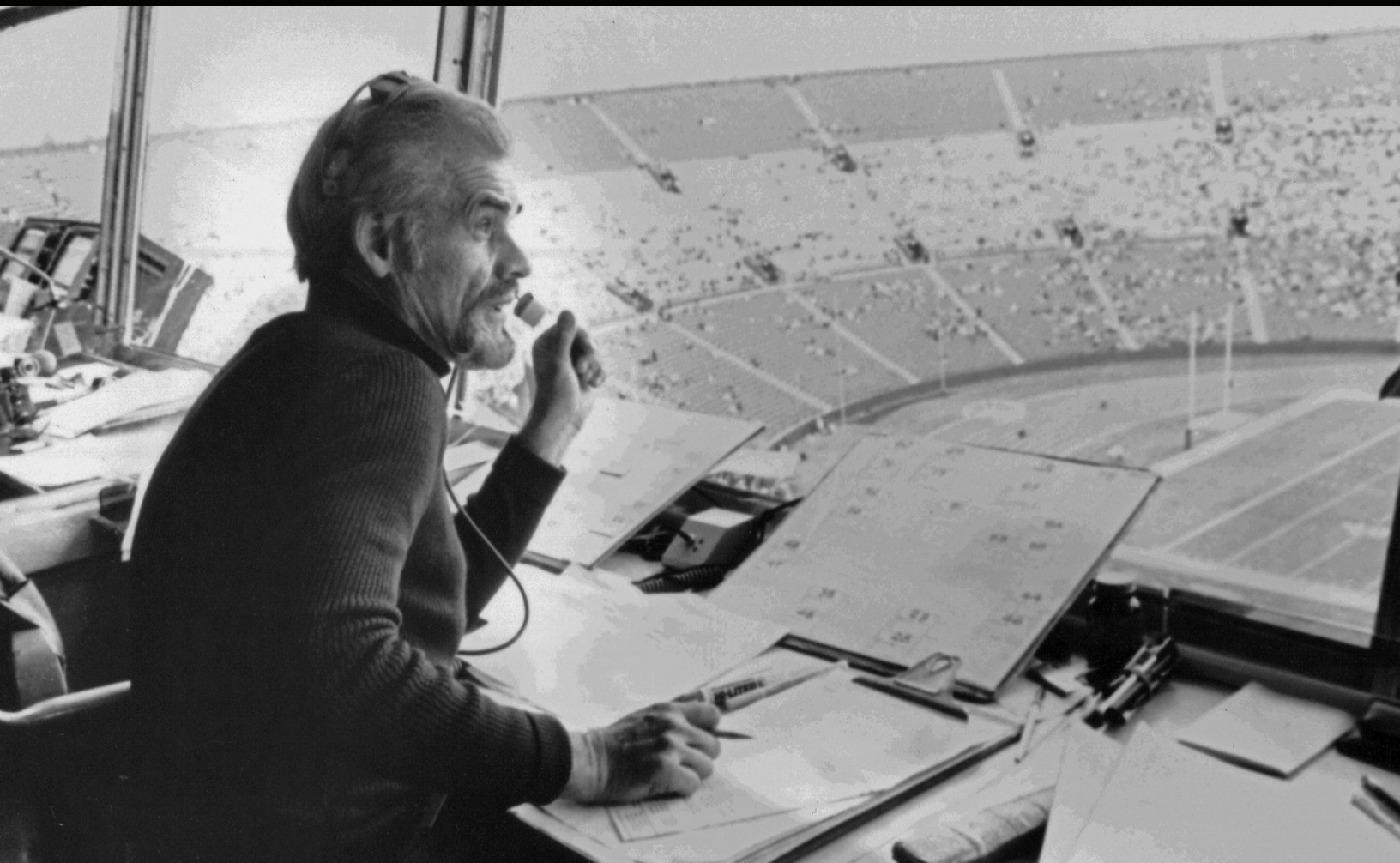
Whether it was at the podium wearing one of her trademark hats or behind-the-scenes grinding through day-to-day duties, Feeney recognized that there needed to be a human element at work. In a constantly changing sports landscape swept up by the age of technology, Feeney brought that element to the office every day.

"I want to emphasize it really was one of the toughest, most unpopular jobs around, but she did it with passion and understanding," MLB Commissioner Emeritus and 2017 Hall of Fame electee Allan H. "Bud" Selig said. "When I heard the news (about her passing), this is one of those sad, stunning moments that just takes your breath away. She was a remarkable person."

"You always hear me talk about the best interest of baseball. You never had to do that with Katy. She knew instinctively. Instinctively." ❀

Alex Coffey is the communications specialist at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

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COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE



Cardboard Connection

Women's baseball cards add another chapter to the story of these pioneers of the game.

BY TIM WILES

“**W**omen have hit home runs and stolen bases, umpired games and traded players, designed ballparks and broadcast games. But these achievements have been relatively rare and are largely unknown. When girls dream the same baseball dreams as boys, can they come true?”

This was the main idea behind the Hall of Fame's *Women in Baseball* exhibit, originally created in 1988, and re-envisioned by a team of curators in 2006. Of such dreams, Hall of Famer Rollie Fingers once said: “When I got to see myself on a real baseball card, well, that's every kid's dream growing up.”

But what about young girls? That dream may occur when she is too young to know that the odds against her making the big leagues are, at this point, truly a long shot.

As the exhibit notes, women and girls have been playing the game since its earliest days. Throughout the 19th century, there were many examples of all-female teams, and also of young women playing alongside and against men. Did they have baseball cards? Not as many as the men, but it turns out that there are baseball cards of female players going back almost as far as the more well-known men's cards.

The first commercial baseball cards, used to promote cigarettes and tobacco products, can be traced back to the 1880s, featuring individual player portraits. The Allen & Ginter Tobacco Company was among the first to hit upon this

idea. Cards portraying female players were among the first sets they produced, in 1886.

That year, the company produced three sets of nine cards, featuring two female teams, the Black Stocking Nine and the Polka Dot Nine. The cards portray young women in baseball costumes similar to men's uniforms of the day.

The cards caused a sensation when displayed in shop windows in Atlanta, and became the subject of controversy all along the East Coast. While some customers found the photos immoral, many others lined up to view them.

“All sorts of people have been there, from the ragged bootblack to the merchant prince,” reported the *Atlanta Constitution*. Offended citizens in New York “began a crusade against ... the pictures representing the luscious baseball nine.” The controversy reached the office of Anthony Comstock, the noted censor who headed “The Society for the Suppression of Vice,” who ordered the photos to be seized, perhaps contributing to their relative rarity. Today the cards fetch five-figure prices at auction.

While women continued to play baseball between the 1880s and the 1940s, baseball cards featuring them were few and far between. When Philip Wrigley founded the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League in 1943, there were no baseball cards produced.

Baseball cards themselves would soon be revitalized by the Topps Company, which issued its first set in 1951. The AAGPBL folded shortly thereafter in 1954, having produced no trading cards of its players. As the movie *A*

League Of Their Own dramatizes, the league and its players slipped into obscurity for nearly 40 years. But in the 1980s, the league's alumni began to reconnect with one another, and soon a player's association was formed. Baseball cards would not be far behind.

In 1984, Sharon Roepke, a fan of the league from Michigan, began producing cards of the women who'd played in the AAGPBL. She produced four card sets between 1984 and 1990, along with a booklet called “Diamond Gals” about the league itself. One of those card sets found its way into the hands of Ted Spencer, at the time a Hall of Fame curator.

Spencer, who'd collected baseball cards as a kid in Quincy, Mass., remembered his grammar school gym teacher, Mary Pratt, talking about her days as a professional baseball player. Spencer looked her up, and a passion for the women's game was kindled. He eventually would team with longtime Hall of Fame Public Relations Director Bill Guilfoile to create the first *Women in Baseball* exhibit at the Hall. Director Penny Marshall attended the opening and was inspired to create her 1992 film *A League Of Their Own*, which made the league a well-known chapter in baseball history.

After the movie, another set of AAGPBL cards was created, this time by the Larry Fritsch baseball card company. Fritsch produced three series of cards, starting in 1995. The series eventually contained 421 cards, covering a fair amount of the approximately 650 women who played in the league.

The AAGPBL was the inspiration for Josh Platt to begin his women's baseball card collection. Platt, a marketing consultant from Westerville, Ohio, began collecting while living in New Jersey. One day he attended a card show where the three Yankees perfect game pitchers were all signing.

“Of course, the line was about 3,000 people long,” Platt said. “At one point, we moved past a woman in a wheelchair who was signing, so we asked who she was. It turned out it was “Pepper” Paire, a star player from the AAGPBL. My wife was teaching an eighth grade math unit on Rotisserie baseball at the time, and she was finding the boys much more engaged than the girls. So I bought a signed card and ball, and gave them to my wife for her classroom. I think it helped, and I got hooked on the AAGPBL and on collecting cards of female baseball players.”

The Platt family journey appears to have



Baseball cards featuring women's players have been popular for decades, featuring current players as well as retro cards of All-American Girls Professional Baseball League stars.

come full circle on women in baseball this spring, as eldest daughter Cydney has made her middle school baseball team.

Another way in which things have come full circle is that Topps has revived the Allen & Ginter name for a line of its baseball cards. In addition to players, Allen & Ginter features other interesting personalities, such as politicians, actors, musicians and even sportscasters, so you never know who will turn up on a "baseball card."

The last two decades have featured a renaissance among female baseball players, perhaps the most fruitful period for women and girls playing baseball in history. The Colorado Silver Bullets all-female baseball team barnstormed around the country playing men's teams from 1994-97. Of course, each of the four seasons featured a promotional set of baseball cards. The U.S. women's national baseball team,

founded in 2004, has produced several card sets.

Female players are sometimes included in card sets on other subjects. In 2003, a 141-card set was produced called "American Jews in America's Game." Several update sets were produced in subsequent seasons, and the 2006 update included cards for three Jewish women who played in the AAGPBL: Anita Foss, Thelma "Tiby" Eisen and Blanche Schachter. The set included a fourth woman who was erroneously included when the initial research indicated that she was Jewish. After the set came out, she requested that her card be removed from circulation, and it was.

Shades of Honus Wagner! Card No. 31, featuring Margaret Wigiser, may in fact be rarer than Wagner. There have also been cards issued of the three women who played in the Negro Leagues – Toni Stone, Connie Morgan and Mamie

Johnson – as part of larger Negro Leagues sets.

Several female players have had great success in men's collegiate baseball and independent league baseball, most notably pitchers Ila Borders and Eri Yoshida, both of whom have been featured on team card sets.

This renaissance on the field is echoed by women and girls learning more about players and teams from the past of women's baseball. Honoring those pioneers of the game is part of the mission of the Minnesota Girls Baseball Association, which has produced card sets for the past two seasons that feature a mix of some of the best young female players today with female figures from baseball history. ●

Tim Wiles is the former director of research at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum and lives in Guilderland, N.Y.

akes.com

Bar





JEAN FURTHRATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



Pioneering writer Claire Smith was named the 2017 winner of the Baseball Writers' Association of America's J.G. Taylor Spink Award, becoming the first woman to receive the highest honor in baseball journalism.

Smith, shown at Yankee Stadium with Yankees pitcher CC Sabathia, now works as a coordinating editor for ESPN's universal news group. She previously worked as a reporter and columnist for the *Hartford Courant*, *The New York Times* and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Smith will receive the Spink Award on July 29 in Cooperstown as part of Hall of Fame Weekend.

LEGENDS in FOCUS



Pioneer of the Air

Suzyn Waldman opened doors for women broadcasting baseball games.

BY MARTY APPEL

For New York Yankees broadcaster Suzyn Waldman, it has all been an “impossible dream.”

She could never have imagined being part of the legacy of New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, but the two of them were going to make history together.

Waldman was still in the early years of the second act of her professional career, developing a following and establishing her credibility as a radio reporter on the Yankees beat. One day, Steinbrenner turned to her (she was chasing him for a comment on some breaking news), pointed a finger at her and said, “One of these days, Waldman, I’m going to make a statement about women in sports. I’m going to make you a Yankee announcer – and I hope you can take it.”

“It wasn’t as though he was seeking me out to tell me this,” Waldman said. “I was running after him like all the reporters were doing. Why he chose to do that, so early in my career, I can’t say.”

Pioneers had come before Waldman in the big league broadcast booth, but no one had yet stepped in to do it full time or for a reason other than a promotional stunt.

In 1964, Kansas City Athletics owner Charlie Finely hired a “weather girl,” Betty Caywood, to do color commentary for Monte Moore and George Bryson’s play-by-play on A’s broadcasts. She told him she didn’t know baseball and was not qualified, but he told her she didn’t have to know baseball. She had the “gift of gab.” And he told the press, “She’ll appeal to the dolls.” She did one partial season, traveled to road games, and her sportscasting career was over. She is now 87 and still lives in Kansas City.

Then came the late Mary Shane, hired by Bill Veeck to move into the crowded broadcast booth of the 1977 Chicago White Sox, joining Harry Caray, Lorn Brown and Jimmy Piersall. Mary was better versed on baseball, but that was a broadcast booth short on space. She was a “guest” announcer for only 20 games.

The reviews on her work were politely mixed, mostly recognizing that the inexperience showed. But she went on to become a respected sportswriter for the *Worcester Telegram*.

And there, the progress seemed to end for women in the broadcast booth. Until it was Waldman’s turn in the spotlight.

Born and raised in Newton, Mass., as a big Ted Williams fan, Waldman was blessed with a remarkable singing voice and headed for the stage as a career. The pinnacle was her role opposite the great Richard Kiley in *Man of La Mancha*, the show that ironically gave us the memorable song “The Impossible Dream” – which was the title attached to the 1967 Red Sox, who went from ninth place to the American League pennant in one season.

But she saw changes coming to traditional musicals and felt that the medium might no longer accommodate her particular talents.

She decided on a career change and embraced her lifelong love of sports. Determined to make it in her adopted city of New York without apprenticeships in smaller markets, make it she did, becoming the first voice heard when all-sports WFAN went on the air in 1987. She was soon hosting talk shows and NBA pregame and postgame shows.

Waldman eventually became a groundbreaking Yankees beat reporter, traveling with the team, breaking news and conducting interviews.

No radio reporter had ever been a “beat” reporter before; radio talent had typically just gathered material written by the newspaper reporters. (She held a similar position covering the New York Knicks basketball team.)

Two years into the job, she was in the upper deck at Candlestick Park when the 1989 World Series was hit by an earthquake. She was lucky; her phone line never went dead, and she stayed on the air live, reporting from the scene back to her New York audience.

“It was the turning point in my career,” Waldman said.

In the mid-1990s, she began doing occasional play-by-play of Yankees baseball when games were shown on WPIX-TV, the MSG Network and WNYW/FOX 5. Only Gayle Gardner, with one game for the 1993 Colorado Rockies, had broken that male-dominated glass-ceiling to that point. She worked some nationally televised games for The Baseball Network, the 1994-95 entity that presented baseball on NBC and ABC.

The road wasn’t easy, particularly when she was dealt the awful news in 1996 that she had breast cancer. But arrangements were made to have her daily medication available in all clubhouses the Yankees visited on the road. She told Steinbrenner: “I am not going to lose this job because of breast cancer. I promise you I will not throw up in the broadcast booth, and I won’t be bald on the air. I’ve waited my whole life to broadcast for the New York Yankees and I’m not going to miss this.”

She beat the cancer and has long been cancer-free. And she is a frequent speaker at schools and at cancer centers, offering inspiration for students to follow their dream and to patients to hear what she went through and how she persevered.

A big moment for her came in January 1999, when she personally intervened to end a 14-year feud between Steinbrenner and his long-estranged manager, Yogi Berra. Berra had vowed to never return to Yankee Stadium, resenting the manner in which he was told he was fired in 1985. Steinbrenner privately regretted the estrangement from the beloved Yankees figure.

Waldman took it upon herself to use the venue of the recently opened Yogi Berra Museum and Learning Center in Little Falls, N.J., to coax the two to meet. Not only would she resolve a painful dispute between the two high-profile figures, but she would do her

Suzyn Waldman has been calling Yankees games on radio with broadcast partner John Sterling since 2005. In 2009, she became the first woman to call a World Series game.



WFAN radio show from the museum and have them live on the air, together, to bury the hatchet. Clearly, it could not have happened had Steinbrenner not respected her. This wasn't going to happen for just any enterprising radio host.

It was an enormous event and elevated Waldman's standing in the New York sports community.

"I didn't really know Yogi that well," Waldman said. "After all, he didn't come around. Phil Rizzuto introduced me to him. It was George Steinbrenner who I knew better, but I managed to get them to come together, and it was a memorable night."

In 2002, she left WFAN to join the new YES Network, the cable entity that would televise Yankees baseball going forward, and in 2005, the Steinbrenner prophesy came to be when she was selected to join John Sterling in the Yankees' radio booth.

The idea of a woman in the booth on a daily basis had long been on Steinbrenner's

mind. In the '70s, he brought a Tampa on-air reporter named Pam (Boucher) Jones to work for the Yankees with the idea being that she would become a broadcaster. She wound up doing promos and out-of-town scores between innings, but never called games. Now, the moment had arrived.

Today, televised Yankees games are at various times on different stations and networks, and as many as eight different announcers rotate in and out of the TV booth on YES Network alone. But it's Sterling and Waldman, like most radio teams, who are there every day, every game, on through the Postseason, a remarkable workload, to the point where the historic nature of Waldman's presence, now in its 13th year, is almost taken for granted.

Which, after some hostile letters and threats when it all began, is just how she likes it.

"Suzyn is a pioneer within our industry and has earned her place in broadcasting history through decades of diligent and insightful

work," said Jason Zillo, the Yankees' Vice President, Communications and Media Relations. "She's passionate about baseball and the New York Yankees, and it's that vigor that allows her to bring millions of fans closer to the game through meaningful and thoughtful insights.

"She is a gifted broadcaster, reporter and entertainer. She's a pro in every sense, and in this business that's the ultimate compliment."

In 2016, Sterling (who has not missed a broadcast in 28 seasons) and Waldman were inducted into the New York State Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame.

In 2006, the Hall of Fame included Waldman in its *Diamond Dreams* exhibit as the first full-time female color commentator, and her scorecard from the 2009 World Series resides in Cooperstown as well, marking the first woman to broadcast a World Series. 📺

Marty Appel is the magazine historian for Memories and Dreams.

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Tour of Paradise

New Hall of Famers relish their chance to visit Cooperstown.

BY BILL FRANCIS

Four months away from his big day, and surrounded by more than 300 bronze plaques of the greatest names in the sport's history, Jeff Bagwell kept using the same word to describe his feelings.

"Surreal," said the longtime Houston

Astros first baseman, one of five members of National Baseball Hall of Fame's Class of 2017, while talking to the assembled media in the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's Plaque Gallery March 28. "I've been using that word a lot lately. You walk around this place and see the history, the names,

Class of 2017 To Be Inducted July 30

Hall of Fame Weekend 2017 will be held July 28-31, with the Induction Ceremony on Sunday, July 30, at the Clark Sports Center in Cooperstown. Jeff Bagwell, Tim Lincecum, Iván Rodríguez, John Schuerholz and Bud Selig will be inducted as the Class of 2017.

statistics and what it's meant to the game of baseball. You realize the game is so much bigger than yourself."

Bagwell experienced an Orientation Visit to the Hall of Fame, as did each of the other four members of the Class of 2017, in a tradition that started more than two decades ago. The new Hall of Famers receive a behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum, then see the sights in Cooperstown and plan the logistics for their time at Induction Weekend in July.

But for most Hall of Famers, that first trip to Cooperstown as a new electee is all



Jeff Bagwell and his wife, Rachel, admire the *Chasing the Dream* exhibit in the Museum dedicated to the life of Henry Aaron. Bagwell visited the Hall of Fame in March in advance of his induction in July.

WILCO STEWART, JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



Above: Tim Raines stopped by the plaque of former Montreal Expos teammate Gary Carter during his visit to the Hall of Fame Plaque Gallery in April as part of his Orientation Tour. **Right:** Iván Rodríguez laughs while chatting with media during his Hall of Fame Orientation Tour in February.

about the emotion of the moment.

“Here’s my new home,” Class of 2017 member Iván Rodríguez whispered to himself as he entered the Plaque Gallery during his trip to Cooperstown in February.

“This has been a special day, for sure, just to be able to see all the uniforms and all the teams and all the Hall of Fame plaques here,” added Rodríguez, in what he said was his fifth trip to Cooperstown. “And then to come here and see where my plaque is going to be in July ... it’s a dream.”

For Tim Raines, who was elected to the Hall of Fame in January in his 10th-and-final appearance on the Baseball Writers’ Association of America ballot, just the drive to the Central New York village of Cooperstown was a moving experience.

“Even though I’ve been doing a lot of press

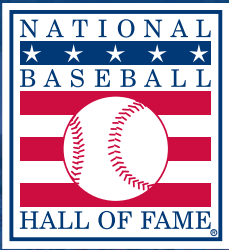


PHOTOS BY MILO STEWART FOR NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

conferences and been asked a lot of questions about it, it really hit me when we landed in Albany (N.Y.) and a driver came up to help us and he had the Hall of Fame name on his shirt. At that time it hit me,” said Raines during his April visit to the Hall of Fame. “I was like, ‘Wow. This is it. This is the drive to Cooperstown.’”

“I knew where we were going. We were coming here. Hopefully my kids can remember that and my wife can remember that, because certainly I will.” 📌

Bill Francis is a Library Associate at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.



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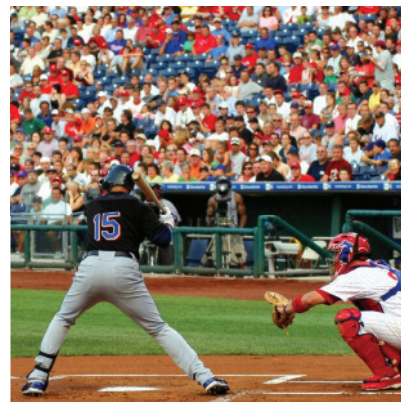
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Our Museum in Action

These ongoing projects are just a few of the ways the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's mission is being supported today.

WHAT WE'VE DONE TOGETHER

Babe Ruth spikes

Thanks to a generous donation from Debra J. Williams, a pair of spikes (item B-1.39 a and b) that were worn by Babe Ruth during his career – and later donated to the Museum by Ruth himself – will undergo much needed conservation work ensuring that they are preserved here in Cooperstown.

Hall of Fame Class of 1937 photos to be digitally preserved

Thanks to a number of generous donors, photographs of several members of the Class of 1937 will be digitally preserved and added to the PASTIME online collections database at collection.baseballhall.org:

Morgan Bulkeley, thanks to a gift from Dr. Phil Kiver;

Nap Lajoie, thanks to a gift from Paul A. Lester; Tris Speaker, thanks to a gift from Lou Boyd.

The following images from the Class of 1937 are still in need of digital preservation:

<i>Ban Johnson (13 images)</i>	\$65
<i>Connie Mack (409 images)</i>	\$2,255
<i>John McGraw (158 images)</i>	\$910
<i>George Wright (5 images)</i>	\$25
<i>Cy Young (126 images)</i>	\$660

Total cost to digitally preserve the remaining 711 images: \$3,915

We also extend our thanks to Jewell Gould for a contribution toward digitally preserving a portion of our collection of George Brett images and to Steve Lasher for contributing toward the conservation of a Ty Cobb glove.

WHAT YOU CAN HELP US DO

AAGPBL Glove

The glove (item B-348.97) used by Vivian Kellogg while playing for the Fort Wayne Daisies of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League in 1945 is in need of conservation. This work will ensure that this glove is preserved to inspire the next generation of fans.

Estimated conservation cost: \$1,750

Digitally preserve historic photos of the Hall of Fame Class of 1972

We need your help to continue our work to digitally preserve the Museum's photo collection, which contains more than 250,000 images. Last fall, we launched the Museum's PASTIME online database at collection.baseballhall.org. Now you can help us to preserve and provide access to images of the star-studded class of 1972.

Cost to digitally preserve images of:

<i>Yogi Berra (572 images)</i>	\$3,030
<i>Josh Gibson (16 images)</i>	\$140
<i>Lefty Gomez (95 images)</i>	\$505
<i>William Harridge (111 images)</i>	\$675
<i>Sandy Koufax (328 images)</i>	\$1,660
<i>Buck Leonard (22 images)</i>	\$130
<i>Early Wynn (96 images)</i>	\$480
<i>Ross Youngs (15 images)</i>	\$75

Total cost to digitally preserve all 1,255 images: \$6,695

For more information – or to make a donation of any amount toward one of our projects – please contact Becky Ashe of our Development Team at (607) 547-0310 or bashe@baseballhall.org.



1. This and other images of Josh Gibson – as well as the other members of the Hall of Fame Class of 1972 – are in need of digital preservation via donor support.
2. This pair of spikes worn by Babe Ruth have undergone conservation efforts, thanks to support from donor Debra J. Williams.
3. This glove was used by Vivian Kellogg of the Fort Wayne Daisies of the AAGPBL in 1945. Now part of the Museum's collection, the glove is in need of conservation work to ensure its structural integrity is maintained.



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MILIO STEWART JR. NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



3

MILIO STEWART JR. NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

LOVE OF THE GAME

As Chairman of the Board, Jane Forbes Clark has led the Hall of Fame to new heights.

BY JON SHESTAKOVSKY

Well beyond the sphere of sports, the Village of Cooperstown stands for excellence. It represents Americana. And most of all, as the spiritual home of our National Pastime, Cooperstown is synonymous with baseball.

These associations grew out of the vision of Stephen C. Clark, who in 1939 founded the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

Seventy-eight years later, Cooperstown's legacy remains in the hands of his granddaughter, Jane Forbes Clark, who now steers the Hall of Fame as Chairman of the Board, making her one of the game's most respected leaders and continuing her family's role as a pillar of the Cooperstown community.

The Clark family's involvement with the Hall of Fame frequently brought her through its doors during her childhood.

"I always knew that baseball was a big part of my family's life," Clark said. "But it was only as I grew older that I began to understand the mission of the Hall of Fame and how important it was to baseball, and especially to the people involved in the sport, most importantly our Hall of Fame members.

"My first memory of the Hall of Fame," Clark said, "is of the ground-breaking ceremony for the Library building (in the 1960s). I was very little, and it was the first time that I'd ever seen a shiny silver shovel. I just thought it was remarkable – I didn't even know they made silver shovels!"



As Hall of Fame Chairman of the Board, Jane Forbes Clark presides over the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in Cooperstown.

Clark has since traded silver shovels for the bronze plaques that immortalize baseball's greatest players, managers, executives and umpires. She presides over the annual Induction Ceremony, personally welcoming the last 16 classes of Hall of Famers to Cooperstown.

"I consider Induction Weekend to be the highlight of the baseball year," Clark said. "The mission of the Hall of Fame is to preserve history, honor excellence and connect generations – and at no other time throughout the season do these come together in the same way as they do in late July, when baseball fans, young

and old, help us celebrate the all-time greats of the game."

Clark also finds joy in the other aspects of her role as Chairman.

"I have as much fun Induction Weekend as I do just walking quietly through the Museum and listening to family members connecting with one another and talking about how much fun they're having – and comparing their different perspectives on the game," she said.

To successfully guide the institution, Clark monitors the pulse of everyone visiting Cooperstown, whether they are baseball fans paying tribute to the legends, or one of the 74 living Hall of Fame members.


Since becoming Chairman, the number of Hall of Famers returning annually to Induction Weekend has climbed significantly. As a testament to her relationships with Hall of Famers, consider that one Induction Weekend, Clark arranged for and served as one of only two witnesses for Jim Palmer's wedding.

Clark has had a keen baseball mind and a friend at her side in the Board of Directors' Vice Chairman, Hall of Famer Joe Morgan.

"When I was asked to be Chairman of the Board of Directors, the very first thing I did was fly to San Francisco, have dinner with Joe and ask him to be my Vice Chairman, because I knew that I couldn't possibly do this job without him.

"I would hope that as the Hall of Famers trust me, they trust the institution. But I never rely on that trust – I always guard it and work to make it stronger and better. And certainly I work to never, ever let anything happen to whatever trust our Hall of Fame members and our fans have in myself, the Board of Directors and our Senior Management team."

A Hall of Fame Board member since 1992, Clark's qualifications are wide-ranging. An owner of Olympic-medal winning horses and some of the top-rated bucking bulls on the PBR circuit, her past experiences include stints as President of the U.S. Equestrian Federation, Vice Chairman and Trustee of the United States Equestrian Team, Director of the United States Olympic Committee and an Executive Board Member of the *Fédération Equestre Internationale*.



Hall of Fame Chairman of the Board Jane Forbes Clark and Hall of Famer Roberto Alomar share a moment at the 2014 Hall of Fame Classic at Doubleday Field.

These experiences gave her the opportunity to interact with some of the world's top athletes, learn how they operate and understand their expectations – both of themselves and those around them. Her work on the Olympic Committee spanned all of the Olympic sports, from *tae kwon do* to Alpine skiing and boxing. It also afforded her the chance to work with athletes of all ages, from young gymnasts not yet in their 20s to more experienced Olympians in yachting, equestrian and shooting.

“As a member of the International Games Preparation Committee, we had to review all the selection criteria for all the Olympic disciplines for that quadrennial,” she said. “We would also have to deal with the athletes and what they thought about their qualifying and selection. It gave me a huge respect for elite athletes.”

When she was named Board Chairman in 2000, Clark considered the possibility that a male-dominated industry like baseball might not easily accept a woman in that role.

“The other members of the Board of Directors, the Hall of Fame members, every member of the staff at the Hall of Fame couldn't have been more supportive and helpful and encouraging. Still, I knew in my heart that there would be skepticism at the start.”

Today, perhaps the most influential woman in baseball, she chooses not to make gender an issue as it relates to her position in Cooperstown.

“I would just like to be accepted as ‘Jane, Chairman of the National Baseball Hall of Fame,’” Clark said. “I think it's fairer to be accepted as a person who is in that role, not specifically as a woman.”

One of the Museum's feature exhibits, *Diamond Dreams* – which salutes the roles women have played in baseball at every level – was re-dedicated in 2006 with the help of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, the World War II-era women's league that gained notoriety as a result of the film *A League of Their Own*.

“My fondest memories of women, baseball and the Museum coming together come from hosting the incredible women who played in the All-American Girls Professional League in the Museum so many times for their reunions,” Clark said. “Those memories are terrific.”

Clark gives credit to Penny Marshall, director of *A League of Their Own*, for opening a whole new segment of the American population to baseball.



Hall of Fame Chairman of the Board Jane Forbes Clark greets the son of former MLB star Jim Thome, Landon, with Hall of Fame President Jeff Idelson during the pregame ceremonies for the 2014 Hall of Fame Classic at Doubleday Field. Thome presented the ball he hit for his 600th career home run to the Museum.

“At the Museum, we are keeping the focus on that period of time and those women, what they did and how important it was,” Clark said. “We're keeping the dream alive.

“[Marshall] helped shepherd the door open, and we're keeping it open.”

If you ask her what has changed at the Museum in her lifetime, Clark is quick to point out that the Museum never changes; it only evolves in step with society. The same goes for Cooperstown, a village that has progressed with the times but retains the same special charm and character it had when her grandfather conceived of the Hall of Fame.

“Cooperstown should be regarded as a big, beautiful piece of fabric that has many elements to it,” Clark said. “It has its natural

beauty – the lake, the village and the hills. It has its artistic beauty that comes out in all of our cultural institutions, such as the opera and the other two museums in Cooperstown – the Fenimore Art Museum and the Farmers' Museum. It has its inherent, old-fashioned beauty. Our Main Street does not look like everybody else's Main Street; it's very special.

“When you take those components and you add the Hall of Fame, a very strong sports element that has enormous integrity, all of it makes up what is the wonderful fabric of Cooperstown.”

Jon Shestakofsky is the Vice President of Communications and Education at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

THE PASTIME ONLINE COLLECTION



The team in Cooperstown is working to digitally preserve the Museum and Library collections. Artifacts, photographs, documents and audio and video recordings are regularly added to the PASTIME digital collection.

Visit

collection.baseballhall.org



PASTIME includes images like this one of Yankees legends and National Baseball Hall of Famers Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth.



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The magnolias bloom in Cooperstown as spring makes its return to the home of baseball.