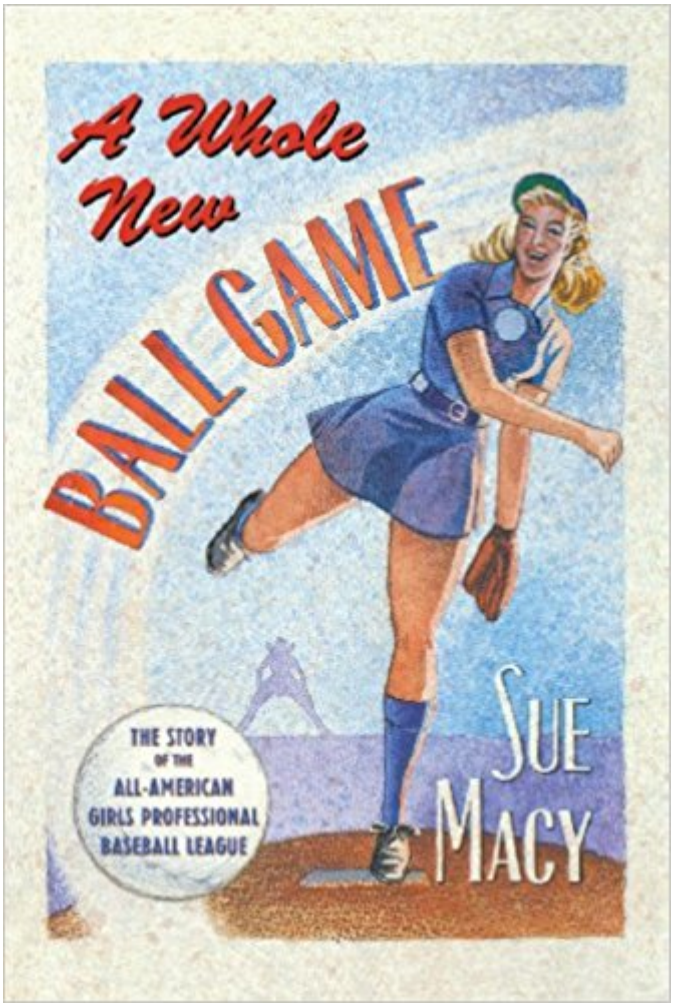
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A Whole New Ball Game: The Story Of The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League



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Synopsis

"Play ball!" yelled the umpires as the teams of the AAGPBL took the field in the tense, war-torn days of 1943. Like all professional baseball players, these athletes scrambled to their positions, tossed balls across diamonds, and filled the air with chatter. But there was something different about them--they all wore skirts, went to charm school, and continually had to answer one question: "What is a woman doing playing baseball?"What were they doing? Having a great time, playing top-notch ball, and showing that a woman’s place was at home only when she was at bat, behind the plate, or scoring a run. For twelve seasons, from 1943 to 1954, some of America’s best female athletes earned their livings by playing baseball. This is their story in their own words, a tale of no-hitters and chaperones, stolen bases and practical jokes, home runs and run-ins with fans.Life in the league, however, was not all fun. Born out of a wartime "manpower" shortage, the AAGPBL ended with the growth of television and the ideal of the suburban home. Here, too, is the story of America’s changing attitudes toward men and women and the roles we expect each to play. Author Sue Macy spent eleven years tracking down the women of the AAGPBL, interviewing them, and looking at their scrapbooks. Along the way she found that their odyssey did not end with the collapse of the league.The same courage and spunk the players displayed on the field led them to get back in touch with each other in the 1980s, to remind the world of what they had achieved, and to take their rightful places in the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Balancing the voices of the women of the league with a lively, insightful overview of the changing patterns of American life, A Whole New Ball Game is a sports story full of telling insights about who we expect to be at home and how women can get back to first base.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 16 years

Grade Level: 7 - 11

Customer Reviews

Macy offers an excellent introduction to one of the least explored areas of baseball history (recently popularized in the film A League of Their Own). Established by Chicago Cubs owner and chewing-gum magnate Phil Wrigley in 1943 as an entertainment alternative to the war-depleted major leagues, the AAGPBL lasted until 1954--and until very recently was all but forgotten. Macy has wisely chosen to focus not on the trivia of games past (although the appendix offers enough statistics to satisfy the most rabid baseball addict) but on the social history that produced the league and on the experiences of its players. She writes frankly about such problems as alcoholism and unwanted sexual advances from team officials, fans and sportswriters. The book is particularly astute in its observations on the league as a forum for female bonding, something that few women of the time had at their disposal. Perhaps the most affecting passages concern the reluctance of AAGPBL veterans to discuss their experiences until the rise of the women's movement gave them a renewed sense of self-worth. These tough and funny women emerge as heroic figures worthy of admiration and emulation. Archival photographs add to the book's historical value and its sense of fun. A worthy addition to the library of any baseball fan. Ages 12-up. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 5 Up-- An interesting and informative look at the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League that operated from 1945-1954. Using interviews with former players, various newspaper and statistical accounts, and sound research, Macy has pieced together a book that not only tells the story of the league but also provides sociological insight into the United States during World War II and the postwar era. While the players' accomplishments on the field are documented, readers will also become privy to the trials and tribulations these athletes faced, which went far beyond the daily hassles that male professional players encountered. They included severe rules governing personal appearance and off-field activities so as not to sacrifice femininity for athleticism. Macy includes a wonderful hodgepodge of useful appendixes that include the league's rules, teams, and statistics, along with a chronology, notes on the author's sources, further reading, and places to obtain more information on the AAGPBL. An array of black-and-white photos, including posed photos of the players checking their makeup during games and plenty of action shots, further enliven the very

readable text. A Whole New Ball Game is a significant title that may have to be promoted, but its shelf life will far outlast the majority of sports books currently being published. --Tom S. Hurlburt, La Crosse Public Library, WICopyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I really enjoyed the book, by Sue Macy. It brings back the memories, and highlights, of the real forgotten sport in baseball.....Women! During WWII, they made a difference, and kept up the spirit of the game, and also the morale of the country!

I love this book! My daughter and I read it before bedtime.

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