

WWII GIRLS BASEBALL LIVING HISTORY LEAGUE

by Rebecca Tulloch

The WWII Girls Baseball Living History League was inspired by our All-American heroines and begins its second year with another full schedule of public ball playing exhibitions at museums and WWII US Home Front Recreation Events. The league began in 2010 as a women's vintage baseball club open to all women who would like to accurately depict women's professional ball games as they were played by the All-Americans during the WWII years, in particular 1943.

We have grown from two members to roughly 15 members in just one year and have players who represent three of the four original teams; we are looking forward to doubling our numbers again in 2011. At this year's winter membership planning meeting, the players expressed a desire to add player numbers to our reproduction vintage uniforms which are purchased from K&P Weaver in Connecticut.

As each of us began to think about which number we would like to select for our uniforms, we naturally began to think about who actually had those particular numbers in 1943 and how fun it would be to learn a little bit about the players who wore those numbers.

Being the manager for the league, I began to do my home work to try to discover this information; but to my surprise, I found it difficult to find data on player numbers. Therefore, as an associate member of the AAGPBL, I naturally thought of writing my friends at the Players Association to see if we could dig through some of our archives and see what we could discover. Donna McLin referred me to Merrie Fidler, who came to our assistance and agreed to help us look for rosters from the 1943-1945 war years period so we might be able to find the numbers the players wore.

The process of finding player numbers for 1943 turned out to be more convoluted than we thought. Merrie contacted Northern Indiana Center for History (NICH), the Special Collections Department at the University of Notre Dame and the Baseball Hall of Fame, but neither were able to provide numbers for 1943, although NICH was able to provide player numbers for 1944. Then Merrie contacted Jim Sargent who she knew was involved in league research for his forthcoming history of the Blue Sox. Jim was able to supply numbers from 1945, 1946, and 1947 scorecard copies he'd obtained from Betsy Jochum. Ultimately, Betsy also came through with a copy of a 1943

Blue Sox score card which contained player names and numbers for the four original teams. Copies of these score cards were then forwarded to NICH and the Hall of Fame for their records.

Thanks much, Betsy!

Currently, the WWII Girls Baseball Living History League is sporting the following 1943 All-American player numbers: #3-Betsy Jochum; #8 Dorothy Kamenshek

Those of you who have computers, please visit our website: www.ww2girlsbaseball.com.

