

The third Olympiad coinciding with many events of the World's Fair in St. Louis during 1904, included women's archery competition but entries came only from the United States. Archery competition in 1904 was declared an unofficial or exhibition sport. Most of the seven archers were affiliated with the Cincinnati Athletic Club.

After the Games of 1904, American women did not appear in Olympic competition until the seventh Olympiad in 1920. James E. Sullivan, President of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States (AAU), opposed the inclusion of women in sport. Sullivan prevented women from entering Olympic competition for a number of years. After Sullivan's death in 1914, the AAU assumed control of women's aquatics. The AAU and other organizations such as the Women's Swimming Association of New York City (WSA) influenced the beginning of Olympic swimming and diving among women in the United States. The 1920 naiads established unprecedented success winning four out of five Olympic swimming and diving events. Had it not been for the obstinate behavior of the United States Lawn Tennis Association (USLTA) regarding the scheduling of events, American women may have entered Olympic tennis in 1920. After the Games of 1920 American women entered Olympic competition in increasing numbers.

---

# The All-American Girls' Baseball League, 1943-1954

by  
MERRIE A. FIDLER  
University of Minnesota

The All-American Girls' Baseball League was a bona-fide women's professional baseball league which existed in the Midwest between 1943-1954. It was originally organized by Philip K. Wrigley as the All-American Girls' Softball League, but "softball" was dropped as a descriptive term for the league after the 1943 season. The league successively was known as the All-American Girls' Professional Ball League (1944), the All-American Girls' Baseball League (1945-1950), and the American Girls' Baseball League (1951-1954). Changes in the league title were complemented by an evolution in the game from softball to baseball. Softball rules were replaced by baseball rules; softball equipment and diamonds were replaced by baseball equipment and near-baseball sized diamonds (85 ft. basepaths with 60' pitching distance); and underhand pitching was replaced by overhand pitching.

The league was created as a potential substitute for major league baseball in the event that the manpower demands of World War II caused an interregnum in the "national game." With the survival of major league schedules, the All-American Girls' Baseball League became "entertainment for war workers." After the war it was hailed as "healthful outdoor family entertainment."

League administration first was directed by Philip Wrigley (1943-1944), then by his

advertising agent Arthur Meyerhoff (1945-1950) and, finally, by local team presidents (1951-1954). Team Administrators consisted of many of the leading businessmen in league towns. Managers were obtained almost exclusively from the ranks of retired major or minor league baseball players and players were recruited from all sections of the United States and the southern half of Canada.

The league's popularity grew steadily from 1943 to 1948 when seasonal attendance figures peaked at 910,747. After 1948, attendance began to decline as steadily as it had risen since 1943. Declining attendance eventually resulted in heavy financial losses to league backers which, in turn, lead directly to the league's demise. Several factors can be cited to account for the league's decline. Among these were discontent among team administrators, changes in league administration, a reduction in promotional budgets and programs, the growing popularity of television, and changes in the game itself.

The All-American Girls' Baseball League was a unique phenomena in the history of women's sport in the United States. In many respects it was the first truly professional team sport for women in the United States. It consisted of a central governing body as well as local governing boards, and it had a formal structure modeled after existing professional men's leagues. Teams played over 100 games per season and players, as full time ball players, were paid between \$85 and \$150 per week. The league demonstrated beyond any doubt that women could play baseball and, when properly promoted, women's baseball could draw spectators. Despite the league's demise, its duration suggests possibilities for the successful organization of women's professional team sports in the future.

---

# The History of Women's Intercollegiate Athletics in Ohio 1945-1972

by  
JUNE FRANCES KEARNEY  
Ohio State University

The purpose of this study was to record the development of women's sports in Ohio colleges and universities, to identify outstanding leaders who have contributed significantly to the development of women's competition in Ohio, and to identify and record the significant events that comprised the historic growth of women's intercollegiate competition in Ohio from 1945-1972. It was also the purpose to add to the limited amount of research completed in this area so as to provide more information from which leaders in women's sport may draw insights regarding future directions and problems of intercollegiate competition in Ohio.

The study was limited to the State of Ohio and its colleges and universities between the years 1945-1972. The sports included in the study were basketball, volleyball, golf, tennis,