

RACE, SPORT, AND GENDER EQUITY

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Women in the World of Black Baseball

This paper will focus on the various roles women enjoyed within the world of black baseball. Examination of their participation as fans, in the press box, and for promotional purposes will be supplemented by their more direct involvement as players, owners and league personnel. In order to address these concerns, individuals such as Henryene Green, Edna Bolden Shorter, Mamie Johnson and Margaret Smith will be studied for their contributions. What part did these women play in the Negro Leagues and beyond? How did their contributions hurt or help? How did others view their participation? These and other questions will be explored in this paper.

General mention is given to Toni Stone and Effa Manley for their roles but there were a number of other women who participated directly. In addition, the presence of women in the grandstands led to special promotions to encourage and reward the ladies attendance. By putting together a more complete picture of the women involved in black baseball we can better assess their influence on the game and the culture that surrounded it within the black community. A variety of sources will be used to give evidence to the lasting contributions of women. These will include oral histories, newspapers, the papers of the Newark Eagles and the papers of Edna Bolden Shorter at Howard University.
