

March 24, 2015

Women quietly do extraordinary things every day. To help shed light on the resilience and strength of Hoosier women and celebrate their accomplishments and contributions to history we are releasing an article every day in the month of March. These articles showcase how women have moved Indiana and our country forward and who inspire others to do great things in their own lives.

Women in Indiana have an important role to play. You can make a difference by:

- Learning more about the issues affecting women in Indiana.
- Voicing your opinion on issues important to you
- Serving as an advocate for women
- Mentoring another woman
- Join ICW's mailing list or social media outlets to be notified of upcoming events, programs and resources available to women

Go to www.in.gov/icw to learn more about the Indiana Commission for Women and their current initiatives.

Sources:

- **All-American Girls Professional Baseball League Official Website**
(<http://www.aagpbl.org/index.cfm>)
- **A Mighty Girl**
(<http://www.amightygirl.com/a-league-of-their-own>)
- **The History Museum**
(<http://historymuseumsb.org/research-history/aagpbl/>)
- **IMDB, *A League of Their Own***
(http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0104694/?ref=nm_sr_1)

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Women's History Month 2015

Telling 31 stories in 31 days this March.

All-American Girls Professional Baseball League

Hoosiers, *Breaking Away* and *Eight Men Out* are just a few of the great sports movies to be filmed in Indiana. Another film that uses Indiana as a backdrop is *A League of Their Own*. Based on the true story of the pioneering women who played in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) during the Second World War, *A League of Their Own* has become a classic that has inspired many girls to become athletes.

The AAGPBL was created after men who were playing in the minor leagues were being sent overseas to fight in World War II. Philip Wrigley, the chewing-gum mogul who inherited the Chicago Cubs' Major League Baseball franchise, looked for a solution to the possibility that baseball in the United States would collapse due to the lack of players and dwindling crowds. Originally conceived to be a softball league, the AAGPBL would follow the rules of play for Major League Baseball and operate from 1943 to 1954.

A League of Their Own is about two sisters who join the first female professional baseball league and struggle to help it succeed amidst their own growing rivalry. Scenes were filmed in several locations throughout Indiana. The Ribeyre School Gym in New Harmony, Indiana, is used during a scene where a character is taking batting practice in a gym. The League Stadium and Park in Huntingburg, Indiana, serves as the Rockford Peaches Stadium. Finally, Evansville, Indiana, serves as location for many scenes, including Bosse Field, which stands in for the Racine Belles home stadium.

Indiana was an ideal choice for the film, not only for the locations but also because Indiana was home to two league baseball teams. The South Bend Blue Sox was one of the original four teams that competed in the opening season in 1943. It is also one of only two teams to play in every AAGPBL season. They appeared in six playoff series and won two league titles. The Fort Wayne Daisies were added in 1945, replacing the Minneapolis Millerettes, and played in the League until the League was disbanded in 1954.

According to the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League website, the AAGPBL "gave over 600 women athletes the opportunity to play professional baseball and to play it at a level never before attained." It represents one of the most unique aspects of baseball's history in the United States.