

When Girls Played Baseball

By Kendra Wolfe

Lesson for 5th graders following the *Reading Street* story "Satchel Paige" and a discussion of baseball's Negro Leagues and their significance.

ELA & Social Science Standards Addressed:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.7 Draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.9 Integrate information from several texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

Constructing Essential Questions SS.IS.1.3-5: Develop essential questions and explain the importance of the questions to self and others.

Constructing Supporting Questions SS.IS.2.3-5: Create supporting questions to help answer essential questions in an inquiry.

Determining Helpful Sources SS.IS.3.3-5: Determine sources representing multiple points of view that will assist in answering essential questions.

SS.H.3.5: Explain probable causes and effects of events and developments in U.S. history.

Activity 1: Looking at primary sources

Students are divided into 4 color teams (red, blue, green, yellow). Each team is given a copy of the same 3 photographs each in a numbered envelope to be opened when instructed to do so. Have students open Image 1 (2007.57.35) to study with no introduction as to the nature of the photograph. Ask them to answer the following questions as a team and be prepared to explain their reasoning.

1. Who/what is in the photo?
2. When and where was it taken? How do you know?
3. What is the mood of the photo?
4. What questions do you have about the photo?

Create a chart to share the answers to these questions. Discuss the student answers as they share them with the class, but don't give them any further information about the photo.

Show them Image 2 (2007-57-36 Team photo). ***This photo is related to the first photo. What new information can you add to your understanding about the photographs? What new questions do you have?*** (Record student responses on chart.)

Show them Image 3 (NN-Peaches 20 Dottie Kamanshek fielding 1st). ***How are these three photographs related? What story do they tell? Do your questions about them change?*** (Record student responses on chart.)

We have already talked about the sport of baseball and the need for the formation of the Negro Leagues when we discussed our Satchel Paige story. These photographs are part of a collection from Midway Village here in Rockford. They represent another baseball league that is important to baseball history. They are photos of an All-American Girls Professional Baseball League team called the Rockford Peaches.

Find out what the students already know about the Rockford Peaches. Without giving away too much information, make a KWL chart for what they already know and questions they have about the Peaches.

Primary/Secondary Source Cooperative Learning Jig Saw Activity #2:

The purpose of this activity is to help students learn more about the Rockford Peaches, the AAGPBL, and how the events of World War II contributed to the success of the league.

Students are divided into 4 color teams (red, blue, green, yellow). The color team is the group of students with whom they are responsible for sharing the information they will be collecting/researching. The students in each team are then assigned a letter (A-D). The letter corresponds with a station set up in the room containing specific primary/secondary source documents about a specific topic.

All students from each group assigned the A will go to station A together. They will look at the documents, read the articles, and discuss with those students the information that they find. This is known as the "Expert Group." They answer the questions on the sheet in the "A station" and practice what they will tell their color group about what they learned on their topic. Students then return to their color group with notes about the information they collected and are responsible for "teaching" their color group that information. The other letter stations operate the same way.

When students get back together with their color group, they take turns teaching their group about their different topics. Students need to pay attention to their partners. They will be responsible for understanding that information in the assessment. Each student will need to know the information from all 4 letter sections to do well on the assessment. Therefore, it is in their best interest to know their own information, be able to articulate that knowledge to their color group, as well as be good listeners, even good interviewers, to get the information from the other 3 stations.

Students will spend about 20 minutes using the documents/websites in their expert group to research their topic. They then spend about 10 minutes practicing with their expert group what they will tell their color group. They then return to the group to share what they learned for the remainder of the class period (about 30 min).

Follow-up Assignment for Assessment:

Students will imagine they are one of the Rockford Peaches from 1943 and write a letter to a brother who is serving in the U.S. military during WWII. The letter should sound like a letter to a family member, not a report, and include 4 or more accurate facts about the Rockford Peaches. The following rubric will be used to assess the letter.

Name _____ Date _____

Rockford Peaches Letter Rubric

1	2	3	4
FORM —The student did NOT write in “friendly letter” form. There was no date, greeting, body, closing, or signature.	FORM —The student attempted to write a letter but only had a few of the needed components of the letter and was missing commas.	FORM —The student wrote a letter in which most needed components of a letter were present, including commas.	FORM —The student wrote a thorough letter containing ALL components of a letter. Nothing was missing including commas.
TONE — The tone of the letter did NOT sound like one family member writing to another. The letter sounded more like a report or list of facts.	TONE — The tone of the letter sounded slightly like one family member writing to another. The student didn’t remain “in character” through the letter.	TONE —The tone of the letter sounded mostly like one family member writing to another. The student remained “in character” through most of the letter.	TONE — The tone of the letter sounded like one family member writing to another. The student remained “in character” through the entire letter.
FACTS —The student had 0-1 facts about the Rockford Peaches in 1943.	FACTS -- The student included 2-3 facts about the Rockford Peaches in 1943.	FACTS -- The student included 4 facts about the Rockford Peaches in 1943.	FACTS —The student creatively included more than 4 facts about the Rockford Peaches in 1943.
ACCURACY —The facts the student used were not accurate for the Peaches, the year, or were missing completely.	ACCURACY -- The facts the student used were partially accurate or fit the Rockford Peaches but not in the year 1943.	ACCURACY -- The facts the student used were mostly accurate and fit what happened in 1943.	ACCURACY —The facts the student used were completely accurate and fit what happened in 1943.

Bonus Points:

+1Point -- Student included an additional fact about WWII or Rockford during 1943.	+2 Points --Student included 1 additional fact about WWII AND 1 additional fact about Rockford during 1943.	+3 Points -- Student included 3 additional facts about WWII AND Rockford during 1943.
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Student Score: _____

Group A –Materials for Expert Group

Topic: Philip K. Wrigley's Big Idea

Article: Peterik, Adam. "Women's Baseball During World War II." *Illinois History Magazine*. Apr. 1995: 52-53. Print. (From Midway Village *Peaches* Downloadable Packet)

Computer or Ipad with following links:

<http://www.aagpbl.org/index.cfm/profiles/wrigley-philip-k/911>

<http://www.wrigley.com/ea/about-us/the-story-of-wrigley.aspx> (Wrigley Gum/ WWII ads)

<http://www.aagpbl.org/index.cfm/pages/league/22/league-structure>

¼ Sheet Question guides—1 per student in Group "Philip K. Wrigley's Big Idea"

Group B –Materials for Expert Group

Topic: The Rules for Girls

"Darling Damsels of the Diamond." *Allsports*. Jul.-Aug. 1949: cover, 7, 12-13. Print. (Article from Midway Village collection.)

Eldridge, Jeff. "The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League Charm School Guide." Midway Village and Museum Center, Rockford, IL. *Peaches* Downloadable Packet.

Eldridge, Jeff. "The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League Public Image." Midway Village and Museum Center, Rockford, IL. *Peaches* Downloadable Packet.

Image 2006.27.38 Midway Village Collection (D. Kamenshak throwing a ball)

Ipad or Computer with the following clips:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/All-American-Girls-Professional-Baseball-League> (News Reel of girls' teams during spring training)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QyTJ-UVcILY> (Mary Pratt of Peaches talks about the league)

¼ Sheet Question guides—1 per student in Group "The Rules for Girls"

Group C –Materials for Expert Group

Topic: How the Game Changed

Image 2011.13.29 Midway Village Collection (Softballs/baseball used over the years)

Image 2006.27.42b Midway Village Collection (Cover of the official Program 1943)

Image “All-American Girls Professional Ball League Official Program” Midway Village *Peaches* Downloadable Packet

Image “American Girls Baseball League 1952 Official Program” Midway Village *Peaches* Downloadable Packet

“Evolution of League Rules” by Jeff Eldridge for the Midway Museum, Rockford, IL *Peaches* Downloadable Packet

Computer or ipad for information on the Evolution of the Game http://www.exploratorium.edu/baseball/girls_3.html

¼ Sheet Question guides—1 per student in Group “How the Game Changed”

Group D –Materials for Expert Group

Topic: World Events of the Time

Peterik, Adam. “Women’s Baseball During World War II.” *Illinois History Magazine*. Apr. 1995: 52-53. Print. (From Midway Village *Peaches* Downloadable Packet.)

Computer or ipad with:

<https://kidskonnnect.com/history/world-war-ii/>

<http://m.mlb.com/video/v5522207/players-from-the-aagpbl-discuss-the-league>

<http://baseballhall.org/discover/short-stops/keep-baseball-going>

Images from Midway Village Collection:

88.122.434c Lieutenant John F. Mandeville. Jan. 17, 1943 in uniform in front of his car.

2010.77.5 Sunstrand workers sanding wooden airplane propellers

2010.77.7 Sunstrand workers sanding windshield of airplane

Ad Production : Advertisement promoting involvement of Sunstrand and other Rockford machine tool companies in war related munitions manufacturing.

2009.62.1 Program for the Presentation of the Army-Navy Production Award to Rockford Machine Tool Co.

<https://www.docsteach.org/documents/document/letter-from-president-franklin-d-roosevelt-to-kenesaw-landis-regarding-baseball>, July 1, 2016

Images from http://www.authentichistory.com/1939-1945/2-homefront/5-pitching_in/index.html

[Sign: Fight, Let's Go!; Join the Navy](#)

[Rosie the Riveter, by Norman Rockwell, Saturday Evening Post, May 29, 1943](#)

[Women's Day War Food Bulletin \(first issue\) February 1943](#)

¼ Sheet Question guides—1 per student in Group “World Events of the Time”

****Please note: You will need to download the Rockford Peaches Packet from the following website.**

<http://www.midwayvillage.com/wordpress/collections/downloadable-resources/>

You will need to print the following items from the packet for use in Expert Groups:

Eldridge, Jeff. “The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League Charm School Guide.”

Eldridge, Jeff. “The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League Public Image and Evolution of League Rules.”

Peterik, Adam. “Women’s Baseball During World War II.” *Illinois History Magazine*. Apr. 1995: 52-53. Print.

Official Program from 1952

All-American Girls Professional Ball Club Program (unknown year)







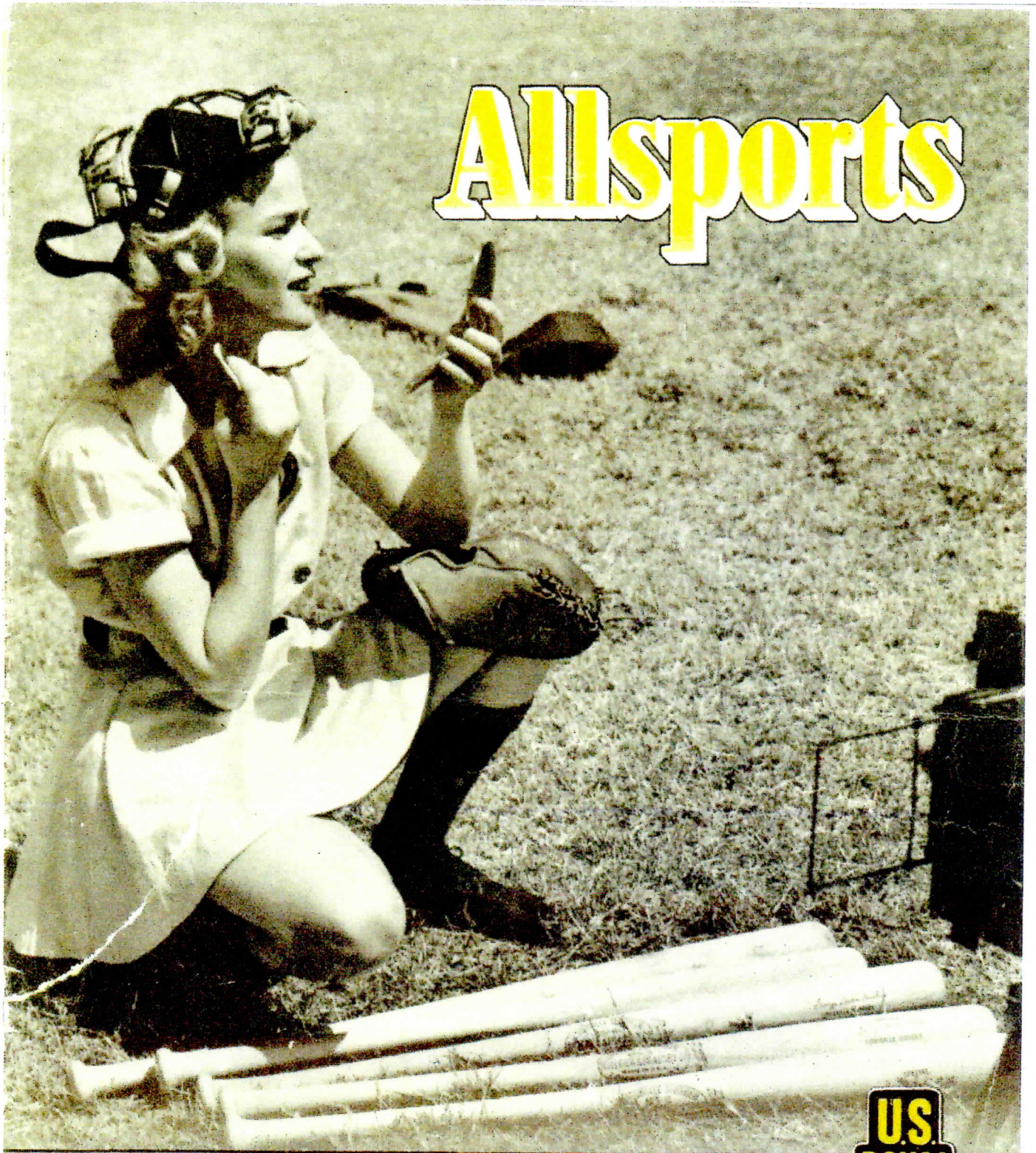
OFFICIAL PROGRAM



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July-Aug. 1949

Sports Facts

Bill Veeck accents world's championship managerial talent in his Cleveland Indian organization. On the Tribe roster are these world's championship managers: Tris Speaker, advisory coach, 1920; Bucky Harris, now piloting Indians' farm team at San Diego, 1924 and 1947; Deacon Bill McKechnie, coach, 1925 and 1940; Steve O'Neill, coach, 1945, and Lou Boudreau, present manager, 1948.

—Roy Kilby, Yorktown, Ind.

Buffalo's entry in the Canadian-American Hockey League, in its eight years of franchise following 1928, never played a match in Buffalo. The "home" rink was in Fort Erie, Ontario.

—Gene Korzeilus, Buffalo, N. Y.

Cincinnati's Reds of 1940, World's Series victors over Detroit, won 41 National League games by one run—a major league record. The Rhinelanders featured light hitting and impregnable hurling by Bucky Walters and Oom-Paul Derringer.

—W. N. Mackey, Cincinnati, O.

Joe Louis is the third boxer to retire while heavyweight king. Jim Jeffries quit because of lack of opposition, and Gene Tunney stepped down because he had made all the money he felt he needed—something over one million dollars.

—F. G. Kernan, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Wally Ris, University of Iowa swimmer, holds a unique aquatic record. The Hawkeye speedster has won the 100-yard free style event in the Big Ten, National Collegiate and National A.A.U. meets two years in succession.

—M. Geisinger, Chicago, Ill.

Pete Elliott, hard-blocking quarterback and clever basketball guard for Michigan's Wolverines, also shoots golf in the seventies. His versatility makes him the first twelve-letter man in Ann Arbor's history.

—Mrs. H. H. Peck, Kenmore, N. Y.

To cover all the baseballs they manufacture in one year, A. G. Spalding & Bros. use the hides of about 11,000 horses.

—Dorothy Hunt, Buffalo, N. Y.

The Robinson clan was hot on Opening Day in the major leagues this season. Eddie, first baseman for the Washington Senators, drove out a circuit clout against the A's; Aaron blasted a homer against the White Sox for the Detroit Tigers, and Jackie drilled a four-baser for the Dodgers against the Giants.

—Roy Budd, Nebraska City, Nebr.



YOUR SEAT IN THE PRESS BOX

with the ALLSPORTS editor



This Issue's Cover Picture

The pretty young lady on the cover who is inspecting her shiny nose is not a photographer's model. She is a ball player—the best catcher in the All-American Girls Base Ball League. Ruth Lessing, receiver for the Grand Rapids Chicks, plays in a league where femininity is paramount—and yet the San Antonio miss was once fined \$100 by league president Max Carey for taking a punch at plate umpire George Johnson during the 1947 league playoffs. Ruth typifies the girls who have made a summertime career of a game that drew nearly a million spectators in the Middle West last year (see story on pages 12-13).



Softball on the Wane

The yarn about the girls on pages 12-13 was originally scheduled to announce ALLSPORTS' All-America Softball Teams, for both men and women. The ALLSPORTS FORUM, whose members are 45 of America's best-known sportswriters, could not agree on a single softballer worthy of national recognition. Conclusion is that softball has become a localized sport and has skidded in interest from its peak in the late Thirties. One writer about summed it up: "I haven't seen a softball game in the past ten years except the oldsters at St. Petersburg."

All For Free

Eddie Edgar, Detroit delegate for ALLSPORTS, is a long-time friend of Gar Wood, the Barney Oldfield of speedboat racing. When we asked Eddie about writing the story on page three about the speedboat regattas, he regaled us for an hour with stories of Gar's engineering genius. Once the officials of a motor company in Detroit insisted that the veteran was attempting suicide by introducing an innovation in speedboat propulsion, and Eddie himself believed them to the extent that he had written Gar Wood's obituary in advance. Then Gar lowered his boat into the water for the trial, calmly turned over the engine and thrashed his craft away from the slip while the chagrined engineers went back perplexedly to their drawing boards and formulae.

Edgar believes that Gar Wood's finest contribution to sports has been the impetus he has given to the races along the Detroit

River, where major sporting events may be seen without an admission ticket. Although speedboat racing is the sport of millionaires, the races are witnessed by over one hundred thousand people who don't pay a dime for the show.

Precious Portrait

The picture on page four of Lou Boudreau's high school team is one of the few photographs in existence which show the Cleveland manager as a high school boy. School officials finally permitted this picture to be taken from a wall of the Thornton Twp. School in Harvey, Illinois for a few days—and if you know about the reverence with which any school in the Midwest remembers its state basketball champion, you can appreciate the risk that school officials took in releasing temporary possession of the shot.

Next Issue—Football

College football is just two months away, and the post-war adjustment on the gridiron is about over. Many clever sophomores will crowd veterans for jobs this Fall. Get the gridiron picture from every section in the next ALLSPORTS.

See The Trotters

If you've never spent an afternoon watching the horses of the Grand Circuit run (page 14), treat yourself to an exciting sports thrill sometime this year if you are close enough to the route of the big league trotters and pacers. The schedule: Historic Track, Goshen, N. Y., July 4-9; Saratoga Raceway, N. Y., July 11-23; Old Orchard Beach, Maine, July 25-30; Roosevelt Raceway, N. Y., Aug. 1-6; Good Time Park, Goshen, N. Y., Aug. 8-13; Springfield, Ill., Aug. 15-20; Sedalia, Missouri, Aug. 22-27; DuQuoin, Illinois, Aug. 29-Sept. 3; Indianapolis, Sept. 5-10; Reading, Pa., Sept. 12-16; Delaware, Ohio, Sept. 19-24; Lexington, Ky., Sept. 26-Oct. 8, and Hollywood Park, Cal., Oct. 24-Nov. 26.

Big Little Sports Towns

Enid, Oklahoma (page 11) follows Donora, Pa., and Houma, La., as ALLSPORTS' selection of a town with high per capita sports population. ALLSPORTS is searching for more small towns of 30,000 or under who have made exceptional contributions to sports—particularly a town in the Far West. If you know of such a town, or live in one, send your suggestion to our address listed below.

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Daring damsels of the diamond



CHARLES GRAYSON, manager of the Chicago Cubs, saw the girl and gave a long, low whistle.

The Wrigley field pilot was looking at Dorothy Schrodter, shortstop with the Ft. Wayne Daisies of the All-American Girls Baseball League in action. "I'd give \$50,000 for her contract if she were only a man," said Jolly Chodley, who has seen them all for many years.

Dorothy and her girl friends are drawing heavy attendance in four states at Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Racine, Kenosha, Peoria, Rockford, Ft. Wayne and South Bend. The game they play differs from softball in that major league baseball rules apply. The ball is ten and three-eighths inches in circumference; the base lines are 72 feet, and the pitching distance is 50 feet with overhand hurling. These modifications

merely acknowledge the physical differences between men and women—but the game is real baseball.

Phillip K. Wrigley, Jr., president of the Chicago National League team, organized the league in 1943 when it appeared that major league baseball was doomed for the war's duration. He would have used this game to keep his park open on the Northside. Later, he turned four of the clubs over to civic-owned, non-profit corporations.

The feminine circuit, whose president is former major league manager Max Carey, played before 910,000 paid admissions last year. The girls outdrew the Grand Rapids Jets of the Class A Central League, 160,000 to 35,000, and wrecked men's minor league baseball in Ft. Wayne and Rockford. Mr. Wrigley started something.



Big league scouts have been amazed at the ability of Dorothy Schrodter, who came into the league in 1943 at the age of 15.



Dorothy Kamanahk of Rockford is a great all-around girl baseball player. She fields with dexterity, and her bat carries home run authority.

As in men's baseball, umpire Vern Word has to listen to trade first base and batter. For Keagle of Grand Rapids, "right's complaint."

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Chicago Colleen first nicker. Alto Little is set to put the ball on Dorothy Schrodter of Ft. Wayne, who looks as though she could use sliding poofs on this ploy.



"Fanny" Pettus is a well-known infielder in the circuit who may give the Kenosha Comets the necessary class to win their first pennant in the league's history.



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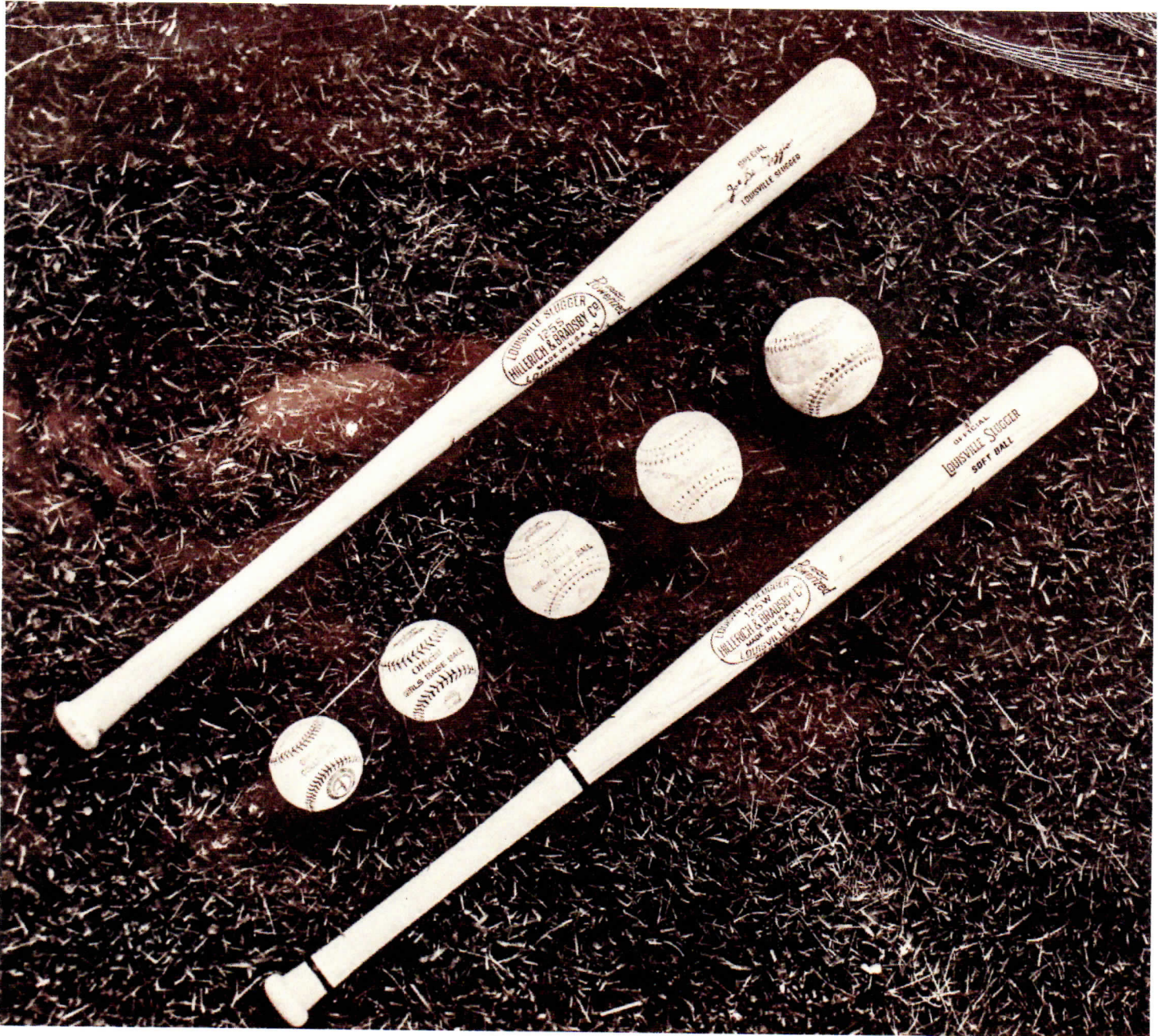


Image 2011.13.29.JPG

Midway Village Museum Collection, Rockford, IL