

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **IWBC Honors African American Women in Baseball**
- **IWBC & SABR Present Women in Baseball Conference**
- **New Education Programs Debut**
- **New Directors Bring Unique Experiences to IWBC Board**

## Contributors:

Perry Barber

Maybelle Blair

Shirley Burkovich

Rosemary Collins

Kate Haines

Sheryl Hall

Cathy Headley

Leslie Heaphy

Margaret Reardon

Tracy Reiner

Kat Williams

Ryan Woodward

Emilie Yonan

## From the President's Desk

The year 2020 threw curve balls that would have made Ila Borders envious. With every pitch it seemed harder just to stand in. But we did, mostly because of the commitment we at the IWBC had to our goals, to you, and to each other. Despite COVID restrictions and the necessity of doing things differently than before, the International Women's Baseball Center accomplished a great deal in 2020. You can read about those successes in this newsletter.

As I reflect on this year, though, and ponder what to write in this letter, it is the people, not the events, that come to mind. From the faces of those Lil Peaches on stage with Tracy Reiner, to Rockford volunteers with unwavering support, and the committed and hardworking IWBC board, people-- loving, caring, dedicated people-- inspired me in 2020 and propelled us forward even in the toughest times.

From the IWBC's beginning, Maybelle Blair and Shirley Burkovich have been the heart of us. After it was no longer safe to travel for meetings and events, they learned about zoom. Well, sort of. They continue to advise and appreciate our work even in isolation. And we continue to draw strength from their vision. They motivate us every day to do more and never to stop dreaming. We never will, because they won't.

Regardless of the ask: organizing conferences, writing by-laws, or serving on yet one more committee, Dr. Leslie Heaphy always says yes. She provides us with consistent support, insight and always a level-headed approach to every project. Her connections in the baseball world and understanding of its history are unmatched. In this year and every other, she is our compass.

Perry Barber may be "the" umpire to many, but to us she is also the secretary of the group, the one who helped bring us to Rockford, always the

first to say "I'll be there," or "tell me what you need." There is no one more generous, or dedicated than Perry.

Ryan Woodward is likely the MVP of us all. From running social media to editing the newsletter and from wrangling merchandise to creating and overseeing Women in Baseball Week, we rely on his creativity and insight. Fortunately, he also recruits.

Emilie Yonan joined us after she and Ryan developed a Pittsburgh women's sports project. Fundraising and marketing are her specialties and she was instrumental in producing our successful virtual Town Hall. When first telling me about Emilie, Ryan said, "she is great, and I think she will fit in." He was right on both points.

Last year, the IWBC hosted a celebration of Penny Marshall, where we met Rosemary Collins who volunteered to MC the event. Rockford people kept saying how lucky we were to have Judge Collins involved and I had no idea just how right they were. We are so glad that Rosemary joined our board soon after the Marshall event. Be on the lookout though, I'm sure we will call on her MC talents again.

During that same three-day celebration, I had the honor of getting to know Dr. Cathy Headley, professor at Rockford University. She volunteered herself and her students during that weekend and didn't stop when the event was over. Cathy brings creative ideas and follows up with a boundless energy for seeing them through. I am happy Cathy is our newest board member.

In this and every year, our board is only part of the team that makes the IWBC successful. We also rely on an army of volunteers. In 2020 we filled two very important positions. Kate Haines was named Archivist, processing and managing collections related to women in baseball and working with IWBC

members on a variety of projects. Personally, I could not be prouder of Kate or happier for the IWBC.

Margaret Reardon, former Director of Programming and Engagement at The Baseball Heritage Museum in Cleveland also joined us this year. She will serve as the IWBC Marketing Committee Chair and as the IWBC Reads Program Director. This new book club series begins January 2021.

This year has been hard and scary at times and truly inspirational at others. For me, the hard was made easier by the goodness that most people displayed. The scary seemed less frightening when I stood in the light of friendship and support that came our way in abundance.

From all of us at the IWBC, to our baseball family around the world, thank you for providing that light, the moral and financial support, and a never-wavering confidence in our mission.

To my baseball family, my people, Maybelle, Shirley, Leslie, Rosemary, Perry, Ryan, Emilie, Cathy, Kate and Margaret, thank you is simply not enough. Your patience with me, your willingness to adapt and rethink when COVID made that necessary, and the personal support you give me as we navigate new waters bolsters me and makes me proud to be part of your team.

As we do every year, we make these promises to you; in 2021 we promise to make more contacts and put more girls and women on the field, in the coach's box or behind the plate. We promise to always honor the history of women in baseball and to educate about equality, access and leadership.

Soon we'll all gather at the ballpark. Until then, stay safe.

Happy Holidays,

Kat Williams

# Outdoor Museum Grows With Second Memorial

This summer, the IWBC dedicated its second historical pylon honoring the history of African American women in baseball as part of the outdoor museum exhibit, planned for Rockford, Illinois. The first marker, memorializing filmmaker Penny Marshall, was dedicated in 2019.

The new pylon was unveiled during the virtual Women in Baseball Conference, sponsored by SABR and the IWBC, in celebration of the Negro Leagues Centennial in 2020. "What they did, what they do, matters. Their legacy is our legacy," said IWBC President Kat Williams during the unveiling ceremony. "Until women of color

are given the acknowledgment and the honor they deserve in the game of baseball, what we think we know about the game of baseball and girls and women's participation in it is simply wrong."

The exhibit features photographs of influential African American women in baseball, including, among many, Hilda Bolden-Shorter, Philadelphia Stars owner; Tamara Holmes, a power-hitting outfielder for the Colorado Silver Bullets in 1997 and the U.S. National Team; and Claire Smith, the first woman to win the J.G. Taylor Spink Award.

"What was really important to us this year was to make sure we had a wide representation of different roles, and not just to imply that it was about just players or just owners or something like that," added Dr. Leslie Heaphy, IWBC Director and the Chair of SABR's Women in Baseball Committee.

The complete outdoor museum project will consist of nine memorial pylons, each representing a different aspect of women's contributions to the game and will be located near the IWBC's permanent museum and education facility.

Part of the game since

**1883**

DO YOU KNOW THESE NAMES?

CONNIE MORGAN  
MAMIE JOHNSON  
TONI STONE

Many are missing from history

Many are making history

STEP UP TO THE SPORT

MAMIE PEANUT JOHNSON **2003**

"I was just as talented and looked just as good playing baseball as the white female players but I was never considered... **THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED WHAT SEGREGATION MEANT.**"

NO'NE DAVIS **2014**

"I throw 70 miles per hour. That's throwing like a girl."

STEP UP TO THE SPORT

## Conference Celebrates African American Women in Baseball

This past September the IWBC teamed up again with the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) to host their second Women in Baseball Conference. The conference was originally scheduled to take place with Rockford University as the host, but COVID-19 pushed the conference to an all-virtual event. Since 2020 was the Centennial of the founding of the Negro Leagues, the theme for the conference was African American Women in Baseball. Over 170 people participated during the weekend, listening to panels, research presentations and a keynote speaker. Film-maker Lauren Meyer, director of *The Other Boys of Summer*, delivered a keynote address highlighted by her interviews with Mamie "Peanut" Johnson, who played for the Indianapolis Clowns in the 1950s. The SABR Women in Baseball Committee presented its third annual Dorothy Seymour Mills Lifetime Achievement Award in honor of Effa Manley, once owner of the Newark Eagles. Scholars, local dignitaries and others contributed to a wonderful tribute to the Negro Leagues that ended with the unveiling of the IWBC's second outdoor

pylon celebrating the contributions of African American women in baseball from the beginning to the present.

Everyone who attended got to hear some excellent presentations and panels that touched on the history, the present and even the future of women in all aspects of the game. Topics ranged from archives and museum work to rules, stats, advertising, the AAGPBL, the Dolly Vardens and much more. A panel of women from Major League Baseball, including MLB's Elizabeth Benn, Rachel Folden of the Chicago Cubs, Team Canada's Marika Lyszczyk, Bianca Smith from Carroll University, and Madison Femia, gave great insights into baseball today. Sunday's highlights included a panel discussion entitled "Being a Black Woman is my Superpower!" presented by Lonnie Murray, Maacah Scott, and Jacara Ware.

Anyone who wishes to check out the conference and see the presentations can find them at:

[sabr.org/women-in-baseball-conference](http://sabr.org/women-in-baseball-conference)

The third annual Women in Baseball Conference is set for September, 2021. Stay tuned to IWBC and SABR websites and social media accounts for forthcoming information and to register for next year's conference.

Conference t-shirts by Rockford Art Deli honor the Dolly Vardens.



## Conversation Series Debuts

During Women in Baseball Week in July, 2020, the IWBC debuted its first episode of *Step Up to the Sport*, a new video series of conversations between the IWBC and those working in various fields related to women in baseball.

The first episode hosted IWBC board members detailing the history of the IWBC and featuring a conversation on the state of women and girls in baseball today. To date, the series has welcomed film-maker Lauren Meyer, writer Shakeia Woodson, educator Sabrina A. Brinson, coach and women's baseball advocate Luis Lopez, and actor Megan Cavanagh, famous for her role as Marla Hooch in *A League of Their Own*.

All episodes of *Step Up to the Sport* can be found on the IWBC's YouTube Channel, IWBC Archive, and are coordinated by Kate Haines. Kate officially joined the IWBC as Archivist in 2020 and plans not only more virtual conversations, but additional programming and archival material for the channel.

## New Members Step Up to the Board



Judge Rosemary Collins

The International Women's Baseball Center welcomed two new members to the Board of Directors in 2020. Judge Rosemary Collins and Dr. Cathy Headley each have stepped up to bring the International Women's Baseball Center to a higher level of educational programming and community engagement.

Judge Rosemary Collins served as Presiding Judge of the Family Division and the Domestic Violence Division of the 17th Circuit Court, State of Illinois, before retiring in 2018 after nearly 30 years on the bench. Judge Collins is a familiar figure to Rockford baseball fans, having served as Master of Ceremonies for the Penny Marshall Memorial Celebration held throughout Rockford in September 2019.

Dr. Cathy Headley is an associate professor in Kinesiology at Rockford University and a passionate Chicago Cubs fan. Her earliest memories are learning how to score baseball on her father's lap watching the Cubs. She tried out for the Colorado Silver Bullets (and didn't make it!) yet continued to coach young girls in softball and soccer and spent time on many ball fields. Her passion for service spills over into her classrooms, connecting Rockford University students

with the International Women's Baseball Center. Dr. Headley's passion for women's sports and service are guiding her future research.



Dr. Cathy Headley

## IWBC Reads Expands Educational Offerings

IWBC Reads is our new education initiative that uses the magic of books to drive the exploration of the stories of women and baseball. IWBC Reads officially launches on Saturday, January 9 at 2 pm (EST) with a free program featuring *Mrs. Morhard and the Boys: One Mother's Vision. The First Boys Baseball League. A Nation Inspired.*

Author Ruth Morhard will join a conversation with IWBC Reads program coordinator Margaret Reardon and people like you! Since the book's critically acclaimed release in mid-2019, Ruth has been a sought after guest on podcasts and events across the country. It will be an honor to have her with us.

Enhance your experience of this program by pre-reading the book. Check your local library or purchase at the IWBC Reads Shop through Bookshop.org. There you will see other #IWBCReads recommended titles and 10% of anything purchased will be donated back to IWBC. You can

also support us by purchasing through AmazonSmile.

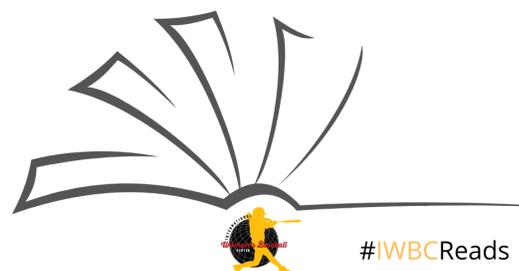
Subsequent #IWBCReads virtual book discussions are scheduled for the winter and are open to IWBC members as well as the general public. Look for *Bases to Bleachers: A Collection of Personal Baseball Stories from the Stands and Beyond* by Eric C. Gray on February 13 and *Bloomer Girls: Women Baseball Pioneers* by Debra A. Shattuck on March 13. More information and links to register for each discussion can be found on the IWBC website's Events page as well as the IWBC Facebook page.

The #IWBCReads Book club is just the beginning of the literacy based offerings #IWBCReads plans to develop in 2021. Look for story times, at home learning help, activity ideas and more virtual programming to compliment our #StepUptotheSport conversation series on YouTube. In the meantime, #WatchonWednesdays for social media posts from #IWBCReads.

At IWBC, education is the cornerstone of our mission to protect, preserve, and promote all aspects of women's baseball, both on and off the field. The addition of Margaret Reardon—a history lover, advocate for women's issues and an experienced presenter of literacy programs—as #IWBCReads coordinator greatly enhances our educational programs and allows the IWBC to reach new audiences in inventive ways.

### IWBC READS

A book discussion club with the International Women's Baseball Center



## New Crop of Peaches Competes in Rockford

The IWBC was privileged to sponsor the Rockford Peaches Girls Baseball team, known as the Lil Peaches, in their second season as a team in 2020.



Although the season was brief and significantly altered due to the pandemic, team coordinators were able to blend girls softball coach-pitch with boys baseball—not only offering all a chance to play this summer, but also recruiting an additional 6 girls from other teams for the Peaches next season!

Competing against teams of mostly boys, the Lil Peaches ended the year in first place! They also delivered the season's first grand slam as well as the first unassisted triple play.

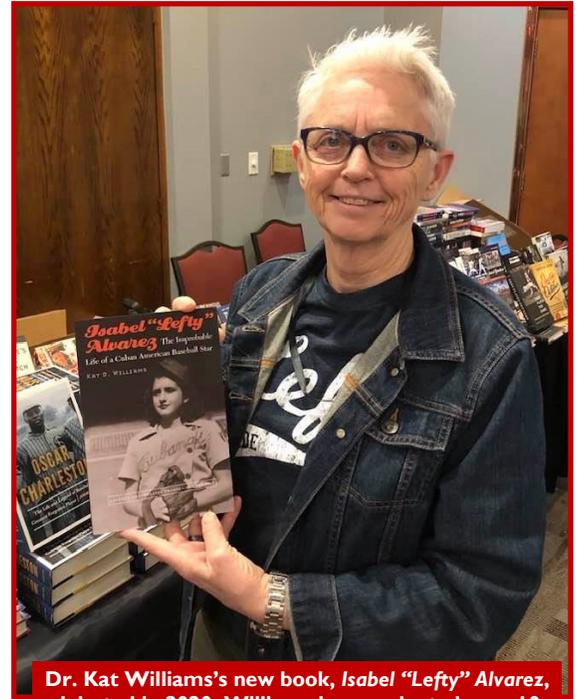
"It was a blessing just to have even that small time-frame of a season...to allow the kiddos who've had such a stifling year to be able to feel that normalcy and freedom for a bit," says coach Bethany Morlan.

Despite these uncertain times, the Lil Peaches are nevertheless busy planning their next steps. For next season, an expansion into a kid-pitch team in addition to coach-pitch is in the works.

Coach Morlan was amazed with the progress the girls made in a matter of weeks. "It really opens my eyes at the beginning of the season, when I just expect this 6 year old girl to know how to throw a ball and stand up to the plate. Then I have to remind myself. these girls, at age 2, weren't given balls and playing catch, they were given baby dolls and playing house. But they have the fire in them. They have that passion for the game and want to play baseball, it's just a matter of us as adults to give them the option."

# Around the Horn

AAGPBL player Mary Moore, Umpire Perry Barber, and Red Sox legend Luis Tiant talk shop.



Dr. Kat Williams's new book, *Isabel "Lefty" Alvarez*, debuted in 2020. Williams has conducted over 10 interviews promoting the book, including with the National Baseball Hall of Fame and The Great Fenway Park Writers Series.



Determined to form an all girls baseball team in Ghana before the year ends brought out many hopefuls, safely competing for a roster spot.

Although competing as a player, Elizabeth Osder (Red Sox uniform), joins fellow umpires Laurie Adkins, Jennifer Hughes, Perry Barber, Kathleen Deutsch Morrison, and Janet Lucas Thomas during Fantasy Camp in Fort Myers.



# Across the Plate

One down! 2020 could not keep Rockford's Lil Peaches off the field.



Doris Hocking, the founder of Women's Baseball-UK and IWBC member, was appointed general manager of the inaugural Great Britain Women's Baseball National Team in 2020.

Nayeli Zeledon of Reales de Managua brings the heat against an all-boys U18 team in Boaco, Nicaragua.



Elizabeth Osder, the second girl to play Little League in New Jersey, and Perry Barber meet up at the Red Sox Fantasy Camp.

Photos: Bethany Morlan/Lil Peaches, Women's Baseball-UK, Reales de Managua, IWBC Archives.

# Women in Baseball Week Reaches Fourth Season Safely

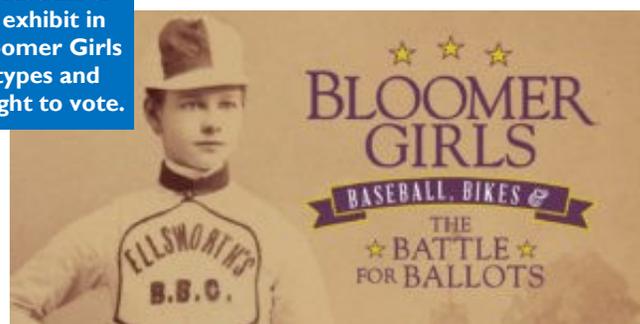
Despite the pandemic delaying events, cancelling seasons, and dampening moods, the fourth annual Women in Baseball Week was hugely successful in raising spirits among the women in baseball community and growing our network.

The Women in Baseball Week theme for 2020, Team Work, celebrated the power in relying on one another to effect positive change, whether on the field or when faced with unprecedented global challenges—a particularly fitting theme for the year. The week saw a huge increase in international participation. IWBC Director Ryan Woodward noted, “Heading into the week, I personally heard from friends and colleagues in Australia, Asia, Africa, Europe, and across North and Central America. Each team, player, or advocate deals with unique challenges. It was reassuring, however, to recognize the support available and extent of the network.” By joining forces and supporting those with similar goals, we continue to create more opportunities, expand youth participation, and encourage a culture that places women at the center of the world’s best sport.

An abundance of film screenings, skills camps, and podcast episodes filled the week. Libraries, museums, and halls of fame—supporters of Women in Baseball Week from the first year—made expert use of virtual programming and made resources digitally accessible.

Women in Baseball Week is an annual, worldwide event recognizing the value, diversity, and cultural significance of women in baseball. 2021 events are being added to [womeninbaseballweek.org](http://womeninbaseballweek.org). Contact the IWBC or visit the website to have upcoming tournaments, exhibits, or special programs added to the site’s calendar.

The Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory unveiled a new exhibit in 2020 that saluted the Bloomer Girls who challenged stereotypes and helped women win the right to vote.



Mark your calendars and join us for the next  
Women in Baseball Week:

**July 25-31, 2021**

**#WomeninBaseballWeek**

**#StepUpToTheSport**

Baseball B.C. shared this image by bluthergraphics of baseball stars from British Columbia during Women in Baseball Week.



# SPoRT Makeup Rounding Third Year

SPoRT Makeup began with a simple desire to honor the Rockford Peaches 75th Anniversary with a signature lipstick called "Peach Diva". Two strong years later, we are celebrating their success in continuing to offer new and exciting products for fans on and off the field.

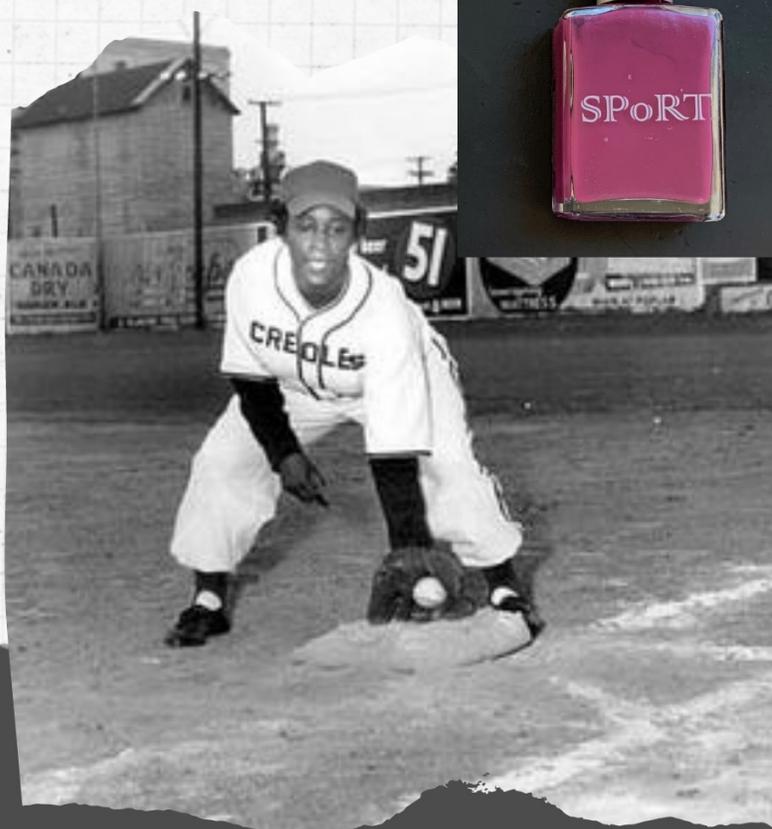
In early 2020, a lengthening treatment mascara called SMASH IT! LASHES™ in black and black/brown was added to the line. At this same time, a new concept in palettes was added with Your Palette Your Way, allowing for any eyeshadow or blush in the line to be inserted into the empty palette for a personalized look. This allows the customer to purchase inserts at different times or all at once as a cost savings or have the option to change the palette seasonally for a different look.

The Spring/Summer 2020 Great Women in Sports Collection™ came out in March 2020 and the Fall/Winter 2020 Great Women in Sports Collection™ came out in October 2020. Due to restrictions on makeup sampling and general slump in sales of face makeup, it was decided to introduce four nail polishes only for each season. First names only of top-rated women athletes from various sports were used on the product itself and in marketing, without direct use of images of any athletes still living. The only images that will be used include BABE (Didrikson-Zaharias) and TONI (Stone). Other names included MIA (Hamm), DANICA (Patrick), SERENA (Williams), SIMONE (Biles), JACKIE (Joyner-Kersee), STEFFI (Graf).

In October 2020 four shades of concealer, three eye liners, and five shades of refillable lip pencils from the WHATALINEUP!™ Collection were introduced.

Rockford's Crimson Ridge is the exclusive retailer for all SPoRT products. For more information, contact Sheryl Hall, Product Development & Marketing/Design, or Christine Haeggquist, Sales and Marketing Representative, sportmakeup@gmail.com.

## TONI STONE



ONE OF THE STELLAR SHADES OF NAIL POLISH FROM OUR NEW FALL/WINTER COLLECTION IS NAMED FOR A TRAILBLAZER IN THE SPORT OF BASEBALL -  
**TONI**

# Save the Dates!

Mark your calendars for these events and stay tuned to our website, email announcements, and social media platforms for information on more exciting events headed your way in 2021!



- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>January 9:</b>       | IWBC Reads:<br><i>Mrs. Morhard and the Boys: One Mother's Vision. The First Boys' Baseball League. A Nation Inspired.</i> with Ruth Hanford Morhard |
| <b>January 11:</b>      | <i>Step Up to the Sport</i> with Andrea Williams, author of <i>Baseball's Leading Lady: Effa Manley and the Rise and Fall of the Negro Leagues</i>  |
| <b>January 16:</b>      | Maybelle Blair Birthday Celebration   |
| <b>February 13:</b>     | IWBC Reads:<br><i>Bases to Bleachers: A Collection of Personal Baseball Stories from the Stands and Beyond</i> with Eric C. Gray                    |
| <b>February 22:</b>     | IWBC Founders Day   |
| <b>March 13:</b>        | IWBC Reads:<br><i>Bloomer Girls: Women Baseball Pioneers</i> with Debra A. Shattuck   |
| <b>July 25-31:</b>      | Women in Baseball Week  |
| <b>August 15:</b>       | Rockford Day  |
| <b>September 10-12:</b> | Third Annual Women in Baseball Conference, presented by SABR and IWBC   |

*Follow us on social media!*



@IWBC4me

# BECOME AN IWBC MEMBER!

An IWBC membership opens a world of possibilities. As an IWBC member, you will join a worldwide network dedicated to helping us preserve the history of women in baseball and secure its future for all women and girls. From tournaments to educational events and--ultimately--our vision for a leading-edge museum, our work is only possible with your support. Several levels of membership are available, including yearly and new lifetime options!

You'll receive monthly updates, early notifications and priority registration for IWBC related events and programs, and more. Step up to the sport today!

For more information, visit our website:

[www.internationalwomensbaseballcenter.org](http://www.internationalwomensbaseballcenter.org)

**At IWBC, education is the cornerstone of our mission to protect, preserve, and promote all aspects of women's baseball, both on and off the field. We strive to inspire the next generation of players by helping them realize their dreams not only of participating in the sport, but also of passing on all they will learn and achieve for generations to come.**

e-mail: [iwbc.contact@gmail.com](mailto:iwbc.contact@gmail.com)

[www.internationalwomensbaseballcenter.org](http://www.internationalwomensbaseballcenter.org)