

Gertrude "Gertie" Dunn



STATUE DEDICATION DAY

301 Iven Avenue • Wayne, PA 19087
March 23rd, 2024



Gertie Dunn, from the artist's perspective:

When Jim Vankoski, Phil Damiani, and Rich Pagano approached me to create a statue to honor Gertie Dunn, I knew it would be an exciting project.

To say Gertie Dunn is an inspiration is an understatement. She is one of the greatest female athletes of all time and was born and raised right here, in Delco, Pennsylvania. She played multiple sports, including field hockey, lacrosse, and golf, and was named Rookie of the Year in 1952 while playing in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. Along with the entire league, she was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. They even made a film, *A League of Their Own*, about the extraordinary female baseball players of that time. In jest, Gertie shared with Jim that Madonna played her role in the movie.

Making a statue is often a group effort, and between the photos Jim supplied me with and the even harder to find photos Gertie's niece, Valerie Dunn, shared with me, I had everything I needed to capture her amazing energy and grace as an athlete.

The pose for the statue is of Gertie playing shortstop in a vintage uniform from the era. She is touching second base with one foot and striding forward to throw the baseball after just catching it—all while holding the ball in proper shortstop form. She is staring ahead, poised to let go of the ball, while the breeze tosses her hair and skirt to one side. It was easy to imagine her at that moment. This type of commissioned sculpture is a pure joy for me to make. I found it immensely rewarding to create a statue that will help keep her memory alive.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Frudakis-Petry, sculptor



Jimmie Foxx, too old to be drafted and long past his hitting prime, tried to become a pitcher without much success, then found another job in baseball—as a coach in the brandnew All-American Girls Professional Baseball League.

It was the creation of Philip Wrigley, the chewing-gum king who owned the Cubs, and who hoped to keep up interest in baseball for the duration of World War II. There were already some 40,000 women playing semipro softball in small towns all across the country. Wrigley wanted to convert the best of them to hardball and to do it fast.

Hundreds turned up in Chicago for Wrigley's tryouts in May 1943 and four teams were quickly formed: the Rockford Peaches, Racine Belles, Kenosha Comets, and South Bend Blue Sox.

Players had to be good—but they also had to be irreproachably feminine.

"Femininity is the keynote of our league," said its new president. "No pants-wearing, tough-talking female softball player will play on any of our four teams."

Wrigley signed up the Helena Rubinstein cosmetics firm to run a charm school for his stars and hired coaches to give them tips on charm and etiquette. Chaperones accompanied the teams from town to town and had to approve every evening out. Players were required to wear skirts, high heels, and makeup off the field; a fifty-dollar fine was levied for infractions if they were caught disobeying. One batter was called back to the dugout because she had forgotten her lipstick.

The league soon doubled in size to include the Minneapolis Millerettes, Fort Wayne Daisies, Grand Rapids Chicks, Battle Creek Belles, Kalamazoo Lassies, and Springfield Sallies. Sportswriters called them the Queens of Swat and Belles of the Ball Game. They called one another Pepper, Jeep, Flash, Nickie, Moe.

They drew big crowds throughout the Midwest, more than a million in their most successful year, and they produced their share of stars. Jean Faut won three pitching championships and pitched two perfect games. Joanne Weaver hit .429 one season and won the batting title three years in a row. Sophie Kurys, nicknamed the "Tina Cobb" of the league, averaged 100 stolen bases a season and in one year stole 201 bases in 203 tries. And Anabelle Lee, whose nephew Bill would one day pitch for the Boston Red Sox, once threw a perfect game for the Minneapolis Millerettes.



Gertrude Dunn

By Rich Pagano

During World War II, the shortage of young men in the United States prompted Philip K. Wrigley, owner of the Chicago Cubs, to establish a professional baseball league for women. Founded in 1943 and comprised of four fifteen-member teams, the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) had some six hundred players over the course of its twelve-year existence. One of its top players during the early 1950's was Sharon Hill's Gertrude Dunn.

Having lost her mother at an early age, Dunn grew up with her brother and father, who had played baseball in his youth. Her childhood revolved around sports, and often she and her friends would organize games in the streets that filled up every bit of her leisure time. Her interest in sports continued through school, where she was the second-fastest girl at Sharon Hill High, and really began to excel in field hockey, basketball, and softball.

Dunn had just finished eleventh grade when the tryouts began for the AAGPBL, and she qualified to play in the league easily. Unfortunately, the rules forbade her from playing amateur sports during her first year as a professional baseball player.

"My father was my only parent living," recalled Dunn. "He was from Canada and loved baseball and ice hockey. He said it was OK to go and play baseball.

"I was just a 17 year old kid. When I returned to Sharon Hill for my senior year, I was ineligible for sports. I was considered a professional.

"I greatly enjoyed my new career playing baseball. Female athletes were not under a lot of pressure to succeed. Everyone participated for the fun of the game."

Dunn made her debut in the league in 1952 as a shortstop with the South Bend Blue Sox. That season, she batted .236 and was selected "Rookie of the Year" in leading the Blue Sox to championship. The following season, she played in 112 games for South Bend but only batted .179. However, she did steal 26 bases and went 3 for 11 with three runs and 3 RBI in the playoffs.

In 1954, the last year of the league, she exploded offensively and hit .299 with 26 stolen bases. She finished her career fourteenth among all players with a batting average of .261.

When the league was unable to continue in 1955, Dunn joined several other players to participate on the national touring team known as the All-Americans All-Stars. The team played 100 games, each booked in a different town, against male teams, while traveling over 10,000 miles in the manager's station wagon and a Ford Country Sedan.

"We traveled all over Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas," recalled Dunn. "You never saw so much corn. And there were no scheduled days off, with double-headers on Sunday."

In 1992, the AAGPBL became well-known to a whole new generation of people when the film, "A League of Their Own" made its debut.

"Few people seemed shocked at the introduction of female professional athletes," remembered Dunn. "I felt the movie 'A League of Their Own' was an accurate portrayal of the AAGPBL's beginnings."

Dunn was immortalized as one of the players featured in the Women in Baseball exhibit at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

In the fall of 1956, she matriculated at West Chester State College, where she again was able to compete as an amateur, playing field hockey, basketball, and lacrosse.

Dunn also gained fame by playing 13 years with the U.S. field hockey team and seven years with the U.S. lacrosse squad. She toured Europe with both teams and also made stops in Canada and East Africa. She was also inducted into the U.S. Field Hockey Hall of Fame in 1988 and posthumously inducted into the U.S. Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 2007. She served as an umpire for 20 years in the Philadelphia Women's Lacrosse Association.

After a Hall of Fame career at West Chester, Dunn began teaching and coaching at Friends School in Wilmington, Delaware in 1960. In three years at Friends, she won 84% of her games coaching the field hockey, basketball, and lacrosse teams. In 1965, Dunn moved on to the University of Rhode Island where she established the first women's lacrosse program and also coached hockey and volleyball.

In 1966, she landed a position at her alma mater, West Chester State College. She finished her career teaching at Gloucester City High School in New Jersey, where she again was responsible for starting another lacrosse program.

In 1971, Dunn decided to leave the world of education and coaching and become self-employed. "I began selling lines of uniforms, tee shirts, jackets, and emblems to schools and colleges nationwide," said Dunn. "I personally covered state, local and national conventions as far west as Texas."

During that time, she did work for other companies selling, but for the most part was self-employed, selling her own private label gym suits and uniforms to schools, colleges and clubs.

Demonstrating her versatility in athletics, she also captured the Delaware State Women's Amateur Golf Championship in 1980, and carried a six handicap for more than 20 years.

She always considered her greatest accomplishment to be the acquisition of her pilot's license. Unfortunately, at the age of 71, on September 29, 2004, Dunn died in Avondale, Pennsylvania, when the Piper Archer airplane she was solo-piloting crashed shortly after takeoff from New Garden Airport.

"The premature end of her life happened while she was doing something she loved," said Valerie Jo Dunn, Gertrude's niece. "She was a remarkable woman and is missed by many."

CAPTION: Sharon Hill's Gertrude Dunn, who has been inducted into both the U.S. Field Hockey and Lacrosse Hall of Fames, also played in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League from 1952 to 1955.



Sharon Hill High School

By Harry Chaykun

The borough of Sharon Hill is located in eastern Delaware County, bordered on the west by Folcroft, to the north by Collingdale and Darby, to the east by Colwyn and to the south by Darby Township.

The town's total area is less than one square mile and the population is around 6,000.

Among the more notable former residents of Sharon Hill were William J. Clothier (1881-1962), who reached the United States Tennis singles championship finals three times – winning one of those matches – and was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame, and Cardinal John Patrick Foley (1935-2011), who attended Holy Spirit School in Sharon Hill, became a Roman Catholic priest and in 2007 was elevated by Pope Benedict XVI to the rank of Cardinal.

Among those buried in Mount Lawn Cemetery in Sharon Hill are blues singer Bessie Smith (1894-1937) and Motown recording artist Tammi Terrell (1945-1970).

Bert Cooper (1966-2019), a professional boxer who fought for the heavyweight championship of the world, was born in Sharon Hill.

Sharon Hill High, which closed its doors in June 1982, was home to a number of outstanding athletic teams and coaches, including Bill Cubit, who had a long career as a college football coach. Rodney Blake and Jalen Duren, who played professional basketball, were Sharon Hill residents at one time, and Owls basketball stars Brent Kitching (Duke) and Mark Cubit (Syracuse) had Division I collegiate basketball careers.

Several Sharon Hill High graduates distinguished themselves at the United States Naval Academy, including quarterback Mike Sorrentino (Sharon Hill Class of 1948), who reached the rank of Colonel during his 27-year career in the Air Force, and Rev. John Cartwright (Sharon Hill Class of 1964), an all-county football quarterback who also received professional baseball offers. As a Naval Academy quarterback, Cartwright broke a number of records that had been set by Roger Staubach. After graduation and deployment in Vietnam, he coached football at Liberty University before completing studies in the school's theological seminary and returning to Delaware County, where he became the founding pastor at Calvary Independent Baptist Church in Morton.

Phil Wahl (1947-1967), a member of Sharon Hill High's Class of 1965 who earned All-Delco first team honors in football, died while serving with the United States Marine Corps in Vietnam.

In 1971, Sharon Hill High cross country runner Gary Simpson, who competed as an individual because the school did not have a cross country team that year, finished first in the PIAA Class AA championship race.

Each year, Sharon Hill High's football season concluded with a matchup against neighboring Collingdale High. One of the most-memorable games in that long rivalry took place in November 1973 on Collingdale's field. Herb Orensky ran 75 yards on a fake-punt play for a touchdown late in the fourth quarter as coach Ray Stengel's Sharon Hill Owls finished an undefeated season with a 20-14 win.

When Sharon Hill, Collingdale and Darby Township closed their high schools in June 1982, their students began attending the new high school, which had been built in Sharon Hill – Academy Park High, whose teams adopted the nickname "The Knights."



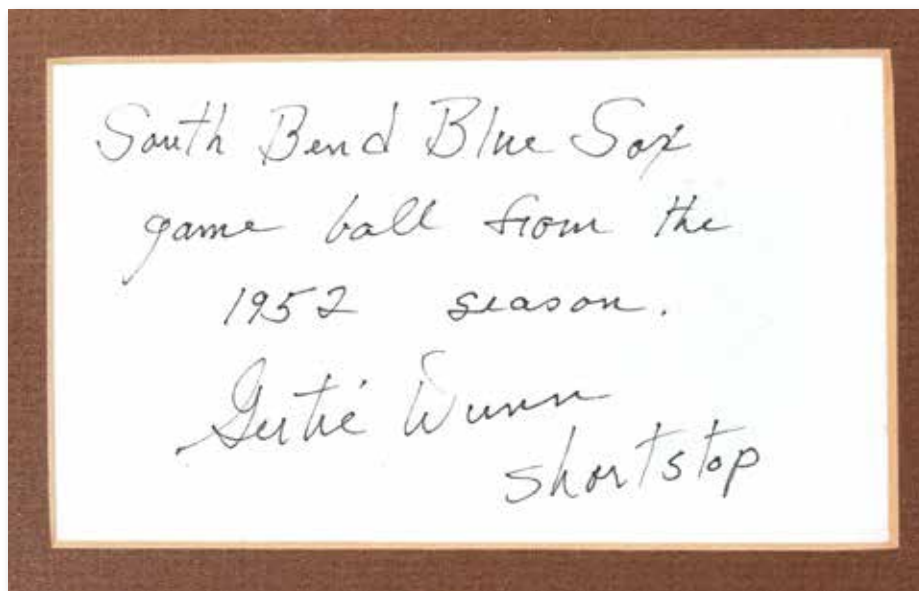
Gertrude Dunn 1952 Sharon Hill High School Graduation Photo

AAGPBL Trivia

The Sports Legends of Delaware County Museum invites you to test your knowledge of professional girls baseball trivia. For example, did you know that the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League changed its pitching style three times in the 1940s?

According to Richard C. Jaffeson and the AAGPBL Players Association, the league featured underhand pitching from 1943 to 1946 and switched to sidearm in 1947 and overhand for the 1948 through 1954 seasons. Ball size, which began at 12" circumference in 1943, changed to 11" in 1944, 10" in 1948, and finally 9" in 1954. Base-path distance, meanwhile, also varied, from 65' in 1943 to 68' in 1944, 72' in 1946, 75' in 1953, and finally 85' in 1954.

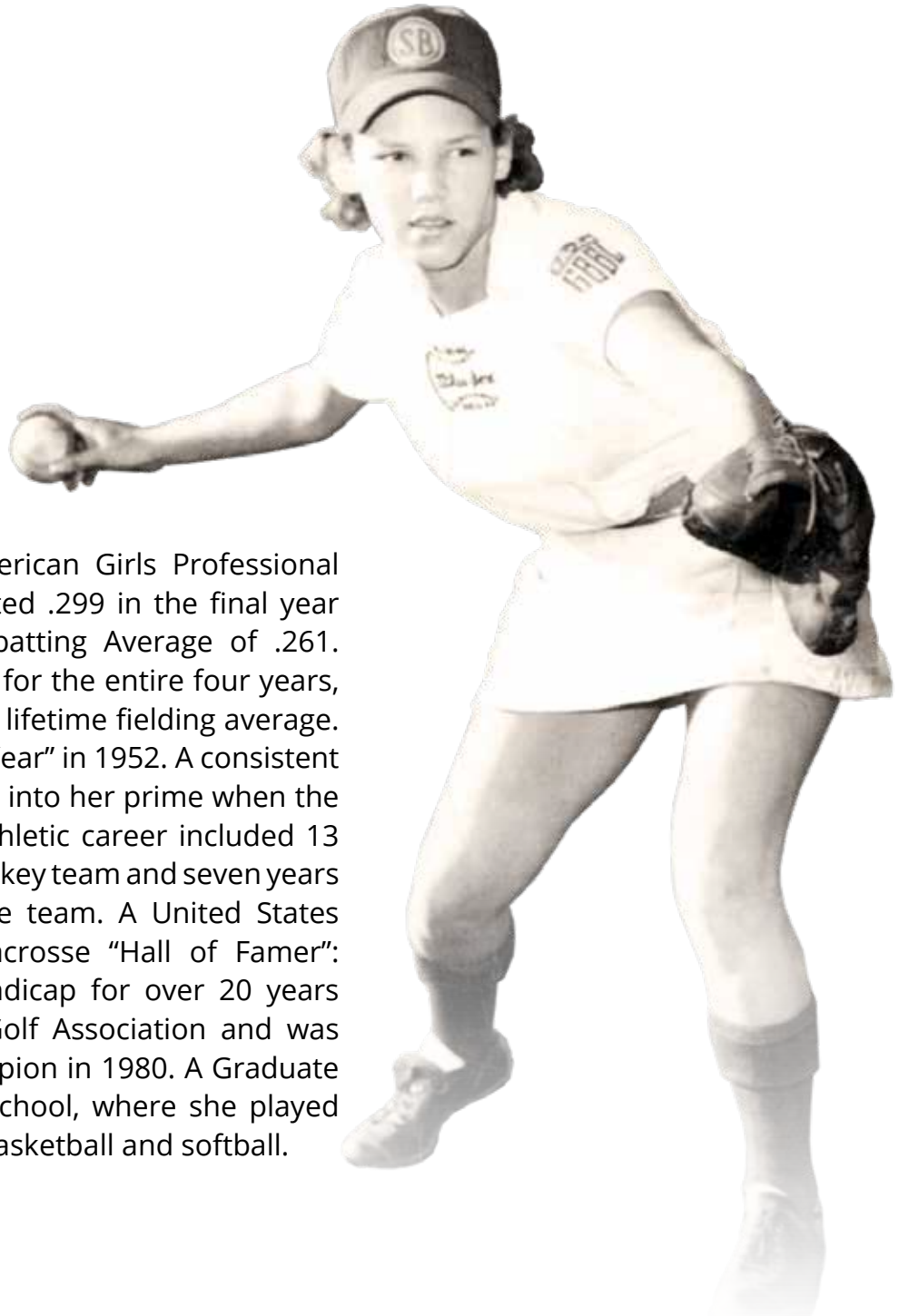
For more sports trivia, visit the SLDC Museum's website at www.delcosportsmuseum.org.



Gertie Dunn

9/30/33 - 9/29/04

Special Guest 11/16/02



Played in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. Batted .299 in the final year and had a lifetime batting Average of .261. She played Shortstop for the entire four years, ending up with a .919 lifetime fielding average. Voted "Rookie of the Year" in 1952. A consistent shortstop just coming into her prime when the league folded. Her athletic career included 13 years with the U.S. hockey team and seven years with the U.S. lacrosse team. A United States Field Hockey and Lacrosse "Hall of Famer": Maintained a six handicap for over 20 years in the Philadelphia Golf Association and was Delaware State Champion in 1980. A Graduate of Sharon Hill High School, where she played varsity field hockey, basketball and softball.

Behind The Scene Story

When, in the fall of 2001, I called Gail Brown to ask for her help in selecting sports personalities to represent the Delco Athletes Hall of Fame's inaugural exhibit, she was explicit in her reply. Gail, a fine athlete herself, was a physical education instructor at Sun Valley High. I had called her based on the recommendations of Harry Chaykun and Rich Pagano, two knowledgeable writers on Delaware County's sports history. "If you're going to have an exhibit saluting Delco athletes," Gail said in no uncertain terms, "then you better not omit Gertie Dunn."

Gertie Dunn's list of athletic accomplishments would be impressive had it been compiled over several lifetimes, but she only needed one. Before logging thirteen years with the US Field Hockey Team and seven with the US Lacrosse Team, she won Rookie of the Year in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, made famous years later by the movie *A League of Their Own*. When anyone asked her which actor played her in the movie, she would smile and say, "Madonna." No one doubted it. She was that charming. Gertie agreed to become a part of our 49-piece collector card set, which was printed by Choice Marketing to honor prominent Delco athletes. She was also a special guest at the grand opening, held at the Museum of History.

I met Gertie before the opening, and she treated me like a long-lost family member. It didn't hurt that my wife, Barbara, had been a physical education major at West Chester University way back in 1967 while Gertie had been an instructor there. After Barbara volunteered that information, Gertie's smile grew even brighter. The next thing I knew, Gertie was inviting me to her home in Chester County so she could give me a piece of her memorabilia to display at the museum. We agreed on a game ball used from her 1952 Rookie of the Year season. To this day, that ball remains on display, dirt stains and all. I found out during my visit that Gertie was also a salesperson. Turned out she had a side job selling collectible pins. I promptly placed an order for 500 of them to use as gifts for school children visiting our exhibit.

As I was leaving Gertie's home that day, I noticed a portrait of Amelia Earhart hanging in her hallway. I didn't realize the portrait's significance until the following year, when, one Sunday morning at about ten o'clock, Gertie called me to ask if I'd like to accompany her to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. She knew of my background in baseball and must have felt that I would be good company. I asked her what time she had to be there, and she said 3:00 p.m. "Gertie," I replied, "it's ten a.m. now. I've driven to Cooperstown. It takes over five hours." She didn't miss a beat with her response: "We're not going to drive. We're going to fly." Gertie, it turned out, had her pilot's license and her own plane, which she often flew solo. Now I understood the connection to Amelia Earhart. I passed. I'm not a fan of flying in small planes. Not too long after that, just as the leaves were about to turn in the autumn of 2004, I read in the newspaper that Gertie's plane had crashed shortly after take-off. She had died at the age of 72. Gertie is gone, but not forgotten. To this day, I thank Gail for alerting me to the phenomenon that was Gertie Dunn. My wife's favorite quote—"You exist as long as you are remembered"—perfectly applies to Gertie, who is still with us today.

- By Jim Vankoski

“Growing Up with Gertie”

Valerie J. Dunn 2024

She was known to many as Sis, Gertie, and Trudy, but my brother and I called her “Aunt Gert”. Such a remarkable woman who is sadly missed by those who knew her, especially her family, and I have been asked to share the love and joy she brought to our lives as our aunt.

Our relationship was indeed special. Aunt Gert was always there with support and encouragement, just as a close girlfriend would, yet with maternal devotion. The bond between an aunt and a niece can be one that is very intricate, blending family ties, love, respect, and friendship while sharing many of life’s fascinating moments. I understand this kinship even more now that I am an aunt with three bright, beautiful, and talented young nieces, who now have six young boys who bring our family so much happiness.

Thinking back, most of my early memories are, naturally, sports-related. I accompanied her to hockey and lacrosse camps, golf outings, tennis lessons, and playing ball in the yard after family dinners was always part of the day. For Christmas, Aunt Gert would give us a punch card for a bucket of balls at the local driving range. My brother and I looked forward to the evenings at the range, getting our bucket and card punched, along with Aunt Gert’s golf lesson.

Fortunately, she lived within walking distance from our home. I would head to her place after school to play her piano or give her a hand with orders for her business. At the time, she was selling gym uniforms and kilts for high school and college sports programs. I loved trying on the kilts and still remember some of my favorites which she would order in my size.

We heard fascinating stories about her worldwide travels and the lifelong friendships she made. She collected souvenirs from across the globe and certainly passed her love of travel onto me. A favorite place was The Netherlands and she arranged for me to visit with one of her Dutch friends. She also loved The Bahamas. We enjoyed time together during her last visit there, flying kites, enjoying the beach, and a quick flight in her plane over the islands marveling at the aqua ocean.

I’m sure my brother has some amazing memories as well and I believe I speak for both of us that “Growing up with Gertie” graced our childhood in many special ways. These fun and precious treasures will be kept in our hearts and minds forever.



Two golf enthusiasts, Valerie Jo Dunn, four, of Woodlyn, and her aunt, Miss Gertrude Dunn, Springfield follow progress of Wilmington’s Patsy Hahn in Ida E Dixon tourney at Springhaven CC yesterday.



Certificate No.

Shares

*Incorporated under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Sports Legends of Delaware County, Inc.*

This certifies that _____ owns _____ share(s) of the Jennifer Frudakis Petry sculpture of Gertude “Gertie” Dunn which is part of the permanent collection of the Sports Legends of Delaware County Museum, transferable only on the books of the corporation by the holder of this certificate upon surrender of this certificate properly endorsed.

In witness of the above, the corporation has caused this certificate to be signed by it’s President Jim Vankoski and Secretary Rich Pagano.

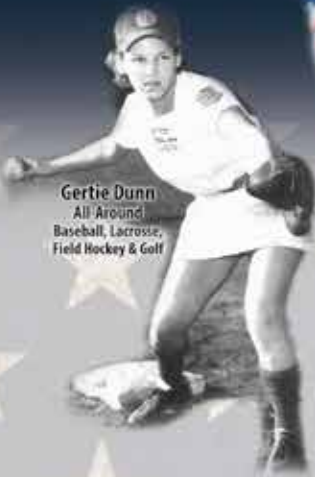
Jim Vankoski, President

Date

Rich Pagano, Secretary

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LEGENDARY DELAWARE COUNTY WOMEN'S WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS



Gertie Dunn
All-Around
Baseball, Lacrosse,
Field Hockey & Golf



Emily deRiel
Pentathlon
Olympic Silver Medal Winner



Taylor Anderson & Sarah Anderson
Curling
National Championship Finalist



Patricia Mescanti
Bowling
Professional Tournament Bowler



Fredia Gibbs
Boxing
Professional Champion



Mary Ellen Clark
Diving
Olympic Bronze Medal Winner



Sadie Dixon Waters
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Professional Tournament Bowler



Lisa Raymond
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& 2012 Olympic Bronze Medal Winner



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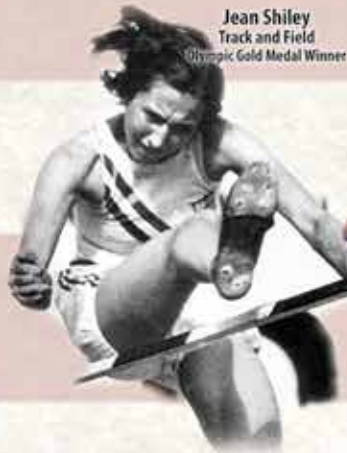
Donna Fletcher
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Pennsylvania State Champion



Karen Shelton
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Theresa Dunbar
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Pennsylvania State Hall of Fame



Jean Shiley
Track and Field
Olympic Gold Medal Winner



Shannon Grady
Triathlon
World Class Triathlete



Theresa Shank-Grentz
Basketball
Two-time NCAA Player of the Year
& Olympic Bronze Medal Winning Coach



Sinead Farrelly
Soccer
Women's Professional League



Gina Kearns
Ice Hockey
Boston University
All-time Leading Scorer



Mares Stellfox
Auto Racing
Professional Champion



Renee Hykel-Cuddy
Rowing
2008 Summer Olympics Beijing

SPORTS LEGENDS OF DELAWARE COUNTY



On the left is Jeneane [DesCombes] Lesko of the Grand Rapid Chicks with Gertie Dunn meeting up at the 2003 AAGPBL reunion in Cooperstown, New York at the Baseball Hall Of Fame Museum. Like Gertie and Joan Berger, identified in a previous photo, Jeneane was a member of the barnstorming Allington All-Stars. They had a lot to talk about since besides being outstanding baseball players they were both avid golfers and air plane pilots.



AAGPBL 2003 Reunion at the Baseball Hall of Fame, Cooperstown, NY

Diamond Dreams: Women In Baseball

This popular exhibit traces women's roles in the game from 19th-century ballclubs to their present-day involvement – on the field and in baseball's front offices and broadcast booths. The story is broken into three segments. In addition to the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (1943-1954), "On the Field" covers the history of women ballplayers from the mid-19th century to today. "In the Office" highlights the women who ran ballclubs. "Off the Field" features women employed in baseball and the cultural impact of the 1992 film *A League of Their Own*. The exhibit includes original uniforms and equipment, photographs, text and multimedia, and features an interview with Penny Marshall, the director of *A League of Their Own*. Other notable pieces include a cap worn by groundbreaking female umpire Pam Postema; a cap from Maria Pepe of Hoboken, N.J., whose landmark Supreme Court case opened the door for girls to play in Little League; and a hardhat worn by urban planner Janet Marie Smith, who helped design Baltimore's groundbreaking Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

Combatants to Teammates



Shown here with Gertie is Joan Eisenberger AKA "Joan Berger". Joan played for the Rockford Peaches from 1951 through 1954, the same years that Gertie played for the South Bend Blue Sox. When the league folded after the 1954 season they both joined Bill Allington's barnstorming team. Besides Joan and Gertie the Allington All-Stars included players as Gloria Cordes, Jeneane Descombes, Betty Foss, Mary Froning, Jean Geissinger, Katie Horstman, Maxine Kline, Delores Lee, Magdalen Redman, Ruth Richard, Dorothy Schroeder, Jean Smith, Dolly Vanderlip, and Joanne Weaver. Playing over 100 games the team traveled in excess of 10,000 miles in the manager's station wagon and Ford Country Sedan.

USA Field Hockey Hall of Fame



Gertie is shooting on goal during the 1959 USA Team World Tour. Game was played in Ramsgate, England.

Hall of Fame Selection

The USA Field Hockey Hall of Fame is designed to honor players, coaches, umpires and administrators who have enhanced the sport of field hockey through exceptional achievements.

The criteria for selection into the USA Field Hockey Hall of Fame is based on achievement, innovation and contributions to the sport. To be considered, an individual must have been a member of the U.S. National Team for a minimum of five years; and must have been out of competition at the national level for five years. Objective point system takes into account each year a candidate played for, coached or captained the U.S. National Team, Olympic Team, an international tournament or a squad representing the United States on an international tour.



The bottom picture is in Ramsgate before the game with Jackie Westervelt who was the coach of the USA Team.

USA Lacrosse Hall of Fame

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

GERTRUDE DUNN

HALL OF FAME | INDUCTED 2007

COLLEGE

West Chester University



Dunn, an outstanding all-around athlete, was inducted posthumously as a truly great player. Dunn played on the U.S. National Team from 1957 to 1963 and was a member of the U.S. team that toured Great Britain and Ireland in 1957. Dunn also served as an umpire for 20 years in the Philadelphia Women's Lacrosse Association.

Away from lacrosse, "Gertie" played shortstop in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, made famous by the 1992 movie, "A League of Their Own". She was the Rookie of the Year in the league in 1952 and is one of the players featured in the Women in Baseball exhibit at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. She was also inducted into the National Field Hockey Hall of Fame in 1988, and is a member of the West Chester University Athletics Hall of Fame and the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. In 1980, Dunn won the the Amateur Delaware State Women's Golf Championship. She began flying in the early 1990s and traveled to see many of her past teammates. Dunn died in 2004 when the plane she was piloting crashed in Avondale, Pa.

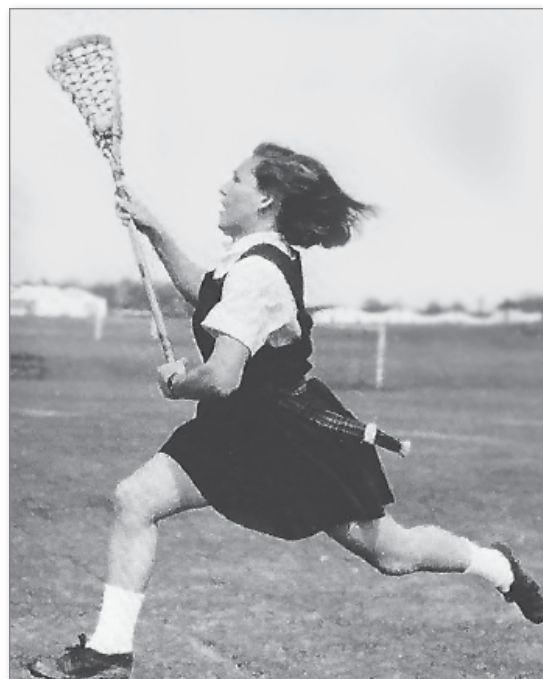


Photo taken from the 1959 West Chester University year book.

South Bend Blue Sox



This photo shows the 1952 AAGPBL Championship South Bend Blue Sox team. Jean Faut representing the Blue Sox team is accepting the Championship Trophy. Gertie the 1952 Rookie of the Year is second from the right in the first row.

Oh, Those Skirts!



Photographer Linda Braceland

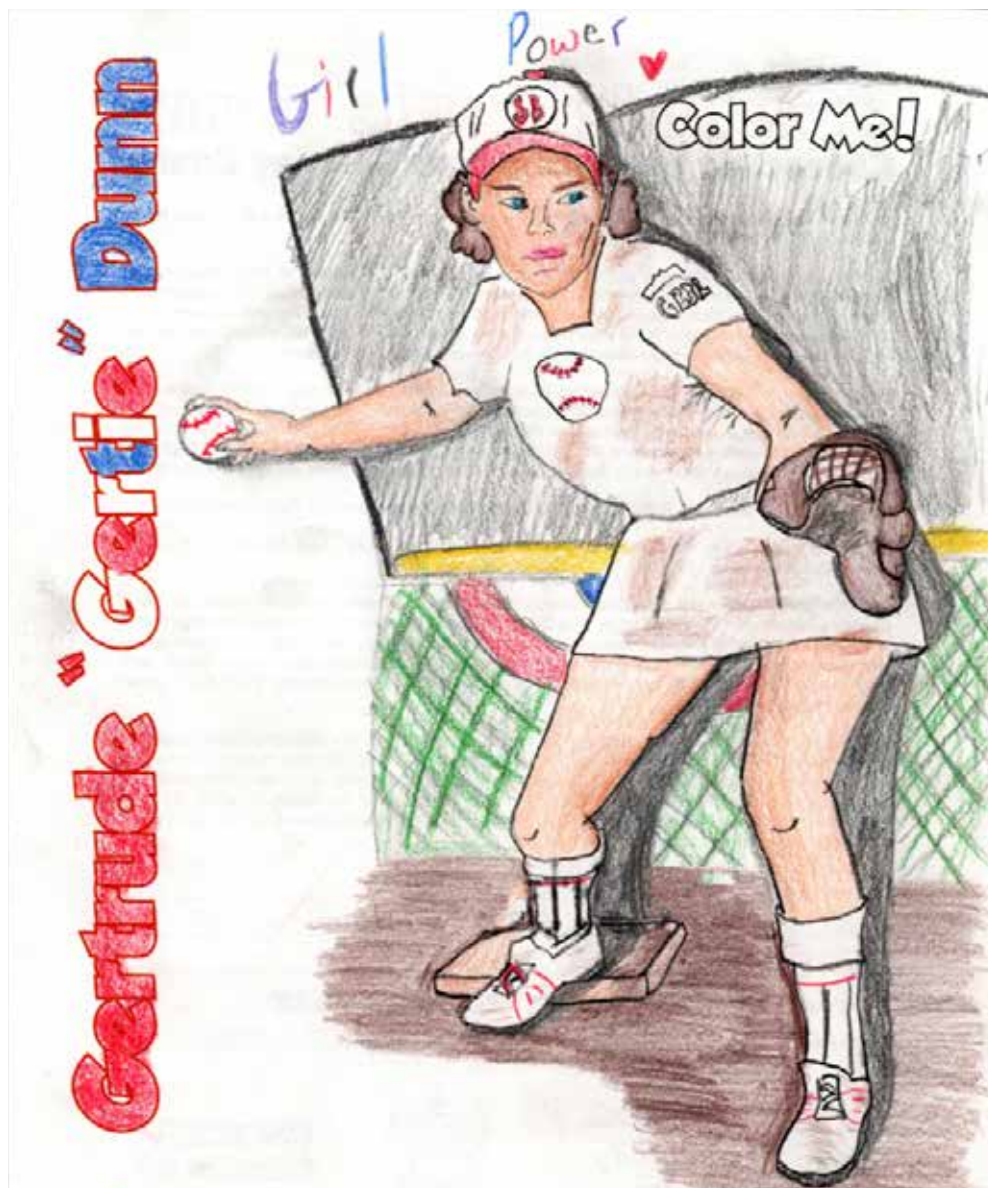
Carol Sheldon's reproduction of the jersey worn in 1952 by Gertie Dunn's South Bend Blue Sox team that won the AAGPBL Championship that year.

On the Gertie Dunn page of our website www.delcosportsmuseum.org there is a 10 minute video entitled The AAGPBL Uniform "Oh Those Skirts".

Connecting the Generations Coloring Contest

In keeping with our dual mission of acknowledging excellence and preserving the heritage of our local sports history, the Sports Legends of Delaware County Museum is happy to announce the winner of the Gertrude “Gertie” Dunn Connecting the Generations Coloring Contest. The contest, held in conjunction with the fund-raising efforts of the Gertie Dunn Statue Fund, was opened to all elementary students. Professional pastel artist William Sweeney of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, served as the judge.

And the first-place winner is—drum roll, please—Julia Metzger. Julia attends Lake Forest Central Elementary School, located in Felton, Delaware. Her teachers are Mr. Evans and Mrs. Tucker. Julia’s winning entry will be placed on display at the museum’s website: www.delscosportsmuseum.org.



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Steve and Heidi Burman



Acknowledgments

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Louise Pettus Archives Winthrop University
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Home of the Mickey Vernon Collection

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Philip W. Damiani, Jr.
May 16, 1950 - January 26, 2024

Philip W. Damiani Jr., a lifetime resident of Media, PA, passed away January 26, 2024 at the age of 73. A local sports enthusiast, Phil was known for his contributions in preserving the legacy of successful athletes, coaches, and teams throughout Media and all of Delaware County.

Phil was a graduate of Penncrest High School, Class of 1968. He continued his undergraduate studies at Villanova University and obtained his master's degree from Bryn Mawr College. Phil retired as the Executive Director of Court Services of Delaware County. His career included many years as the director of the Delaware County Juvenile Detention Center and as the director of Adult Probation and Parole.

Phil was passionate about local sports and was a great champion of Delaware County athletics. He had great success with Delco League Baseball in the 1970s as both a player and manager of the Media Bombers. He was inducted into the Ring of Honor at Penncrest High School and was an integral member and driving force of the Media Old Timers (Media Area Sports Hall of Fame). He was a founding member of the Sports Legends of Delaware County Museum and was instrumental in securing the placement of statues for local legends such as Emlen Tunnell, Billy "White Shoes" Johnson, Fredia Gibbs and Gertrude "Gertie" Dunn.

Phil did so much for so many people and never wanted anything in return. Donations in memory of Phil, at Phil's request, are being accepted via website's Home Page Paypal button www.delcosportsmuseum.org or by mailing your tax deductible check to the Sports Legends of Delaware County Museum, 301 Iven Ave. Wayne, PA 19087.



301 Iven Avenue Wayne. Pa 19087 Open Monday through Friday 9am/3pm

Welcome to a first look at our Sports Legends of Delaware County Inc. museum logo. The logo was carefully designed by Dan Falone of Choice Marketing to include a variety of symbols that indicate Delaware County's place in the sports world. Here is the story of these symbols:

The Initials SLDC are the most prominent feature. They stand for Sports Legends of Delaware County, reminding us that our mission is to acknowledge excellence, preserving the heritage of our local sports history by recognizing and rewarding such excellence.

Across the top of the shield are 49 stars that represent the 49 political units that make up Delaware County. The top star represents Radnor Township, acknowledging the township's foresight in providing the space for the museum.

At the bottom of the shield is an outline map of Delaware County, with a single star representing the Radnor Township location of the museum. The shield itself represents the Olympic Shield that was displayed on the uniform worn in the 1912 Olympics-- significant to Delaware County because it was during these games that Ted Meredith received the first Olympic Gold Medal ever won by a Delaware County athlete.

Finally, the red, white and blue colors symbolize the patriotism of many of the athletes honored. Many of the honored athletes served in our armed forces. The military service of Delaware County athletes dates well before the Olympics--as far back as the Civil War. Trading one uniform for another, many other athletes also served during WWI, WWII, and the Korean, Vietnam and Gulf Conflicts.

Jim Vankoski, curator 610-909-4919