

Bethany "Beth" Joan Goldsmith Biography



Bethany "Beth" Joan Goldsmith - Class of 1944, b. October 6, 1927 - d. October 24, 2004 (aged 77) From the EHS Yearbook: "Beth"; G.A.A., Library Club, Latin Club.

She was a pitcher who played from 1948 through 1950 in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (a women's professional baseball league founded by Philip K. Wrigley which existed from 1943 to 1954. Over 600 women played in the league. In 1948, league attendance peaked over 900,000 spectators in attendance. The Rockford Peaches won a league-best four championships while playing in the AAGPBL. The 1992 motion picture *A League of Their Own* tells a fictionalized account of one of the league's teams.). Listed at 5 ft 10 in (1.78 m), 160 lb, she batted and threw right-handed.

The blonde Bethany Goldsmith was a tall, hard throwing pitcher who was hampered by poor defense and lack of offensive support during her three seasons in the league.

Born in Elgin, Illinois, Goldsmith started playing sandlot ball with the boys of her neighborhood at age 12 and organized softball for the McGraw Electric team when she was a teenager. Charlene Barnett, a former teammate on the McGraw team who had joined the AAGPBL the previous year, advised Goldsmith to attend the next spring training of the league in Opa-locka, Florida. Primarily an outfielder, she attended the tryout and was converted into a pitcher on the strength of her arm and her quick overhand delivery. She then was assigned to the Kenosha Comets to start the 1948 season.

In her rookie year Goldsmith posted a 14–14 record and a 1.68 earned run average in 31 pitching appearances, striking out 117 batters in 245 innings of work. During the season, she hurled both games of a doubleheader against the Fort Wayne Daisies. She limited them to one hit in the opener but lost the game. Then she had better luck in the second game and was credited with the victory. In addition, she finished 11th in innings pitched and tied for 10th for the most strikeouts with Muskegon Lassies' Doris Sams.

Before the 1949 Season, Goldsmith enjoyed a memorable experience during an AAGPBL tour of Central America, as the teams were feted by both government officials and the common

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people. In Nicaragua, she visited the presidential palace and was greeted by the then President Anastasio Somoza. That year, she went 8–11 with a 3.09 ERA in 29 games. Fourth place Kenosha advanced to the postseason, but lost to Muskegon in the best-of-three first round. In her only career playoff game, Goldsmith pitched two perfect innings of relief while striking out three.

Goldsmith improved to 12–9 with a .368 ERA in 1950, her last season in the league. In all, she finished with 34–34 record and a 2.72 ERA in 87 games.

Following her baseball career, she worked for AT&T company for 30 years. After retiring in 1984, she attended AAGPBL Players Association reunions and enjoyed playing golf in her home of Orlando, Florida.

Bethany Goldsmith forms part of Women in Baseball, a permanent display based at the Baseball Hall of Fame Museum in Cooperstown, New York, which was unveiled in 1988 to honor the entire All-American Girls Professional Baseball League.

Bethany Goldsmith Seasonal Pitching Records

Year	G	IP	R	ER	ERA	BB	SO	HB	WP	W	L	PCT
1948	31	245	71	44	1.62	99	117	21	7	14	14	.500
1949	29	179	79	63	3.17	110	49	9	4	8	11	.421
1950	27	198	101	81	3.68	123	80	14	6	12	9	.571

Bethany Goldsmith Seasonal Batting Record

Year	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BB	SO	AVG
1948	31	82	7	9	2	0	0	3	3	11	13	.110
1949	29	60	11	11	0	0	0	8	1	6	9	.183
1950	27	70	6	14	0	0	0	4	0	1	7	.200