
Outstanding Women Athletes: Who They Are and How They Influenced Sports in America is a valuable reference book. Individuals interested in the history of women's sports, and in particular the study of specific women who impacted sports for girls and women should consider this book worthwhile reading. The book is divided into four parts: history, biographies, resources, and appendixes.

The initial chapter entitled "Women in American Sports" begins with a limited depiction of sport opportunities afforded women in the early American and the post Civil War eras. Using a chronological approach, the author then describes the role played by physical education professionals in the development of sports for women in the early 1900's, the establishment of women's sports organizations, what she describes as the "golden age" in sport (1911-1917), and the anti-competitive movement (1920's-1950's). Detailed information is presented on the formation and impact on women's sports by such organizations as the National Amateur Athletic Federation (NAAF), the women's division of the NAAF, and the Committee on Women's Athletics (CWA), a division of the American Physical Education Association.

The section on the play day and sports day, the model of this anti-competitive movement, brought back my own memories of oranges and cookies. It may be difficult for the sportswomen of today to comprehend that this play day/sports day concept lasted over 30 years. The author thus should have expanded this section in order to emphasize the philosophy which dominated women's sports during this period of time, and the role women's physical educators and national organizations played in perpetuating the de-emphasis of competitive athletics for girls and women.

The author makes light of the conflict between women's organizations and the AAU during the 1920's. The AAU supported the elite female athlete despite the objections of the NAAF and CWA. Although Woolum cited the track and field incident, which involved the AAU sending a team to the 1922 Olympics over the objections of the NAAF and CWA, she neglected to mention the other sports sponsored by the AAU and the antagonistic atmosphere between the AAU and women's organizations that continued for an extended period of time.

After reading her account of the formation of the professional All-American Girls Baseball League, the restrictions placed on the players, and the accomplishments of the individual athletes I reflected upon the film "A League of Their Own." This important event in women's sports deserved Woolum's extended coverage.
Woolum then summarizes the development of sports for girls and women from the 1960s to the present time. She identifies the many factors which were catalysts for change and the continuing struggles of women in sports. The initial chapter concludes with a listing of milestones in women's sports. Over 100 women, places, or events are listed in chronological order from 1804 to December 1991.

Chapter 2, within Part 1, is limited to women and the Olympics. The chapter is divided into two sections; the summer games and the winter games. A summary of the highlights of each Olympic game is presented from Athens to Seoul and from Chamonix to Calgary with respect to the number of women and men who competed, new women's events, discontinued women's events, and resumed women's events. Woolum identified outstanding accomplishments by women in the Olympics, as well as the struggles women faced.

Parts 3 and 4 are primarily resource material. There is an annotated bibliography categorized by specific sports such as basketball, golf, skiing and tennis, and general classifications such as history, physical education, and the Olympics. This is a comprehensive list of books related to women's sports and is a helpful guide to the reader. Some of these references, however, might better have been noted at the conclusion of previous chapters, specifically Chapters 1 and 2.

A directory of organizations which promote and support women's sports is provided in Chapter 5 (Part 3). Names, addresses, and a brief description of the organizations' purposes are provided. The final section, the Appendix, identifies Olympic medalists by sport, winners of championships in various individual and team sports, an index of profiled athletes by sport, and acronyms for sports organizations.

Part 2 (Chapter 3) is comprised of biographies of 60 outstanding women athletes who influenced American sports. These women are the heroines and should be role models for aspiring female athletes of today. Over half the book is devoted to the biographies of outstanding women and on their accomplishments. To her credit Woolum selected a cross section of women who influenced sport. She did not limit her selection to household names, but included the coach, the disabled, American and foreign athletes, women of color, and others who influenced various sports. A listing of further readings follows most biographies and is most helpful to those desiring additional information. The women profiled substantiate the fact that there are role models for female athletes and that we need to affirm their importance to our students and colleagues. Some of these women were pioneers while others are currently participating. Who are these women and how did they influence sport? Beginning in alphabetical order with Tenley Albright and concluding with Mildred "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias, Woolum describes the