

Softball Anyone?

by Joyce McQueen

Editor's Note: Joyce McQueen wrote the following article in which she reflects on her experiences as a female athlete and on the evolution of women's sports over the years since our days at Juniata. She also shared a news clipping about the Fourth Brumbaugh softball team (posted on page 3)

Softball Anyone?

Finding this Juniatian article about the 1968 Fourth Brumbaugh softball team in one of my mother's folders reminded me of how far women's sports have come in 50 plus years.

Perhaps my experience was different than others, but growing up I played softball at family gatherings with my uncles and cousins and at home, drafted my sister (and sometimes my mother!) to play. My sister hasn't quite forgiven me. I should mention that my cousins and I were obsessed with baseball, and my uncles didn't think twice about girls playing with boys in any sport.



Boys were lucky - they got to play in Little League. When my cousin started playing in Little League, he wouldn't play pitch, catch, or hit with girls anymore. Remember, this is when girls were not allowed to play with boys in a league, and there was no girls' softball league in my area. Our only options were Phys Ed class or pickup games with whomever. My high school was small, and the only girls' sports were field hockey and the insulting 3 dribble and pass basketball. Larger high schools and colleges had many more options for girls' sports. As a smaller college, Juniata was like my high school, and it was a thrill to be able to play intramural softball with a real team.

The Fourth Brumbaugh team consisted mainly of women who lived on the top floor of old Brumbaugh Hall our freshman year. I was an outlier, living at the Faculty Club on 17th Street. Our team stayed together with a small rotating cast of players for three spring seasons. It's interesting that many of the women are still in contact with each another. We didn't play senior year because of comprehensives. We did play Powder Puff football that fall, but it wasn't quite the same. Baseball has a particular rhythm to it – the pitch, the swing, and the hit or out – that football lacks. The scores noted in the article are more indicative of the pitching and fielding. Carol Diehl and Cindy McKinney shared pitching duties, and they were consistent and accurate without a windmill windup. As for the other teams' pitchers, it's easy to hit a slow moving pitch if you have good hand-eye coordination. Did we set out to beat the other teams by that much? I don't think so - we were just having a good time.



The Women's Movement and the passage of Title IX in 1972 changed women's sports for the good. Over time, more sports opportunities were offered to women at all scholastic levels and along with that, athletic scholarships, specialized training, harder, longer, more disciplined practices, and professional leagues(!). Sports reporting has changed too. Women get more respect now and some do the reporting and refereeing. There is even coverage on some local TV stations and no more comments about legs.

Our team wouldn't make it in women's softball now. We would have been the ones getting thumped. I only hope that women playing in any sport today are having as much fun as we did running the bases in our Keds or Converse sneakers.

Oh, and in case you're wondering, I still like baseball.

Fourth Brumbaugh Softball

The Juniatian Spring 1968



photo by Hoffman

Formidable fighting fourth ferociously frowns at frail photographer. The Women's I.M. Softball victors are (l. to r.) Dreadful Dottie Huss, Daring Debra Winters, Jumping Joyce McQueen, Scintillating Cindy Pile, Mighty Mouse Pongracz, Dynamic Debbie Fay, Killer Carol Diehl, Sensational Cindy McKinney, Marvelous Marilyn Koczanowski.

Fourth Brumbaugh Gals Go Undefeated in IM Softball

by Fighting Fourth

Who says girls can't pitch-out, bunt, make a shoe string catch, steal a base, and hit a ball into the creek? Fighting Fourths, comprising an intramural softball team, executed all these feats, and garnered the IM softball title for the Freshman girls. The team went undefeated, 44-6, 30-2, 29-3, 30-6, 26-13, and 13-7. (Can't understand why three games were won by forfeit—could the upperclassmen fear the Frosh?)

No matter how overwh

victories may appear, the daring dynamos suffered many traumatic moments—limping first basemen, resounding collisions, battering battery, and fractured phalanges in left field. (The price of victory is always an ardent, zealous endeavor. Sigh!)

In post-game chatter the team acclaimed several of its members. Miss Cookie (better known as Albertha Jane) Rabain received the Tarnished Glove Award for "Black-Power" in the field. To honor of her

ince at the plate, Carol Diehl was awarded the coveted Broken Bat. Alice Kistler, the impregnable barrier behind the plate, received one pair of steel shins. The Mr. Clean Award for an immaculate left field went to Marilyn Koczanowski. (It seems a ball never landed there.)

Heartfelt thanks were given to the umpires, who served above and beyond the call of duty. (Could the attraction have been legs? !?)

Reunion Booklet

by Charlotte Houchin Kresge



In keeping with a longstanding Juniata tradition, we have created a 50th Reunion Booklet for all classmates to read and enjoy. The first part includes biographical information and pictures of classmates who submitted them. A second section is dedicated to the memory of our classmates who have gone before us, and the third one contains interesting facts and pictures of Juniata, past and present.

Many thanks to our classmates who completed the questionnaire and submitted pictures. I would also like to thank Ted Corcelius, Jane Loucks and Ann Laird for proof-reading the classmate section. Thanks also to my fellow Chairs for reviewing the remainder of the booklet and to Cathy Cloz (from Juniata) for offering guidance and support throughout the process.

An electronic version of the booklet is available to all classmates. You may access your free copy by [clicking here](#), and using the password: **1971JC50**. Hard copies of the booklet will also be available for purchase, stay tuned. The Reunion Booklet was a labor of love, and I hope that you will enjoy reading it as much as I did creating it!

A Tutorial for Using Zoom



Our virtual reunion will be conducted through Zoom. If you would like to learn how to use Zoom, you can view a full listing of helpful articles by [clicking here](#).

There Is Still Time

If you would like to add your bio and picture to the Reunion Booklet before it goes to press, you can access the [questionnaire here](#). Deadline: **Oct. 15**

Reach Out, We'll Be There

Join us on our Facebook page: "[Juniata College Class of 1971](#)"

Check out our website [here](#).

Update your information at Juniata College [here](#).

Make a gift to Juniata [here](#).

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Virtual Reunion:

October 8, 2021



In-person Reunion:

June 9-12, 2022