



E-Newsletter | September 2014

Women in Baseball

Mo'ne Davis made Little League history earlier in August of this year when she became the first female pitcher to throw a shutout - giving away only two hits during the Little League World Series. Davis stands on the shoulders of pioneering women who



Effa Manley

blazed trails in the sport of baseball including Kathryn "Tubby" Johnson Massar (who played Little League in 1950 - leading to a ban on girls playing that was not lifted until 1974), Nancy Lotsey (who played in the New Jersey Small Fry League in 1963), and Edith Houghton (who scouted for the Philadelphia Phillies 1946-1951). In this month's enewsletter, we profile two other women pioneers who have "baseball connections": Effa Manley and Linda Alvarado.

Effa Manley co-owned the Newark Eagles, a team in the Negro League, from 1935-1948. Manley loved baseball and handled all of the business aspects of owning the team. She arranged

playing schedules, planned the team's travel, handled the payroll, bought the equipment, negotiated contracts, and took care of publicity and promotion. Widely known as a players' advocate, she worked on their behalf for better schedules, travel and salaries.



Linda Alvarado

Manley was also a civil rights activist, advocating for better treatment for African-Americans. In her later years, Manley worked to ensure that the Negro Leagues would be remembered in history. Her scrapbook is now housed at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. She advocated for members of the Negro Leagues to be inducted

into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Partially due to her efforts, 11 players from the Negro League were enshrined in 1973. In 1985 an exhibit on black baseball was added to the Hall. And, in 2006, Effa Manley herself was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Effa Manley paved the way for Linda Alvarado. At age 39, Alvarado, who serves as President and CEO of Alvarado Construction, became the first woman (and the first Hispanic-American of either gender) to successfully bid for ownership of a major league baseball team. Today, she is still a co-owner of the Colorado Rockies, which was awarded a franchise in 1991. She has been selected as one of the 100 Most Influential Hispanics in the U.S. Alvarado has been inducted into both the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame and the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Her growing-up years were tough; she was one of six children (five brothers), and her home did not have indoor plumbing or central heat. Today a highly successful Alvarado provides much

philanthropy and helps others to achieve their dreams. She says:

I believe the American Dream is one without gender or race. I still hope for and long for the day when people will be judged on their ability, rather than their background or their gender. America is a country of immigrants and our nation's success is built not on everybody being alike, but on our diversity.

We salute the efforts of these women to open sports to all.

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Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America

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