



May 2019 Her Story ENewsletter Women in Baseball

It's springtime and for many sports fans, thoughts turn to baseball. In a previous ENewsletter, we profiled two amazing women in baseball - Effa Manley and Linda Alvarado. Effa Manley was the first woman elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame (2006); she managed and co-owned the Newark Eagles of the Negro Baseball League. In 1946, her team won the Negro League World Series. Linda Alvarado is the current co-owner of the Colorado Rockies. She is an inductee into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame and the National Women's Hall of Fame. This month, we profile two other baseball pioneers - Edith Houghton and Nancy Lotsey.



Edith Houghton

Houghton became the first female professional baseball scout who worked on her own, when she was hired by the Philadelphia Phillies in 1946. (Her only known predecessor, Bessie Largent, scouted with her husband for the Chicago White Sox.) Houghton looked for talent - big size and an ability to hit. Sixteen of the players she scouted signed with professional baseball, although none made it to the majors. She was also the last female scout hired by professional baseball. She was called up by the Navy and served during the Korean War, leaving the Phillies organization in 1951.



Effa Manley

Another woman who is not well known is Nancy Lotsey. In 1963, when she was eight years old, she made baseball history when she played for the New Jersey Small Fry League. She became the first girl to participate in all-boys organized baseball. Lotsey served as a pitcher, struck out three opposing batsman, and hit a home run in her first game. Called "Diamond Doll" by her teammates, she struck out 62 boys in ten games. When her teammates carried her off the field after one of their victories, the resulting photograph was printed in Life magazine. And, her team won the League victory!

In 2009, Lotsey told a nine-year old girl selected to play on the Morristown, New Jersey all-star team, "We can do as good as them, if not better." She also said "I loved it. There was no psychological damage. I could play better than most of the boys on the team."

Effa Manley, Linda Alvarado, Edith Houghton, and Nancy Lotsey are among the more than 850 women profiled in our book *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*. Women's accomplishments continue to inspire and encourage us. Continue to help us tell women's stories!

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