



How Baseball Made Me a Feminist

Dorothy Seymour Mills, the first woman baseball historian

Monday, March 11, 2013 at 6:30 PM

South County Library, 21100 Three Oaks Pkwy., Estero FL

"Despite men's continued opposition," says Dorothy Mills, "women have played the National Game since at least the 1860s, long skirts and all. And they haven't stopped playing. Women have also moved into sports history, where they are not hampered by long skirts." She sees women's baseball history as part of their general cultural history and therefore their struggle to be themselves, without the constant restrictions that men placed on their activities.

The author of 26 books, Mills began her work in history in the 1940s, starting in the field of baseball history but soon coming to specialize in the history of women's baseball. Mills has also published historical novels, education texts, a vegetarian cookbook, and children's books. She writes book reviews for the *New York Journal of Books* and her blogs appear at BestThinking.com as well as on her own web site, www.dorothyjanemills.com.

In addition to her own life, Mills will describe her latest book, a historical novel called *Drawing Card* (McFarland, 2012), about a woman baseball player in 1930s Cleveland whose story is based on that of some real women in baseball's past. Reviewers describe the book as "a rich exploration of several decades of American life, with a sharp focus on women's rights, social and economic class and crime," and "a brilliant portrait of Cleveland during and after the Depression."

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