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Margaret “Marge” Russo Collection, c. 1950-1954

(Part of the Kathleen Bertrand and Linda Lundin,
Honoring Women in Sports Collection)
(MSS-049.01.02)

*Finding Aid Compiled by
Orson Kingsley, March 2021
Elizabeth Ezekiel, September 2022*



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Maxwell Library
Bridgewater State University / 10 Shaw Road / Bridgewater MA 02325
archives@bridgew.edu / 508-531-1389

Volume: 2.75 linear feet (5 document boxes)

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Margaret Russo **Biographical Sketch**

Margaret "Marge" Russo Jones was a third baseman and shortstop for the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) from 1950-1954. In the AAGPBL online database, and on her player card, she is referred to as Maggie Russo. Born in September 1931 to James and Mary Russo, Russo Jones grew up in Milton, New York. She went on to work as a teacher for the Marlboro, NY School District. She married Fred Jones of Salisbury Center, NY.

She played for the Peoria Redwings of Peoria, Illinois (1950-51), the Battle Creek Belles of Battle Creek, Michigan (1952), the Muskegon Belles of Muskegon, Michigan (1953), and the Rockford Peaches of Rockford, Illinois (1954). 1954 was Russo Jones' best season at bat with ten home runs, including a record three in one game, and a career-high batting average of .313. In that same year she was selected for the league's All-Star team. She died at home at age 74 on June 27, 2006.

Margaret Russo **Scope and Content Note**

This collection contains items relating to Margaret Russo. Materials include letters, telegrams, and photographs; three scrapbooks containing league contracts, newspaper clippings, letters, cards, and photographs; two baseballs belonging to the 1952 Battle Creek Belles, one signed by team players. The biographical sketch of Russo is largely derived from her player profile on the AAGPBL database.

Related collections include the numerous collections that make up the *Kathleen Bertrand and Linda Lundin, Honoring Women in Sports Collection*. Other women's baseball and softball collections include: the Mary Pratt Collection (AAGPBL), the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League Collection, the Joanne "Jo" Winter Collection (English's teammate while playing for Racine), the Margaret "Marge" Russo Collection, the Helen Delores Nunamaker Collection, the Edith Dennison Bloomer Girl Collection, the Bertha Levi Collection, and more.

Margaret Russo Collection

Box and Folder List

Box 1

Folder

1. Letter from Howard Beeney, President of the Peoria Redwings to Russo about receiving back pay from previous season, Sept. 26, 1950
2. Letter from Frank M. Endsley, Vice President of Peoria Redwings, to Russo asking her if she intends to play in the upcoming season, Nov. 30, 1950
3. Margaret Russo's AAGPBL contract to play for the Battle Creek Belles, 1952
4. Guy Bush to Russo acknowledging he received her signed contract to play for the Battle Creek Belles, March 17, 1952
5. Telegram from Joe E. Newton to Russo asking if she is going to play for Rockford in the upcoming season, May 1954
6. Photographs (6) of Margaret Russo playing for multiple AAGPBL teams, c. 1950-1952
7. Photographs (2) of Russo with an unidentified woman in Kalamazoo, MI, 1952

Box 2

Scrapbooks

- Contains letter from Fred Leo, President of the AAGPBL to Russo inviting her to attend their "finishing school." This also contains "General Rules of Conduct," from 1950; postcards from locations of the other teams in the league; news clippings on the AAGPBL; letter from AAGPBL president Max Carey and other letters from officials in 1949 referring to Russo's interest in the league and a questionnaire she filled out and sent in, and letters about her contract and when she should report; original photographs at practice for the Peoria Redwings; some ephemera items from the league; some letters pertaining to the league and going to play in the league; magazine clippings on the league, 1950-1951

Box 3

Scrapbooks

- Contains original Peoria team practice photos; news clippings involving the AAGPBL; news clippings involving Russo playing for the Rockford Peaches, 1950-1951
- Contains news clippings of Russo playing for the Muskegon Belles, 1953

Box 4

Artifacts

- Baseball - Game ball with signatures from Battle Creek Belles, 1952

Box 5

- Baseball - Game ball from Battle Creek Belles with no signatures, 1952