Collection Development (Special Topics) Bibliography:
Women in Sports - Dewey 796, 920 & Biography

Highly Recommended Books

General Curricular Use
The selections found in this bibliography will support biography research, enhance options available to those recognizing Women’s History Month, bring attention to MCGF issues around access to sports opportunities for women throughout history, encourage those with special needs and family challenges to pursue their dreams, and inspire girls everywhere to work hard and persevere by reading about positive female role models in the sports arena.

Grades K-3

**Summary:** This biographical picture book takes readers through the experiences of Bobbi Gibb from her days in elementary school where she was not allowed to run on the track team to her determination to train to be the first woman to run in the Boston Marathon. Pimentel’s simple text and Archer’s collage-style illustrations portray Bobbi’s passion for running and her desire to race in a man’s world. The Afterword provides details about Gibb’s training and running success during the late 1960’s.

**Audience:** Kindergarten – 3rd grade students; teachers; parents


**Summary:** This is the story of Edith Houghton, the youngest girl from a family of ten children, who was born back in 1912 in Philadelphia. She loved watching and playing baseball and soon became the youngest girl to play on a professional girls baseball team, the Philadelphia Bobbies. She soon became known as “The Kid”, and her adventures took her to Japan to play the game she loved. This biographical picture book helps the reader understand the tenacity of this young child and how her love for baseball opened up many doors for her, even as a young girl growing up in the early 1900’s. There is a note from the author at the end of the book that highlights Edith’s life on and off the field - photographs and captions give a nice historical account of her baseball career.

**Audience:** Kindergarten – 3rd grade students; teachers; parents

Grades 3-6

**Summary:** This collection of biographical summaries features 101 female athlete trend-setters who have excelled, set records, and dominated in their sports. Five sections titled “Superstars”, “Wonder Women”, “Trailblazers”, “Record Breakers”, and “Champions” highlight famous women who have made their mark on history and will inspire young readers to chase their dreams. Real photographs are action-packed, historical, and
engaging and represent the generations and sports attire/uniforms throughout history. The book also features primary source quotes by athletes, fast facts, and wow factor trivia.

**Audience:** Grades 3 - 6 students; teachers; parents; coaches


**Summary:** This collection of factual stories and biographical events highlights eleven great female athletes who have had to overcome illnesses, disabilities, family struggles, and/or personal challenges and tragedies to dominate in their sports. Each inspiring chapter utilizes information from personal interviews with the athletes to demonstrate for the reader the levels of determination, dedication, and hard work needed to overcome adversity and pursue personal goals and dreams. Although readers will benefit from reading the entire book, they will also enjoy chapter-jumping to investigate the stories about their favorite, well-known athletes.

**Audience:** Grades 3 - 6 students; teachers; parents

Grades 5+


**Summary:** Women have come a long way since the early 1970’s when women were referred to as “the weaker sex” (Bobby Riggs). This book highlights fifty female athletes who have proven they could fight stereotypes and take risks to achieve great things and inspire young girls throughout history. Sketches and illustrations by Ignotofsky are unique, and she provides informational captions, fun facts, and trivia for each athlete. Traditional and nontraditional athletic events are highlighted as well as women from all over the world who have overcome illnesses and disabilities. Personal quotes from athletes are included with each biography. Finally, there are additional sections that highlight the following topics: historical timeline, muscle anatomy, female athlete pay and media statistics, influential sports teams, and a list of additional women in sports (not highlighted in the book).

**Audience:** Grade 5-8 students; teachers; parents; coaches

**Series Titles**

**Grades K-3**

Pebble Plus Biographies: *Women in Sports - 6 titles*

(Paperbacks - purchase individually or as a set.)

Each title highlights the athlete’s life and accomplishments. Kid-friendly text, photographs, and timelines will give readers basic knowledge of some of their favorite female athletes.


**Grades 4-8**

**ABDO SportsZone: Women in Sports - 6 titles**

(Hardback - purchase individually or as a set.)

Each book in the series highlights female athletes, important events in female sports history, and women pioneers in the sports arena. Some of the greatest individuals, teams, and significant events in female sports history are presented in a format that will engage readers and inspire them to investigate further.