She Loved Baseball: The Effa Manley Story



Baseball has always been considered America's favorite pastime. From its humble beginnings to its evolution into a national obsession, the sport has touched the lives of countless individuals, both on and off the field. One such remarkable figure is Effa Manley, a trailblazing woman who defied societal norms and left an indelible mark on the sport she loved.

The Early Years

Ethel Manley, later known as Effa, was born on March 27, 1897, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As a young girl, she was captivated by the energy and excitement of baseball games, attending as many as she could with her father. It was during these formative experiences that her love for the sport first blossomed.



She Loved Baseball: The Effa Manley Story

by Audrey Vernick (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 4.8 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 5820 KB
Screen Reader : Supported
Print length : 32 pages



In her teenage years, Effa helped her mother by working as a stenographer and secretary. Her intelligence, diligence, and passion caught the attention of a prominent African-American ballplayer named Abe Manley. The two quickly fell in love and got married in 1935, forming a partnership that would reshape the future of baseball.

A Trailblazing Journey

Shortly after their marriage, Effa and Abe Manley acquired the Newark Eagles, a team in the Negro National League. Effa became actively involved in the team's management, taking charge of numerous responsibilities, including player recruitment, marketing, and community relations.

As an owner, Effa was determined to provide the best opportunities for her players, making sure they received fair treatment, fair wages, and access to amenities that were often denied to African-American ballplayers. She fought

tirelessly against the discriminatory practices within the baseball industry, breaking down barriers and paving the way for future generations.



A Force to Be Reckoned With

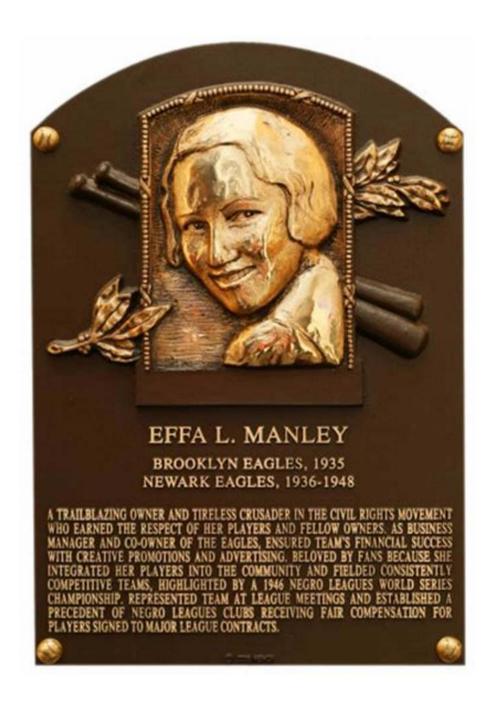
Under Effa's guidance, the Newark Eagles prospered both on and off the field. Her strategic thinking and business acumen helped transform the team into a formidable force in the Negro leagues. Despite the constant challenges they faced due to racial segregation, the Newark Eagles emerged as one of the most successful teams of their time.

Effa's influence extended beyond her team's success. She fought for equal rights for African-American players, ensuring they received the respect and recognition they deserved. Effa was instrumental in the integration of baseball, advocating for the inclusion of black players in Major League Baseball, which finally came to fruition when Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1947.

A Legacy of Inspiration

Effa Manley's impact on the world of baseball cannot be overstated. Her unwavering commitment to the sport and the advancement of African-American players laid the foundation for social change and equality within baseball. Her efforts opened doors and shattered stereotypes, empowering individuals within and outside the sport to challenge systemic racism and fight for equal opportunities.

Effa Manley was posthumously elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2006, recognizing her groundbreaking contributions and her unwavering determination to change the face of baseball. Her story continues to inspire generations of baseball enthusiasts, reminding us that love for the game knows no boundaries.



Effa Manley, the trailblazing owner of the Newark Eagles, left an indelible mark on the history of baseball. Her dedication to the advancement of African-American players and her fight against racial discrimination within the sport will forever be remembered. She used her platform and influence to challenge the status quo and pave the way for future generations, leaving a lasting legacy that continues to inspire and empower. Effa Manley's story is a testament to the power of passion, perseverance, and the unwavering belief in one's convictions.

So, next time you step onto a baseball field, take a moment to remember the incredible journey of a woman who loved baseball with every fiber of her being. Effa Manley, thank you for teaching us that barriers are meant to be broken, and dreams are meant to be pursued.

Works Cited:

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- Rampersad, Arnold. Effa Manley and the Newark Eagles. New York Times,
 2009.



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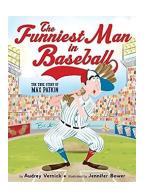
"A wonderful picture book biography. Little girls will be inspired."* This nonfiction picture book is an excellent choice to share during homeschooling, in particular for children ages 4 to 6. It's a fun way to learn to read and as a supplement for activity books for children.

Effa always loved baseball. As a young woman, she would go to Yankee Stadium just to see Babe Ruth's mighty swing. But she never dreamed she would someday own a baseball team. Or be the first—and only—woman ever inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

From her childhood in Philadelphia to her groundbreaking role as business manager and owner of the Newark Eagles, Effa Manley always fought for what was right. And she always swung for the fences.

From author Audrey Vernick and illustrator Don Tate comes the remarkable story of an all-star of a woman.

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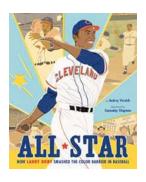
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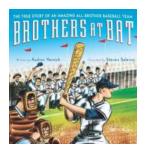
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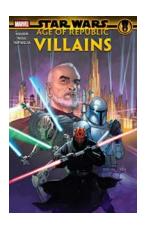
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