2026

WPBL

WOMEN'S PRO BASEBALL LEAGUE

PRESEASON PROSPECTUS

BOSTON HUNTERS WP BL

NEW YORK HEIGHTS WP BL

LOS ANGELES QUEENS WP BL

SAN FRANCISCO FIREBELLS WP BL

ABOUT THE LEAGUE

The WPBL is the only professional women's baseball league in the United States. The league, consisting of four teams - Boston, New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco - will be held at historic Robin Roberts Stadium in Springfield, Illinois. The league is co-founded by baseball pioneer Justine Siegal, the first woman to coach a professional men's baseball team and throw batting practice in Major League Baseball.

The Women's Pro Baseball League will begin its inaugural season on August 1 as the New York Heights take on the Los Angeles Queens at 5 p.m. CST at Robin Roberts Stadium in Springfield, Illinois, the site of every game this season.

The San Francisco Firebells will battle the Boston Hunters as both teams make their debuts on August 2 at 6:30 p.m. CST to conclude the opening weekend.

Throughout the season at each game, the WPBL will honor legendary female icons who have broken barriers, inspired generations, helped shape culture, sports and society.

THE DRAFT

The draft was held on November 20, 2025, and consisted of six rounds with 20 picks per round.

San Francisco selected right-handed pitcher Kelsie Whitmore with the #1 overall pick. Whitmore, from San Diego, California, has played for the United States Women's National Baseball Team in international competition since 2014 and played college softball at Cal State Fullerton. She played for the Savannah Bananas and was the first woman to appear in the starting lineup in an Atlantic League game.

THE TEAMS

BOSTON HUNTERS

Team Name Origin: The Boston Hunters are inspired by Harriot K. Hunt, a pioneering Boston physician and women's rights activist.

The Logo: It features an osprey clutching a baseball bat, symbolizing precision and determination on the field.

NEW YORK HEIGHTS

Team Name Origin: The New York Heights honor Dorothy Irene Height, a civil rights and women's rights leader from New York

The Logo: It incorporates graphic lines around a baseball, representing the speed of a fastball and the New York skyline.

QUICK FACTS

FOUNDED.....2026
TEAMS.....4
LOCATION.....Springfield, Illinois
STADIUM.....Robin Roberts Stadium
COMMISSIONER.....Justine Siegal
DRAFT DATE.....Nov. 20, 2025
OPENING DAY.....Aug. 1, 2026
CHAMPIONSHIP DATE.....Sept. 16-22

LOS ANGELES QUEENS

Team Name Origin: The Los Angeles Queens are named after Lizzie Murphy, known as the "Queen of the Diamond" the first woman to play against major league players.

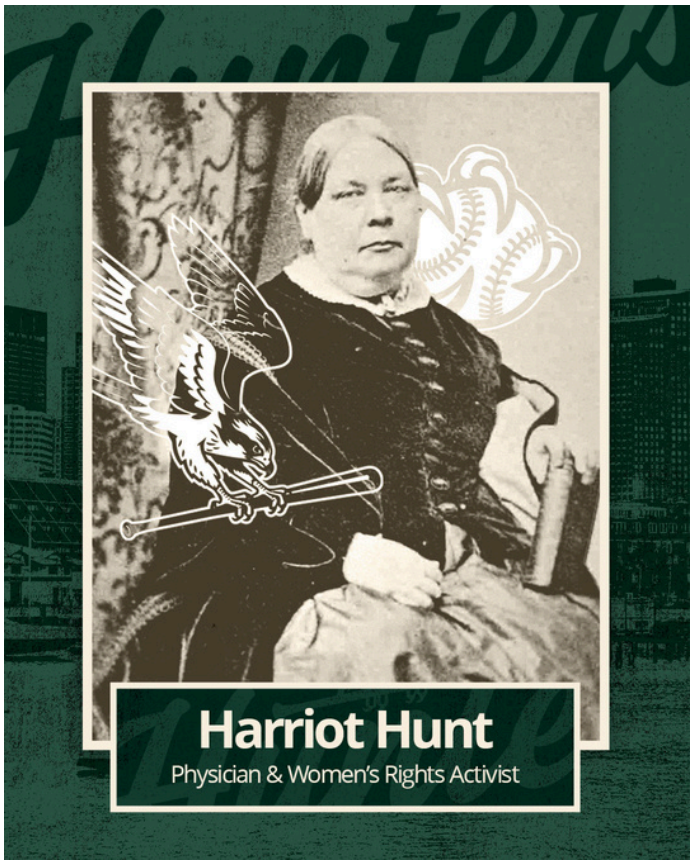
The Logo: It is a capital Q topped with four baseball diamonds, reflecting power and prestige. The four diamonds on top of the Q are meant to form a minimilast crown design.

SAN FRANCISCO FIREBELLS

Team Name Origin: The San Francisco Firebells pay tribute to Lillie Hitchcock Coit, nicknamed "Firebelle Lil", a champion of San Francisco's volunteer firefighters.

The Logo: It fuses a bell with a phoenix, symbolizing resilience and rebirth.

BOSTON HUNTERS



BOSTON HUNTERS

2026 ROSTER

#	NAME	POS.	HOMETOWN
2	Denver Bryant	2B	Albany, Ga.
3	Raine Padgham	RHP	Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada
4	Kate Blunt	SS	Ladera Ranch, Calif.
5	Suzuka Yamamoto	SS	Setouchi City, Japan
7	Hyeonah Kim	C	Seoul, South Korea
13	Ticara Geldenhuis	OF	Waterfall, Australia
14	Lexi Hastings	LF	Holly Springs, N.C.
16	Alli Schroder	RHP	Fruitvale, British Columbia, Canada
17	Beth Greenwood	C	Amherst, N.H.
18	Maïka Dumais	RHP	Quebec City, Quebec, Canada
22	Sabrina Robinson	1B	Morristown, N.J.
30	Maria Jose Valenzuela	IF	Hermosilio, Mexico
31	Gigi Schiano	RHP	Berrysburg, Pa.
55	Molly Paddison	CF	Pullenvale, Australia
	Edith De Leija	3B	Aldama, Mexico

SCOUTING THE HUNTERS

- Hyeonah Kim, the Hunters first draft pick, fourth overall, is one of the defining figures of Korean women's baseball will handle the catching duties along with Beth Greenwood, who will serve as a player/coach this season.
- Alli Schroder and Raine Padgham, the 5th and 12th overall picks, respectively, were the second and third first round selections for Boston and will give the Hunters a pair of quality right-handed pitchers.
- Kate Blunt (SS) and Denver Bryant (2B) were Boston's first two players selected in the second round and will anchor the middle infield for the Hunters.
- Lexi Hastings and Ticara Geldenhuis are expected to make major contributions in the outfield.

BOSTON HUNTERS

2026 SCHEDULE

AUGUST

2 San Francisco
5 @ Los Angeles
8 @ New York
9 New York
13 @ New York
15 Los Angeles
16 @ New York
20 New York
22 San Francisco
23 Los Angeles
26 @ Los Angeles
28 @ San Francisco

SEPTEMBER

2 San Francisco
5 Los Angeles
6 @ San Francisco

ALL GAMES PLAYED AT
ROBIN ROBERTS STADIUM

2026 COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH: Keith Foulke
ASSISTANT COACHES: Karavin Dew
PLAYER/COACH: Beth Greenwood

ABOUT KEITH FOULKE

Foulke had an 11-year career in Major League Baseball as a relief pitcher for the San Francisco Giants, Chicago White Sox, Oakland Athletics, Boston Red Sox and Cleveland Indians. Foulke was an All-Star in 2003 and he earned the save in the final game of the 2004 World Series. From 2000 to 2004, Foulke was one of the top closers in baseball. In the 2004 postseason, Foulke appeared in 11 of 14 games while throwing 14 innings. He would rack up 19 strikeouts in that stretch and would only allow one earned run and had a 1.80 ERA in the World Series.

BOSTON HUNTERS

MEET THE TEAM - FIRST ROUND DRAFT PICKS

HYEONAH KIM - C - Seoul, South Korea
Kim was the #4 overall pick in the WPBL draft in November ... one of the defining figures of Korean women's baseball ... a member of the Korean national team since 2021 and captain of the 2026 WBSC Women's Baseball World Cup squad ... claimed the batting title at the 2025 BFA Women's Baseball Asian Cup with 15 hits in seven games ... Ewha Womans University alumna, she served as playing coach of the Ewha Playgirls, the only women's baseball team in South Korea's collegiate baseball league from 2023 to 2025

RAINE PADGHAM - RHP - Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada
Padgham was the 12th overall pick in the WPBL draft ... pitches for Team Canada, notably starting on the mound to secure a 4-2 Bronze medal win over Mexico at the 2024 World Cup ... has been playing baseball since age three and currently studies Kinesiology at the University of British Columbia

ALLI SCHRODER - RHP - Fruitvale, British Columbia, Canada
Alli was the 5th overall pick in the WPBL draft ... a trailblazing player and dedicated wildland firefighter ... a Vancouver Island University alumna, she made history as the first woman to sign and play in the Canadian Collegiate Baseball Conference ... 9-time member of Team Canada, earning two WBSC Women's Baseball World Cup bronze medals

LEXI HASTINGS - LF - Holly Springs, North Carolina
Lexi was the 20th overall pick in the WPBL draft ... played collegiate softball at the University of Connecticut where she was the 2024 Big East Player of the Year ... she was a four-time All-BIG EAST selection ... holds UConn program records in runs scored (198), stolen bases (128) and is second all-time with 254 hits

BOSTON HUNTERS

MEET THE TEAM

KATE BLUNT - SS - Ladera Ranch, Calif.
Blunt played collegiate softball at UCLA and led the Bruins to three trips to the Women's College World Series before playing her final season last year at the University of Utah...she is three-time member of the USA Baseball Women's National Team

DENVER BRYANT - 2B - Albany, Ga.
Bryant brings versatility and athleticism to the middle infield as a dependable second baseman with experience across multiple positions ... she developed a reputation for her speed, defensive instincts and ability to impact the game on both sides of the ball

EDITH De LEIJA - 3B - Aldama, Mexico
De Leija joins the WPBL after representing Mexico in international competition, including appearances against top teams at the Women's Baseball World Cup ... growing up in Mexico's rich baseball culture helped shape her passion for the sport and her commitment to excellence ... De Leija is proud to help represent Mexico as part of the inaugural generation of WPBL players

MAIKA DUMAIS - RHP - Quebec City, Quebec, Canada
Dumais enters the WPBL as one of the league's most promising young pitchers ... has quickly established herself as an emerging talent within Canada's baseball pipeline and represents the bright future of women's baseball both in Canada and internationally

TICARA GELDENHUIS - OF - Waterfall, Australia
Geldenhuis, originally from South Africa and now based in Sydney, has been a standout in Australian baseball since age 14, winning seven national championships with New South Wales ...represented Australia at the 2023 World Cup, hitting a home run, and has played two seasons in Japan's top league, recently competing in the 2024 All Japan National Championships

BETH GREENWOOD - C - Amherst, N.H.
Greenwood is one of the most accomplished and influential figures in women's baseball today ... a member of Team USA and silver medalist at the 2024 Women's Baseball World Cup, she made history as the first American woman to catch in an NCAA baseball game ... beyond her playing career, Greenwood has worked as a coach in professional baseball and serves as Director of Baseball Development for Baseball For All ... her leadership, experience, and commitment to growing opportunities for women in baseball make her one of the league's most respected players

MOLLY PADDISON - CF - Pullenvale, Australia
Paddison discovered her passion for baseball at age four while living in the United States ...a standout player since her youth, she was Youth Women's MVP at the 2023 Australian Youth Girls National, leading Queensland to gold ... she tied for most hits at the 2024 Open Women's Nationals

SABRINA ROBINSON - 1B - Morristown, N.J.
Robinson is a dedicated player and coach who started baseball at age five to share practice time with her brother ... attended Penn State ... founded and coaches the Montclair State University Women's Club Baseball Team, which placed third nationally in 2022 and 2023, and actively supports girls' baseball through the East Coast Women's Baseball Team and Philadelphia Girls Baseball

BOSTON HUNTERS

MEET THE TEAM

GIGI SCHIANO - RHP - Berrysburg, Pa.
Schiano has been breaking barriers in baseball since age five, playing first base through Little League, American Legion, and high school ... gold medalist at the PONY Women's World Series representing Team USA ... she is the first woman committed to Rosemont College's baseball roster, inspired by her resilient spirit and strong family support

MARIA JOSE VALENZUELA - IF - Hermosillo, Mexico
Valenzuela represents the proud tradition of Mexican women's baseball as she brings her talents to the WPBL ... a versatile infielder, she is capable of contributing across multiple positions while providing steady defense and strong baseball instincts ... growing up in one of Mexico's most passionate baseball regions, she developed a deep love for the game and a competitive mindset ... she joins a growing group of international players helping elevate women's professional baseball on a global stage

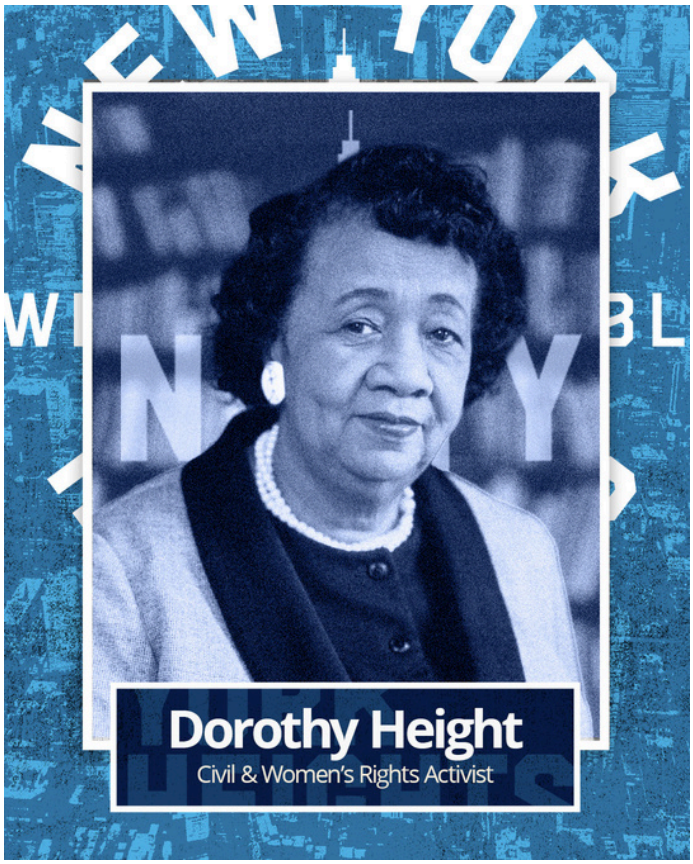
SUZUKA YAMAMOTO - SS - Setouchi City, Japan
Yamamoto developed her love for baseball inspired by her father and childhood practice sessions ... a graduate of Kwansei Gakuin University in Nishinomiya ... she was a founding member of the Hanshin Tigers Women and proud to compete at Koshien Stadium, helping her team win the national club championship

ASSISTANT COACHES

KARAVIN DEW
Karavin Dew made her USA Baseball coaching debut this summer when she joined the Women's National Team Training Camp as an assistant coach for the Stars Team. Dew brings more than 10 years of coaching experience to Training Camp, including her most recent stop as an Affiliate Performance Coach with the Cincinnati Reds organization in 2025. Prior to working at the professional ranks, she was the Head Softball Coach at Lafayette University for the 2023 and 2024 seasons. Under her guidance, the Leopards significantly improved in several offensive categories. Dew has also made stops in her coaching career at Tennessee State (2022), Austin Peay State (2021), Brown (2019-2021), Mercer (2017-2018), and Brevard College (2016). Dew graduated from Western Kentucky in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She was a two-time All-Sun Belt Conference First-Team selection who helped guide the Hilltoppers to the 2013 NCAA Regional. She is currently a private instructor at the YARD.

BETH GREENWOOD - (PLAYER/COACH)
Greenwood is one of the most accomplished and influential figures in women's baseball today ... a member of Team USA and silver medalist at the 2024 Women's Baseball World Cup, she made history as the first American woman to catch in an NCAA baseball game ... beyond her playing career, Greenwood has worked as a coach in professional baseball and serves as Director of Baseball Development for Baseball For All ... her leadership, experience, and commitment to growing opportunities for women in baseball make her one of the league's most respected players

NEW YORK HEIGHTS



NEW YORK HEIGHTS

2026 ROSTER

#	NAME	POS.	HOMETOWN
1	Keira Izumi	SS	San Diego, Calif.
2	Denae Benites	C	Las Vegas, Nev.
4	Madison Willan	IF	Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
5	London Studer	1B	Gahanna, Ohio
7	Jaida Lee	RHP	St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada
8	Diana Ibarra	CF	Tepatitlan, Mexico
13	Alyssa Zettlemoyer	C	Murrieta, Calif.
15	Natsuki Yonetani	LF	Saitama, Japan
18	Claire O'Sullivan	RHP	Maroubra, Australia
19	Elodie Ciamarro	C	Mont-Saint-Hilaire, Quebec, Canada
21	Claire Eccles	CF	Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
22	Kylee Lahners	3B	Pinehurst, N.C.
27	Val Perez	SS	Corpus Christi, Texas
29	Rakyung Kim	RHP	Seoul, South Korea
31	Jacqui Reynolds	RHP	Woburn, Mass.

SCOUTING THE HEIGHTS

- Kylee Lahners, the Heights first pick, third overall, will hold down the hot corner while Valerie Perez, the 13th overall selection joins her on the left side of the field at shortstop.
- Denae Benites, the sixth overall pick, is expected to handle the catching duties while Alyssa Zettlemoyer and Elodie Ciamarro give the team options behind the plate.
- New York drafted a pair of right-handed pitchers in the first round. Rakyung Kim (11th overall) and Jaida Lee (14th) will be at the top of the Heights rotation.
- Natuski Yonetani and Claire Eccles, who were both drafted in the second round, will anchor the outfield for New York.

NEW YORK HEIGHTS

2026 SCHEDULE

AUGUST

1 Los Angeles
6 @ San Francisco
8 Boston
9 @ Boston
13 Boston
15 San Francisco
16 Boston
19 @ San Francisco
20 @ Boston
22 @ Los Angeles
27 Los Angeles
29 @ Los Angeles
30 @ San Francisco

SEPTEMBER

3 @ Los Angeles
4 San Francisco

ALL GAMES PLAYED AT
ROBIN ROBERTS STADIUM

2026 COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH: Rachelle Rocky Henley
ASSISTANT COACHES: Stephen Larkin and Jackson Henley

ABOUT RACHELLE ROCKY HENLEY

Henley is a Bay Area native and a prominent figure in women's baseball, known for her leadership in developing girls' baseball programs and her deep roots in the sport.

She played third base for the Colorado Silver Bullets, an all-women's baseball team that barnstormed against men's all-star amateur and semi-pro teams in 1994. The team was managed by Hall of Famer Phil Niekro.

In 2015, Henley co-founded the San Francisco Bay Sox Girls' Baseball Program with Alex Oglesby. The program was created to field an all-girls team for the inaugural Baseball For All National Girls Baseball Tournament. Since its launch, the Bay Sox has grown from a single 12-player team to serving over 120 girls annually through year-round developmental activities, travel teams and clinics at San Francisco Recreation and Parks.

Over more than 25 years in youth baseball, Henley has been instrumental in expanding opportunities for girls in the sport, breaking barriers and inspiring the next generation of female athletes. Her career spans competitive play, program leadership and coaching education, making her a respected mentor and advocate for women in baseball.

NEW YORK HEIGHTS

MEET THE TEAM - FIRST ROUND DRAFT PICKS

KYLEE LAHNERS - 3B - Pinehurst, NC
Lahners was the #3 overall pick in the WPBL draft … member of the USA women's national team … earned softball All-American honors at the University of Washington … played three years of professional softball before making the move to baseball seven years ago

DENAE BENITES - C - Las Vegas, Nev.
Denae was the #6 overall pick in the WPBL draft … standout catcher and four-time USA Baseball Women's National Team athlete, earning gold at the 2019 Pan American Championships and silver at the 2024 World Cup Finals … a trailblazer as the only girl to play varsity baseball in Las Vegas, she also excelled in varsity flag football, earning three MVP awards

RAKYUNG KIM - RHP - Seoul, South Korea
Kim was the 11th overall pick in the WPBL draft … attended Seoul National University before making history as the first female player to hit a home run in the Korean men's college league … a standout pitcher and hitter, she led the 2018 WBSC Women's Baseball World Cup in strikeouts and became the first Korean player on Japan's Saitama Seibu Lions Ladies in 2025

VAL PEREZ - SS - Corpus Christi, Texas
Perez was the 13th overall pick in the WPBL draft … member of team USA women's national team and head coach of the The Firefighters, a Banana Ball team … walked on the softball team at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi … missed freshman season due to injury … was named team captain during both her junior and senior seasons. With the program renaming its defensive player of the year award to the Valerie Perez Award

JAIDA LEE - RHP - St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada
Lee was the 14th overall pick in the WPBL draft … At age 16 in 2022, she was the first female to compete in men's baseball at the Canada Summer Games. Lee is a senior at Gonzaga High School, in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. Born in St. John's, to Dave and Amanda Lee. Lee started playing baseball at 6 years old, and has been playing on boy's and men's baseball teams since the age of 10

LONDON STUDER - 1B - Gahanna, Ohio
London was the 19th overall pick in the WPBL draft … member of the Team USA baseball team … played baseball at Gahanna Lincoln High … played softball briefly at Miami University before returning to travel baseball

NEW YORK HEIGHTS

MEET THE TEAM

ELODIE CIAMARRO - C - Mont-Saint Hilaire, Quebec, Canada
Ciamarro has been playing baseball since age 11 and honed her skills at Cégep de Trois-Rivières ... only 19 years old, she proudly represents Team Québec, showcasing her passion and dedication to the sport

CLAIRE ECCLES - CF - Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Eccles is a Canadian baseball trailblazer ... a former UBC Thunderbirds athlete and member of the Canadian Women's National Baseball Team ... she made history in 2017 as the first woman to play in the West Coast League ... has competed internationally across multiple continents and has helped pave the way for women in professional baseball

DIANA IBARRA - CF - Tepatitlan, Mexico
Ibarra is a trailblazing outfielder and the first Mexican woman to hit a home run in a women's baseball premundial ... a key player for Mexico's national team since 2019, she has earned multiple medals representing various states and continues to break barriers by playing in men's regional leagues

KEIRA IZUMI - SS - San Diego, Calif.
Izumi has played baseball since age six and now competes in club softball at USC while founding and leading the USC women's baseball team ... in 2023, she represented the USA in the PONY Girls Baseball World Series in Japan ... currently coaches the LA Heat Girls' Baseball teams

CLAIRE O'SULLIVAN - RHP - Maroubra, Australia
O'Sullivan is a veteran of international competition ... a member of Australia's women's national baseball program ... O'Sullivan has competed at the Women's Baseball World Cup and has contributed both on the mound and at the plate

JACQUI REYNOLDS - RHP - Woburn, Mass.
Reynolds' baseball career reflects perseverance and adaptability ... played softball throughout high school and at Southern New Hampshire University before she transitioned to baseball following a career-ending softball injury ... has competed for women's and men's baseball teams, won a Roy Hobbs World Series championship and earned team MVP honors ... has worked extensively in coaching and player development, bringing a wealth of experience and a commitment to growing the game

MADISON WILLAN - INF - Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Willan is a standout multi-sport athlete and Team Canada Women's National Team member since 2017 ... made history with Canada's first international home run and has earned bronze medals at the 2018 and 2024 Women's Baseball World Cups ... also shines on ice, winning gold with Team Canada at the 2023 FISU Winter Games and multiple championships with the University of Alberta Pandas

NEW YORK HEIGHTS

MEET THE TEAM

NATUSKI YONETANI - LF - Saitama, Japan
Yonetani played collegiate ball at Shobi University in Kawagoe and represented Japan in international competition, including the 2019 BFA Women's Baseball Asian Cup... inspired by her older brother, she cherishes winning the Asian Games as a career highlight

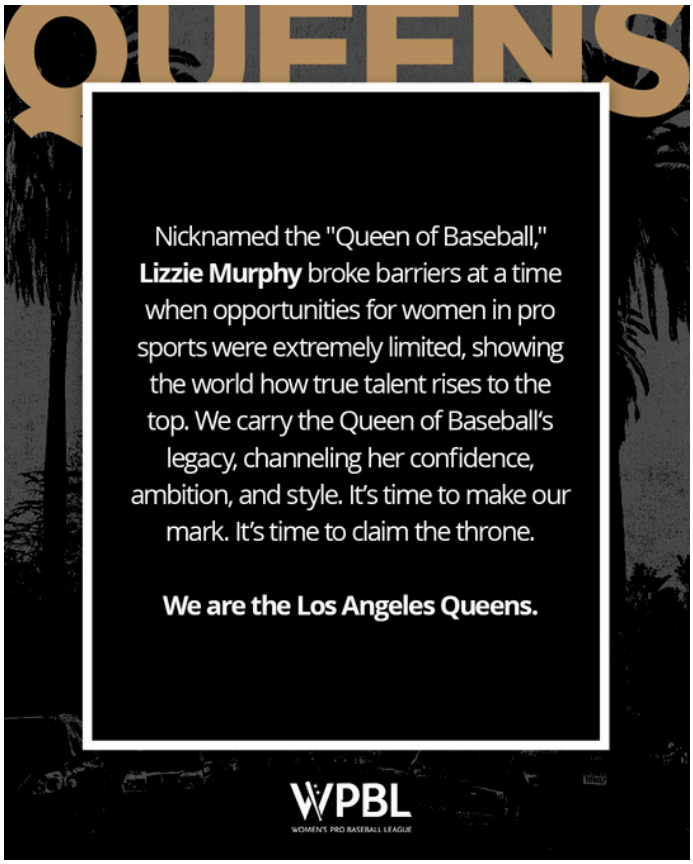
ALYSSA ZETTLEMOYER - C - Murrieta, Calif.
Zettlemoyer was a Vista Murrieta High School standout ... she developed her skills as a versatile defensive player and has continued to pursue opportunities in baseball

ASSISTANT COACHES

Stephen Larkin
Larkin played in one Major League Baseball (MLB) game during his career for the Cincinnati Reds in 1998 ... is the brother of baseball Hall of Famer Barry Larkin ... played at the University of Texas and was drafted in the 10th round ... spent most of his baseball career in the minor leagues ... is currently an assistant baseball coach at Savannah State

Jackson Henley
Henley is a right-handed hitting and throwing outfielder from South San Francisco ... played one season of college baseball at Skyline College in 2023 and has also competed in club and overseas leagues

LOS ANGELES QUEENS



LOS ANGELES QUEENS

2026 ROSTER

#	NAME	POS.	HOMETOWN
0	Brittany Apgar	CF	Greensboro, N.C.
1	Ashton Lansdell	3B	Marietta, Ga.
2	Thaima Maximiliana	SS	Curacao
3	Mo'ne Davis	CF	Philadelphia, Pa.
8	Suzu Naraski	CF	Setouchi City, Japan
11	Maggie Foxx	C	Bedford, N.H.
13	Meggie Meidlinger	RHP	Sterling, Va.
18	Ayami Sato	RHP	Tokorozawa, Japan
20	Jamie Mackay	C	Laguna Beach, Calif.
23	Emi Saiki	SS	Kagawa, Japan
25	Sarah Edwards	1B	Bay Shore, N.Y.
27	Michelle Roche	RHP	Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada
29	Caitlin Eynon	SS	Perth, Australia
58	Samaria Benitez	SS	Nayarit, Mexico
	Ayuri Shimano	RHP	Osaka, Japan

SCOUTING THE QUEENS

- Japan's Ayami Sato, the second overall selection, considered by many to be the best female pitcher and, by some, the best female baseball player in the world will be the ace of the staff. She throws close to 80 mph. Sato is joined by fellow first round selection and right-handed pitcher, Maddie Meidlinger (15th overall), to solidify the Queens rotation.
- Third baseman Ashton Lansdell, the 7th overall pick, joins another first round selection, shortstop Thaima Maximiliana (18th overall), to anchor the left side of the Los Angeles infield.
- Mo'ne Davis, the 10th overall pick, will be LA's top outfielder. Davis, was the first girl to earn a win and to throw a shutout in Little League World Series history in 2014 and later became the first Little League baseball player to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated.
- A pair of second round selections, catchers Jamie Mackay and Maggie Fox, give the Queens a pair of quality options behind the dish.

LOS ANGELES QUEENS

2026 SCHEDULE

AUGUST

1 @ New York
5 Boston
7 San Francisco
8 @ San Francisco
12 @ San Francisco
14 @ San Francisco
15 @ Boston
21 San Francisco
22 New York
23 @ Boston
26 Boston
27 @ New York
29 New York

SEPTEMBER

3 New York
5 @ Boston

ALL GAMES PLAYED AT
ROBIN ROBERTS STADIUM

2026 COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH: Eric Young
ASSISTANT COACHES: Jemile Weeks and Emma Charlesworth-Seiler

ABOUT ERIC YOUNG

Young played for 15 seasons in Major League Baseball for the Los Angeles Dodgers, Colorado Rockies, Chicago Cubs, Milwaukee Brewers, San Francisco Giants, Texas Rangers and San Diego Padres. He was most recently third base coach for the Los Angeles Angels. He previously served as the first base coach for the Atlanta Braves. He played college baseball and college football for Rutgers University.

He hit a home run in the Rockies' first-ever home at-bat on April 9, 1993, as part of an 11-4 home win over the Montreal Expos. He helped Colorado to its first postseason series appearance in 1995, which they lost to the Atlanta Braves, 3-1. His best seasons came with the Rockies, where he was an All-Star and a Silver Slugger Award winner in 1996 at second base. In 1996, he hit .324, with 8 home runs, 74 RBI and 53 stolen bases.

During the 1990s, Young was one of the top base stealers in the major leagues. He is the Rockies career leader in stolen bases and is in the top 10 in many other offensive categories. On June 30, 1996, he managed to steal second base, third base and home plate in one inning in a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers. In 1997, fan favorite Young was traded back to the Dodgers for pitcher Pedro Astacio. While in Los Angeles during 1998–1999, Young continued his consistency by stealing bases and hitting for solid averages.

LOS ANGELES QUEENS

MEET THE TEAM - FIRST ROUND DRAFT PICKS

AYAMI SATO - RHP - Tokorozawa, Japan
Sato was the 2nd overall pick in the WPBL draft ... she is a pitcher for the Toronto Maple Leafs of the Canadian Baseball League ... Sato is also a starting pitcher for the Japan women's national baseball team, with which she has won six gold medals at the Women's Baseball World Cup ... considered by many to the best female pitcher and, by some, the best female baseball player in the world ... throws close to 80 mph ... only women's baseball player to win three consecutive World Cup MVP awards

ASHTON LANSDELL - 3B - Marietta, Ga.
Landsell was the 7th overall pick in the WPBL draft ... member of the USA Women's national team ... played college softball at Florida International for two seasons and her senior season at Mississippi ... began her collegiate career playing baseball at Georgia Highlands College for one season becoming just the first female to play baseball at the NJCAA level ... she was a member of her high school baseball team ... was the first female to open a Georgia 7A regional game as the starting pitcher

MO'NE DAVIS - CF - Philadelphia, Pa.
Davis was the 10th overall pick in the WPBL draft ... she is an American former Little League Baseball pitcher and former Hampton University softball player ... Davis was one of two girls who played in the 2014 Little League World Series and was the first girl to earn a win and to throw a shutout in Little League World Series history ... she was the 18th girl overall to play and the sixth to get a hit ... Davis was also the first Little League baseball player to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated as a Little League player ... on March 12, 2025, a statue of Davis was unveiled at the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory, which made Davis the first non-Major League Baseball player to have a statue there

MEGGIE MEIDLINGER - RHP - Sterling, Va.
She was the 15th overall pick in the WPBL draft ... member of Team USA roster that captured the gold medal at the 2006 Women's Baseball World Cup ... she was one of four teenagers to qualify for the Team USA roster in 2006 ... pitching at Dominion High School in Sterling, Virginia, she threw a complete game in a 10-0 victory over Briar Woods and became the first female in the state's history to pitch a perfect men's varsity game ... she was also the first female to win a men's varsity baseball game in the state ... in high school, she was recruited by Adriane Adler to play for the East Coast Yankees ... also played for the New England Women's Red Sox and the Chicago Pioneers

THAIMA MAXIMILIANA - SS - Curacao
Thaima was the 18th overall pick in the WPBL draft ... played college softball at Indian River for one season (2024) and then Florida Southwestern in 2025 where she earned First team All-Citrus Conference honors, hitting .343 with eight homers and 41 RBI's

LOS ANGELES QUEENS

MEET THE TEAM

BRITTANY APGAR - CF - Greensboro, N.C.
Apgar brings a powerful story of perseverance and representation to the WPBL, as she was born with one hand ... began playing baseball as soon as she could walk and made history competing on an all-girls team that won the Boys of Summer tournament ... played college softball at Greensboro College in 2022 before stepping away from the sport and continued pursuing her goal of playing professional baseball ... her passion and mental toughness have driven her to break barriers and inspire the next generation of players

SAMARIA BENITEZ - SS - Nayarit, Mexico
Benitez represents the continued growth of women's baseball throughout Latin America ... a member of the WPBL's international player pool ... brings athleticism and infield versatility to the roster and adds to the league's growing international presence

SARAH EDWARDS - 1B - Bay Shore, N.Y.
Edwards played college softball at the University at Buffalo ... a standout at Bay Shore High School, she earned All-County honors and helped lead her team to three league championships

CAITLIN EYNON - SS - Perth, Australia
Eynon developed a passion for baseball playing alongside her older brothers ... made her senior national championship debut at the age of 13 ... attended Curtin University ... proudly represented Australia at the 2023 World Cup and helped secure gold at the 2023 Australian Nationals

MAGGIE FOXX - C - Bedford, N.H.
Foxx, who just completed her sophomore year at Brown University, is a standout catcher and utility player who helped lead the Bears to the 2024 Ivy League Softball Championship ... a four-time USA Women's National Team Top 40 selectee ... is known for her leadership, consistency and playful energy on and off the field

JAMIE MACKAY - C - Laguna Beach, Calif.
Mackay brings a strong defensive presence behind the plate and experience competing at a high level ... expected to serve an important role working with the pitching staff and providing solid play at the catcher spot

SUZU NARASAKI - CF - Setouchi City, Japan
Narasaki attended Chuo University in Hachioji City, Tokyo ... a pioneer in women's baseball, she joined the inaugural NPB women's team, the Saitama Seibu Lions Ladies, in 2020 and eagerly embraced the birth of the professional women's baseball league

MICHELLE ROCHE - RHP - Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada
Roche is a versatile pitcher and infielder for the University of British Columbia and Team Canada ... a standout since childhood, she won gold with BC women's team at Nationals and earned multiple MVP and Golden Glove awards across Canadian tournaments, showcasing elite control with a 2.03 ERA and exceptional efficiency

LOS ANGELES QUEENS

MEET THE TEAM

EMILY SAIKI - SS - Kagawa, Japan
Saiki is an accomplished Japanese infielder whose career includes championship success across Japan, Canada and Australia ... veteran of the Hanshin Tigers Women and BC ACES ... has won national championships and earned multiple tournament MVP honors during her career ... also won a Gold Glove at the 2026 Australian Women's Championship

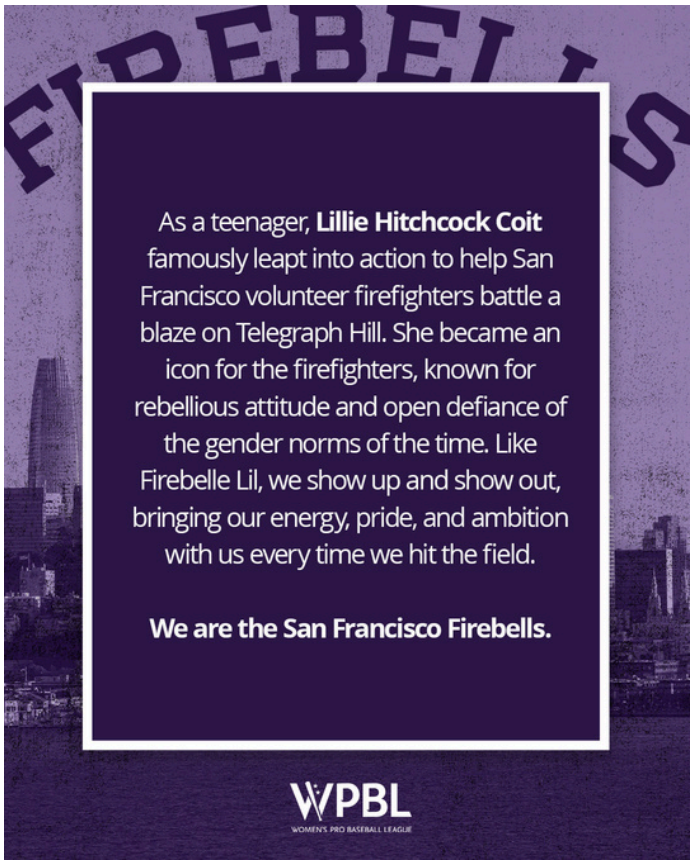
AYURI SHIMANO - RHP - Osaka,Japan
Shimano is a Japanese right-handed pitcher whose career has been marked by historic accomplishments ... as a youth player, she became the first female ace to win the Giants Cup, and she later helped Kobe Koryo High School win a championship in the final of Japan's national high school women's baseball tournament ... has continued to draw attention as one of Japan's most promising young baseball talents and represents the next generation of international stars in the WPBL

ASSISTANT COACHES

Jemile Weeks
Weeks is a former professional baseball second baseman and outfielder ... played college baseball at the University of Miami ... Weeks played in Major League Baseball for the Oakland Athletics, Baltimore Orioles, Boston Red Sox and San Diego Padres ... is the younger brother of former MLB second baseman Rickie Weeks

Emma Charlesworth-Seiler
Charlesworth-Seiler brings extensive experience from both sides of the baseball diamond ... a Minnesota native and Hamline University graduate, Charlesworth-Seiler began her baseball journey as a player before becoming an umpire ... began umpiring Little League games in 2014 and quickly developed a passion for officiating ... her unique experience as a former player, professional umpire and instructor gives her a comprehensive understanding of the game and provides a valuable perspective on baseball at every level

SAN FRANCISCO FIREBELLS



SAN FRANCISCO FIREBELLS

2026 ROSTER

#	NAME	POS.	HOMETOWN
3	Kelsie Whitmore	RHP	San Diego, Calif.
5	Amanda Gianelloni	2B	New Orleans, La.
6	Ayaka Yamamoto	3B	Fukuyama, Japan
7	Jua Park	SS	Hadong, South Korea
8	Hinano Beppu	2B	Nakagawa City, Japan
10	Liz Gilder	LHP	Port Moody, British Columbia, Canada
13	Joely Leguizamon	SS	Jacksonville, Fla.
16	Andreanne Leblanc	1B	Mont-Saint-Hilaire, Quebec, Canada
18	Jill Albayati	P/UT	Anaheim, Calif.
21	Skylar Kaplan	LF	Glen Burnie, Md.
22	Niki Eckert	LHP	Englewood, N.J.
25	Ela Day-Bedard	IF	Gatineau, Quebec, Canada
26	Alexia Jorge	C	Lyndhurst, N.J.
33	Samantha Gutierrez	C	San Diego, Calif.
57	Rosi del Castillo	CF	Puebla, Mexico

SCOUTING THE FIREBELLS

- Right-handed pitcher Kelsie Whitmore, the #1 pick in the draft, has played baseball professionally for the Sonoma Stompers of the Pacific Association, Staten Island FerryHawks of Atlantic League and Oakland Ballers of the Pioneer League as well as the Savannah Bananas. She will join Jill Albayati, the 16th overall pick, to give the Firebelles a solid top of the rotation.
- San Francisco solidified the middle infield with back-to-back first round selections of Amanda Gianelloni (2B) with the eighth pick and Joely Leguizamon (SS) with the ninth overall selection.
- Catcher Samantha Gutierrez was selected 17th overall with the final first round selection for San Francisco. Alexia Jorge, a second round selection, will also battle for time behind the plate.
- Rosi del Castillo and Skylar Kaplan were a pair of players drafted in the third round to anchor the outfield for the Firebells.

SAN FRANCISCO FIREBELLS

2026 SCHEDULE

AUGUST

2 @ Boston
6 New York
7 @ Los Angeles
8 Los Angeles
12 Los Angeles
14 Los Angeles
15 @ New York
19 New York
21 @ Los Angeles
22 @ Boston
28 Boston
30 New York

SEPTEMBER

2 @ Boston
4 @ New York
6 Boston

ALL GAMES PLAYED AT
ROBIN ROBERTS STADIUM

2026 COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH: Matt Williams
ASSISTANT COACHES: Jeff Inglin and Sam Unger

ABOUT MATT WILLIAMS

Williams played in Major League Baseball for 17 seasons for the San Francisco Giants, Cleveland Indians and Arizona Diamondbacks.

He managed the Washington Nationals from 2014 to 2015 and was the third base coach for the San Diego Padres from 2022 to 2023 and the San Francisco Giants from 2024 to 2025.

Williams played in a World Series for each of the teams he played for (1989 with the Giants, 1997 with the Indians, and 2001 with the Diamondbacks in which he won over the New York Yankees). During these years, Williams became the only player to hit at least one World Series home run for three different Major League baseball teams. During his career, Williams had an overall batting average of .268, with 378 home runs and 1,218 runs batted in (RBI). He scored 997 Major League runs, and he accumulated 1,878 hits, 338 doubles, and 35 triples, while playing in 1,866 regular-season games.

SAN FRANCISCO FIREBELLS

MEET THE TEAM - FIRST ROUND DRAFT PICKS

KELSIE WHITMORE - RHP - San Diego, Calif.
Whitmore was the #1 pick in the WPBL draft in November ... played for the United States Women's National Baseball Team in international competition since 2014 ... played college softball at Cal State Fullerton and has also played baseball professionally for the Sonoma Stompers of the Pacific Association, Staten Island FerryHawks of Atlantic League, and Oakland Ballers of the Pioneer League ... played for the Savannah Bananas and was the first woman to appear in the starting lineup in an Atlantic League game

AMANDA GIANELLONI - 2B - New Orleans, La.
Gianelloni was the 8th overall pick in the WPBL draft ... is a trailblazer in women's baseball, having been the first woman to sign with the WPBL and the only woman drafted from Louisiana ... a Nicholls State University Hall of Famer, she holds school records for RBIs, doubles, and walks, and is a three-time Women's Baseball World Cup competitor and 2024 silver medalist with Team USA

JOELY LEGUIZAMON - SS - Jacksonville, Fla.
Leguizamon was the 9th overall pick in the WPBL draft ... represented the Dominican Republic Women's National Team, breaking barriers and inspiring future generations ... played softball at Jacksonville University

JILL ALBAYATI - RHP, UTL - Anaheim, Calif.
Albayati was the 16th pick in the WPBL draft ... was the first woman in NCAA Division II history to play in baseball and softball game on the same day and just the second in NCAA history ... was named the 2025-26 California Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAA) Female Athlete of the Year while as a member of the Cal State San Marcos softball team ... set single-season conference records for batting average (.517), doubles (27), slugging percentage (.914) and RBI's (80) while recording 108 hits, second most in a season ... was a four-time All-CCAA selection

SAMANTHA GUTIERREZ - C - San Diego, Calif
Samantha was the 17th pick in the WPBL draft ... she played college softball at Newman University (2022-'23), Eastern New Mexico (2024) and Oregon State (2025) ... first-team All-Conference selection at Eastern New Mexico ... started 41 games at Oregon State primarily in the infield

SAN FRANCISCO FIREBELLS

MEET THE TEAM

HINANO BEPPU - 2B - Nakagawa City, Japan
Beppu studied patisserie at Fukuoka Culinary and Confectionery College ... after playing baseball with boys and switching to softball in high school, she developed strong fundamentals and mental toughness ... she is driven to inspire young girls to pursue baseball at a high level

ELA DAY-BEDARD - IF - Gatineau, Quebec, Canada
Day-Bédard is a versatile Canadian infielder ... debuted for Canada in the 2023-2024 Women's Baseball World Cup ... her ability to play multiple infield positions provides valuable defensive flexibility

ROSI DEL CASTILLO - CF - Puebla, Mexico
del Castillo has spent years earning her place wherever baseball gave her an opportunity, from men's leagues in Mexico to international competition with the Mexican national team ... helped Mexico qualify for its first Women's Baseball World Cup and has continued using her career to create more space for the players coming behind her

NIKI ECKERT - LHP - Englewood, N.J.
Eckert committed to play baseball at the University of Rochester where she met Beth Greenwood, a catcher for the team and the first girl in Rochester baseball history ... Beth introduced Niki to the United States Women's National Baseball Team ... her ability to pitch from the left side gives the pitching staff an important matchup option

LIZ GILDER - LHP - Port Moody, British Columbia, Canada
Gilder adds a valuable southpaw presence to the pitching staff ... with her left-handed angle and experience as a pitcher, she provides an important change of look for opposing hitters and represents the growing international reach of the league

ALEXIA JORGE - C - Lyndhurst, N.J.
Jorge made history as the first female starter on Saint Elizabeth University's baseball team and was the youngest player to join Team USA at 15, where she won a Pan American Games gold medal ... became the first woman to play in the Coastal Plain League, competing alongside top Division I male athletes

SKYLAR KAPLAN - LF - Glen Burnie, Md.
Kaplan brings athleticism and versatility to the Firebelles outfield .... provides the club with a capable defensive presence and an opportunity to contribute to the lineup

SAN FRANCISCO FIREBELLS

MEET THE TEAM

ANDREANNE LEBLANC - 1B - Mont-Saint-Hilaire, Quebec, Canada
Leblanc is a powerful presence at first base ... brings a combination of size, strength and defensive reliability to the infield ... her selection reflects the WPBL's international commitment and the growing presence of Canadian athletes in professional women's baseball

JUA PARK - SS - Hadong, South Korea
Park is an international infielder who brings athleticism and versatility to the middle infield ... debuted for South Korea in the 2023 Women's Baseball Asian Cup, as the teenager was their main shortstop ... is part of the league's first generation of international players helping establish professional women's baseball on a global stage

AYAKA YAMAMOTO - 3B - Fukuyama, Japan
Yamamoto honed her skills at Okayama Gakugeikan High School in Okayama ... inspired by her older brother, she is passionate about baseball and aims to become a professional while inspiring children worldwide with the sport's impact

ASSISTANT COACHES

Jeff Inglin
Inglin brings extensive professional baseball experience and a deep understanding of player development to his work in coaching ... a former outfielder, Inglin spent 10 seasons in professional baseball after being selected by the Chicago White Sox in the 16th round of the 1996 MLB Draft ... played college baseball at the University of Southern California ... his combination of professional playing experience and expertise working with developing athletes provides him with a valuable perspective as a coach and mentor

Sam Unger
Unger is a baseball analyst in the Nationals organization after spending three seasons in the San Francisco Giants organization as an associate analyst ... previously worked for TrackMan and Inside Edge, Inc. in operation roles

WOMEN'S PRO BASEBALL LEAGUE

PLAYER STORIES

BRITTANY APGAR - LOS ANGELES
Brittany, who was born with one hand, mimicked MLB pitcher Jim Abbott's pitching style as a kid to learn how to throw a baseball. Abbott, who threw a no-hitter for the Yankees, was also born with one hand. As soon as she learned how to master that her dad signed her up for t-ball.

NIKI ECKERT - SAN FRANCISCO
Niki played baseball when she was eight, playing with boys until 2023 when she started playing baseball with women. She became a pitcher because she was a big fan of Clayton Kershaw, as she is also a left-handed pitcher. Niki loved how pitchers are in the spotlight and control the game and she loved the cool adrenaline rush.

AMANDA GIANELLONI - BOSTON
Amanda credits her dad for her love of baseball as he introduced her to the game at the age of four and all she knew was baseball from the ages of 4-11. Baseball was ingrained in her as a youngster and she wanted to play it all her life.

SAMANTHA GUTIERREZ - SAN FRANCISCO
Samantha first started playing baseball when she was eight and her uncle needed players on his team and her mom told her to go play. The team did not have a catcher and she got behind the plate and that's how it all started. She wanted to stay in baseball, but she was told she would not get scholarships and there were less opportunities for women in baseball. She is so grateful for the WPBL because it gives her the opportunity to continue her baseball career.

LEXI HASTINGS - BOSTON
Lexi, who was adopted when she was four years old, started playing baseball last year when she accidentally signed up for the All-American Women's Baseball Classic.

DENAE BENITES - NEW YORK
Denae has never played softball a day in her life and says baseball is her whole life and it has been her journey since she was seven years old and since then you can't drag her off the field. She fell in love with the game very early and is always looking for opportunities and whenever baseball is involved she will always be smiling. Denae says being a professional baseball player is something she has always dreamed of and has a special place in her heart.

ELODIE CIAMARRO - NEW YORK
She comes from a big baseball family, her dad and her three younger brothers all played baseball. Elodie does not watch baseball except for the World Series. She said she can't put into words how cool it is to be playing with women from all over the world in the WPBL and she is excited for the season.

WPBL

WOMEN'S PRO BASEBALL LEAGUE

PLAYER STORIES

MO'NE DAVIS - LOS ANGELES

Mo'ne was the first girl to earn a win and to throw a shutout in Little League baseball World Series history in 2014 and she played one year of high school baseball, but felt no extra pressure after all of the media exposure. She was also the first Little League baseball player to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated as a Little League player. She took a break from the sport and wanted to branch off and try new things and find out who she was outside of sports. Mo'ne had not played in five years until the tryouts for the WPBL, but she said it's like riding a bike, once you know the rust off things go pretty smoothly.
Mo'ne wanted to be a professional basketball player, go to UConn and then to the WNBA was her dream. She said her family did not watch baseball games on TV growing up because it was too slow, instead they would watch basketball games.

ELA DAY-BEDARD - SAN FRANCISCO

Ela said one of the challenges of growing up playing baseball with boys was being told that she didn't belong there and that she was taking someone's spot and they would put me in left field and couldn't play the positions she liked and it was not fun at times. When she got a really good coach she was allowed to play the positions (second base or shortstop) that she wanted and was able to get better. She models herself after Toronto Bluejays Ernie Clement, because he is very versatile and gritty and nothing stops him very much like her.

MAIKA DUMAIS – BOSTON

Maika fell in love with baseball when she was four or five years old watching her older brother play and she still loves that game as if it was the first day she played. She says it's really hard to be accepted as a baseball player for a girl and not a softball player, so the fact that she is now a pro baseball player, she is just amazed at how women have grown into the sport.

BETH GREENWOOD - BOSTON

Beth, who played Division III baseball at the University of Rochester, wrote a poem when she was in sixth grade about how she wanted to compete in the Olympics and play baseball professionally and on the national team, so the fact that it has come full circle makes her proud. That poem is still hanging in her childhood room.

KEIRA IZUMI - NEW YORK

Keira's favorite player now is Mike Yastrzemski, who was a long time San Francisco Giant and she is a Giants fan. She loves the way he plays the game, he is a lead off hitter, always aggressive at the plate and she modeled her mental approach after him, it's like see ball, hit ball. Her favorite player all-time is Jackie Robinson because she finds identification and inspiration as he was doing a lot of the same things blazing trails for African Americans and she draws strength from that.

WOMEN'S PRO BASEBALL LEAGUE

PLAYER STORIES

ASHTON LANSDELL - LOS ANGELES
Ashton starting playing baseball when she was four years old and hit a homer in her first ever at-at in a t-ball game and says it was all just meant to be and she fell in love with the game and something she knew she wanted to do for a living and baseball is in her blood and the game means a lot to her.

ANDREANNE LEBLANC - SAN FRANCISCO
She played baseball when she was younger, lost the love a little bit, but fell back in love with it after the pandemic. She started to coach and got the spark she was missing. Andreanne says becoming a professional baseball player proves that it is possible for the young players at home that she is coaching.

JAIDA LEE - NEW YORK
Jaida is most excited to play against Ayami Sato for the first time and she is looking forward to playing with all of her new teammates. Her older brothers are her biggest supporters on her baseball journey and her brother who is two years older is so pumped for her opportunity, she joked that sometimes he is more excited than she is. They can't fathom that their sister is a professional baseball player, they are shocked and so happy for her.

JOELY LEGUIZAMON - SAN FRANCISCO
Joely was a huge fan of the 2004 Red Sox led by Dominican stars David Ortiz, Manny Ramirez and Pedro Martinez. She looked up to those three particular players as they represented baseball, Latin America and the hispanic community and she one day hopes to meet them.

MEGGIE MEIDLINGER - LOS ANGELES
Ayami Sato, who will play for Los Angeles, and she have always been rivals for a really long time with USA playing against Japan so getting the opportunity to be on the same team as her is going to be really cool. While the chance to compete against so many of her USA teammates and became rivals especially as a pitcher, getting to face them is always a lot of fun.

RAINE PADGHAM - BOSTON
Raine has been waiting to play professional baseball in any capacity for so long and it's been a dream of hers since she was little, since she was three and trying to grasp a baseball for the first time. She played catch with her mom a lot when she was younger which was really fun and her dad taught her how to throw a curve ball. She has had her current glove for almost 10 years now and it's been through every position and the fact that it has lasted this long shows that she takes good care of it.

WOMEN'S PRO BASEBALL LEAGUE

PLAYER STORIES

VAL PEREZ - NEW YORK
Val, a mom of three (two daughters and one one), was obsessed with baseball as a kid thanks to her three older brothers, who played baseball, whatever they did she wanted to do. If they were good at badminton, she would have been really good at badminton, but thankfully they played baseball. They would play as much as physically possible setting up lights to play at night, they were obsessed with it and it helped lay the foundation. She loves that now she doesn't have to be the female baseball player, she is just a player in this league that encompasses players from all over the world.

ALLI SCHRODER - BOSTON
She is a firefighter in Canada in the forest and that career gives her the same passion that baseball does. She always wanted to help instead of just sitting there. She started playing baseball when she was three years old along with other sports, but by the time she was eight or nine years old, she always wanted to go to the baseball field more than the other activities that her parents had her in and her love only grew from there.

KELSIE WHITMORE - SAN FRANCISCO
She has always wanted the opportunity to play professional baseball with people who were the same gender as her so this league makes her dream a reality.
The feeling of being picked first overall was a whole bunch of emotions. When she was younger, she would watch the MLB draft and wonder what it was like to be drafted or even enter a draft. Kelsie said she felt like a little kid when it happened and that draft day was her wedding day. When she heard her name she had so much emotion, she was smiling so happy, but then broke out into tears it made it feel like everything she had gone through in the past was worth it.

ALYSSA ZETTLEMOYER - NEW YORK
Zettlemoyer comes from a strong military family. Her mother joined the U.S. Marine Corps shortly after the September 11, 2001 attacks, and her father served 20 years in the Marines, including as a drill instructor and in combat tours. She has said that playing in the WPBL is an honor and a way to honor her family's service.