

Women's professional baseball league trying to get off the ground

BY MATT LONG
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If there are any girls interested in playing professional baseball, the doors are slowly opening.

Sara Rose Thibaut has been waiting all her adult life to play baseball and may soon get the chance.

Thibaut, born and raised in Folsom and now 28 years old, will throw out the first pitch at the Sacramento River Cats game on Saturday as part of promoting a new women's baseball league. Thibaut will be representing the original players from the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League and their efforts to start a new 'League of their Own.'

Thibaut is one of 60 female players that have been selected to play on one of the four teams with original team names (Peaches, Comets, Belles and Blue Sox). The second annual All-American Women's Baseball Classic will be held in Sarasota, Florida, on Nov. 16-18 at the home of the Baltimore Orioles spring training facility.

"This has been my dream since I was 5 years old, to play baseball," Thibaut said. "Now this actual league is trying to get started. It's



COURTESY

Sara Rose Thibaut stands for a picture with three women who played professional baseball in the 1940s, Jeneane Lesko, Sue Zipay and Gloria Rogers.

heaven. I feel like I'm in heaven."

Thibaut was raised in Folsom and graduated from Sacramento Waldorf in 2013. She played little league baseball in Folsom all the way through her youth, choosing not to play softball.

She played a role in an eight-episode series 'A League of their Own,' that was released by Amazon in 2022 that took a deeper look into "A League of their Own" than the movie by the same name did when it came out

in 1992, starring Tom Hanks.

"Throwing out the first pitch is just promoting the new league, as are the exhibition games in November," Thibaut said. "We're trying to get sponsors, not that we need to be paid to play baseball, but the main part of this is to show people that women can play baseball. Last year at this event was the first time that people paid money to watch women play baseball since the 1940s."

Thibaut said ideally major league baseball would sponsor the league, but she's unsure whether that would happen.

"My dream would be to have the women play a game before the major league teams play, like the first game of a double header," Thibaut said. "That way people could come out early and watch women play."

"We need to get sponsors and continue to get sponsors. They have a women's league for basketball and women's soccer is bigger than ever right now. Why not have women's baseball? Now is the time."

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