

The following excerpt is from *Research Notes for Women at Play: The Story of Women in Baseball*, Volume 3, by Barbara Gregorich. ISBN: 978-1517697150

If an article mentions Rose Gacioch, I've placed it in 1934 because that was the only year she played with the All Star Ranger Girls. And if an article states that this was Margaret's fourth year with the team, I've placed it in 1934 because I think that 1931 was her first year with the team.

Unknown Source, Athens, Ohio, Unknown Date

**GIRLS NINE LOSES TO EAGLES
BUT THEY LOOK LIKE BALL TEAM**

This three-column article begins by saying that “despite the fact that they took it on the chin by a 2-0 count,” the Chicago All-Star Ranger Girls “looked the part of a baseball team.” First they played against the Athens Eagles on Saturday afternoon, then they would play the Eagles on Sunday at Rufus Putnam field, with Verne Wolfe, “ace of this year’s Ohio University team,” scheduled to pitch for the Eagles. Captain Elizabeth Pull was undecided over who would pitch for the Rangers.

In the 2-0 loss, the Rangers’ “batting eyes failed them.” Only Gisolo and Chandler collected hits, both of them singles. Cecilia “Montana” Griedl pitched for the Rangers, giving up four hits in four innings. Two Ranger errors and three Ranger walks gave the Eagles their runs.

Griedl retired in the fifth and Joe Fiarito finished the game.

“Miss Gisolo on first was probably the outstanding player on the field and drew several bursts of applause” for her work, handling 11 chances faultlessly. Reporting this as Margaret’s fourth year with the club, the article states that Margaret’s teammates acclaim her skills in tennis and basketball as well as baseball. “You can take our word for it she has a good throwing arm and takes a fine cut at the ball, her hit Saturday being a line drive into left field.”

Beatrice “Peanuts” Schmidt is reported as having pitched and lost to the Mead Paper team of Chillicothe on Friday, 9-8. In this game she played second base. The article states that this was Peanuts’ tenth year with the Ranger Girls: she started when she was 14 years old.

Right fielder Nellie Kerns [**Note:** The family spelled its name both *Kerns* and *Kearns*, finally settling on the latter.] is “the only left-handed hitter on the club. She goes to school with Miss Gisolo during the off-season.” [**Note:** As far as I know, Nellie never went to school with Margaret.]

Center fielder Rose Gacioch [incorrectly reported as Tacioch] played her first game with the team on. Hailing from Wheeling, West Virginia, Rose was listed as a pitcher, “although she has not been given an opportunity to show her wares on the mound.”

The piece states that this was the Ranger Girls' first week on the road, and that the team left Chicago the previous Sunday after a game in Chicago Heights. The team would leave Athens Sunday night and play in Sistersville, WV, on Monday.

The male members of the team are listed as Frank Ranallo, catcher; Lee Chandler, shortstop; Joe Fiarito, third base; and Kordik, pitcher and general utility man.

Unknown Source, Possibly New London, Connecticut, Probably July, 1934

**CAL ROYAL, GAIR
TRIMMED BY GIRLIES**

This is an interesting article because it gives much ballgame information, as follows: Gisolo was thrown out at first. Pull was walked. Then the Gair catcher threw into centerfield instead of to the pitcher and Pull took second base. Fiarito walked. Griedl struck out without swinging. Nellie Kerns hit a grounder that the Gair shortstop bobbled. All the Rangers were safe, the bases loaded, with two outs. Ranallo, Ranger catcher, smashed one out to right field, scoring two runs. This was the only hit off the Gair pitcher.

Gair might have had two runs, but Rose Gacioch relayed a throw to the shortstop who snapped it to the plate in time to get the third out. [Note: Rose Gacioch was 18 years old at the time. Ten years later, she would join the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, playing first for the South Bend Blue Sox, and then for the Rockford Peaches.]

The article reports that the Rangers played every day in the week and sometimes played doubleheaders. The team started out on May 10 and was booked through September 20. It consisted of twelve women and three men, and it traveled by auto. "Their first baseman is as good as any male player on the defense and the way the outfield took those twelve flies showed many hours have been spent bringing this down to perfection."

The Sun, Westerly, Rhode Island, July 12, 1934

**RANGER GIRLS BATTLE HILLTOPS
FRIDAY NIGHT
Girls Boast
Strong Outfit**

Calling Maud's team the Ranger Nine, the article states that "cow girls with big hats and lassos" would make their first appearance in Westerly. The previous Tuesday, the Rangers defeated the Robert Gair team of New London (who were former city champions), by a score of

2-1, with Beatrice Schmidt the winning pitcher. “Rose Gacioch, left fielder, robbed Pinch of a longer stay at the plate when she raced past the foul line to snatch his long fly to left field.”

Margaret Gisolo “handled herself ably as any male first baseman.” The article recaps that Baseball Commissioner Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis “ruled her out of organized baseball because of her sex.”

Elizabeth Pull is reported to have been playing baseball for 23 years, including playing the game in Cuba and Canada.”

The article assesses that the “secret” of the cow girls’ success can be revealed by a study of their lineup: “All third hitters are males, who perform at shortstop, catch and third base.”

All Stars Rangers

Rose Gacioch, lf
Beatrice Smidt, p
Lee Chandler, ss
Margaret Gisolo, 1b
Elizabeth Pull, 2b
Joe Fiarito, 3b
Cecil Gridle, cf
Nellie Kerns, lf
Frank Ranallo, c

Hilltops

Terranova, 3b
Barbone, ss
Buckley, lf
LaPietra, c
Clemence, p
Rhodes, 1b
Eldredge, cf
Walsh, 2b
Dolan, rf