

John M. Kovach

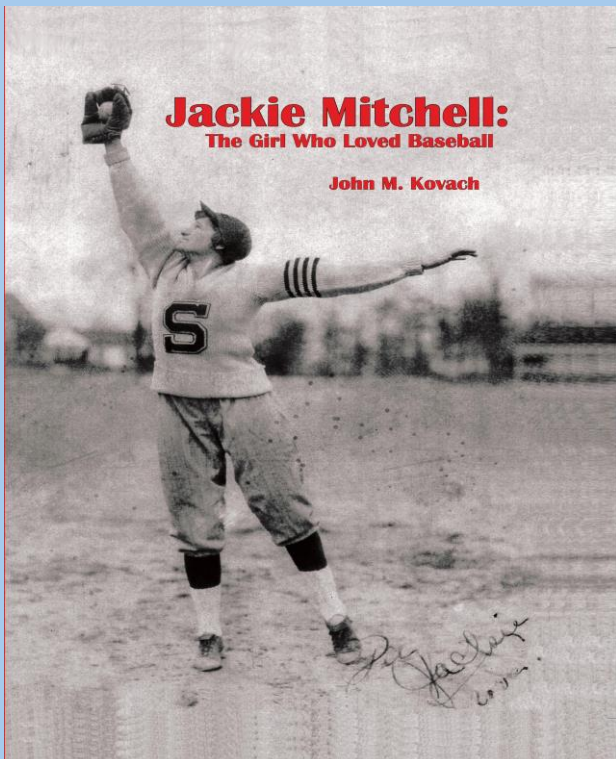
Author Bio

John Kovach has spent more than 35 years as a history professional as a museum director, curator and archivist.

He has authored five baseball books, including: *From Goosepasture To Greenstockings, Benders!*, *Baseball In South Bend IN*), *Women's Baseball* and *Jackie Mitchell: The Girl Who Loved Baseball*.

Kovach is currently working on his next project, researching and compiling biographical sketches of female baseball players from the 1880s to 1920.

He is entering his 50th year as a baseball coach in 2025 and is the National Women's Baseball Hall of Fames' only three-time, Manager of the Year.



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Book Bio

On March 26, 1931, 18-year year old Virne Beatrice "Jackie" Mitchell of Chattanooga, Tennessee, signed a minor league contract with the hometown Lookouts. Mitchell took to the mound for a preseason game against the New York Yankees on April 2 and struck out both Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig. With her exploits reported the next day in newspapers across the United States, Jackie Mitchell became a household name.

As a young girl, Jackie and her family lived in Memphis, Tennessee and news stories reported that she was taught to throw a baseball by Arthur Charles "Dazzy" Vance, a minor league pitcher with the Memphis Chicks.

In the 1930s, Mitchell played both baseball and basketball. In basketball, Mitchell played on Mildred "Babe" Didrikson's "All American's Basketball Team" .

The book also has a unique chapter created from interviews with Jackie between 1931-33. Readers will hear Jackie in her own words tell what it was like to face Ruth and Gehrig and about her love of baseball.