SPEECH #1 - INFORMATIVE SPEECH

Name: MADONNA LOUISE CICONNI

Title: There's Nothing Wrong with Throwing Like a Girl

Specific Purpose: To educate others about the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League.

Thesis Statement: I will discuss 1) a brief history of the league, 2) some of the best players, and 3) their successes.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Hook: Baseball is often called the Great American Past time. It makes people think of hot dogs and beer and sitting in the stands on summer days waiting for a homerun and the crowd to do the wave. There are constant champions like the New York Yankees, and underdogs like the Giants and the Red Sox but what most people don’t realize is that there was a time in America when baseball was a women’s sport.

B. Rapport: I know you might be thinking, “wait don’t women play softball” and you're right, women typically play softball, but not that long ago women like our grandmothers and great grandmothers were out on the field stealing bases and pitching fast balls that would make your head spin

C. Credibility: Good afternoon, my name is MADONNA LOUISE CICONNI and I grew up in a family that loves baseball. My parents actually cried when the Red Sox finally won the World Series. It’s because of their love of baseball that I learned about the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. I was inspired by their strength and courage to do something no other women had ever done before and I realized that very few people know who these phenomenal woman are.

D. Bridge: So today, I would like to talk with you about 1) the history of the women’s league, 2) noteworthy players, and 3) their successes.
II. BODY

A. All-American Girls Professional Baseball League
   1. Origin
      i. WWII and Philip Wrigley, 1943, founder (Jeneane Lesko. AAGPBL Official Web site, League History)
   2. Appearance Regulations
      i. Uniforms, Make-up, charm school and chaperones (Edward Reilly. Baseball: An Encyclopedia of Popular Culture)

Transition Statement: So with these strict guidelines in place the women of professional baseball took to the field and proved that baseball wasn’t just a man’s sport.

B. MVPs
   1. Sophie Kurys
      i. Bio, Racine Belles 1943-1950
      ii. Stats, Career steals 1114 bases, All Star 4 consecutive years (Janet Woolum. Outstanding Women Athletes : Who They Are and How They Influenced Sports in America)
      i. Bio, 5’4” 120 lbs. pitcher, nickname/heckler

Transition Statement: With such amazing players, the overall success of women in baseball was phenomenal.

C. Success
   1. 900,000 fans, 1948, 10 teams, 126 game season
   2. 1988 Hall of Fame Induction, A League of Their Own, film (Johanna Brand. The Girls of Summer. Herizons)
In conclusion, I hope that you have also been inspired by these amazing women and remember the next time you’re at a game or on the field and you hear someone heckling a player just remind them that there’s nothing wrong with throwing like a girl.

Instructors Notes: This conclusion is too short. You should review the main points discussed. This is a requirement. Additionally, you may also add a reference to the introduction, an inspiring or noteworthy quotation, etc. Make your conclusion powerful and memorable. Go out with a bang!
IV. BIBLIOGRAPHY


**PARAPHRASE:** Phillip Wrigley, the chewing gum millionaire and Chicago Cubs owner decided founded women’s league in order to stop losing money.


**PARAPHRASE:** The girls always had to look pretty, they wore makeup when they played and their hair was styled. They even went to charm school to study good manners. They weren't allowed to go out with chaperones. Their uniforms were short skirts that offered them no protection when diving for balls or sliding into bases.


**PARAPHRASE:** Her average was 100 bases per season and her lifetime count was 1114. She received Player of the Year for 1946 and was on the All-star team 4 times. She also held the record for home runs in 1950, knocking 7 out of the park.


**PARAPHRASE:** She pitched for the Indianapolis Clowns, was one of three women who played for the Negro Men’s League and had a three year career with winning stats of 10-1,11-3, 12-4.


**PARAPHRASE:** In 1988 the AAGPBL was inducted into the hall of fame and in 1992 the movie *A League of Their Own* was released starring Geena Davis, Madonna and Tom Hanks.


**QUOTE:** “I’ve always thought of myself as a ballplayer. That’s my thing”