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Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

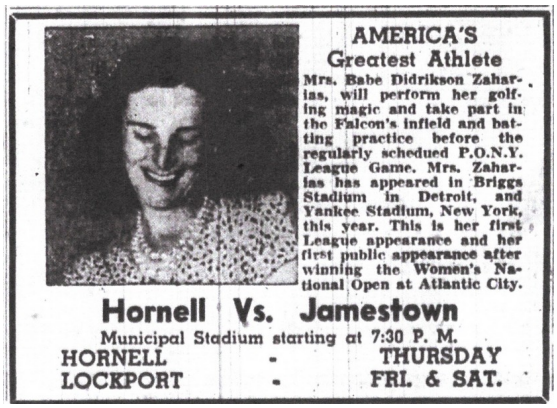
15 West Third Street - Jamestown, NY 14701 *November 2026*

Babe Didrikson Zaharias Was in Jamestown in 1948

Recently, CSHOF members Paul and Anne Hedin donated four photos of arguably America's greatest female athlete of the 20th century, Babe Didrikson Zaharias, playing golf at Moon Brook Country Club (Jamestown) in August 18, 1948. Do yourself a favor and Google her name. That donation prompted a visit to the microfilm files at the Prendergast Library to see what CSHOF inductee Frank Hyde, the sports editor of the Jamestown Post-Journal at that time, had written about The Babe's visit. It was discovered that in addition to MBCC, Zaharias also performed at a Jamestown Falcons minor league baseball game at Municipal Stadium for another CSHOF inductee, John Jachym, the owner of the Jamestown Falcons at that time.

By Frank Hyde *The Post-Journal* August 18, 1948

Babe Zaharias Here Tonight
Woman Star To Give Exhibition


AMERICA'S
Greatest Athlete
Mrs. Babe Didrikson Zaharias, will perform her golfing magic and take part in the Falcon's infield and batting practice before the regularly scheduled P.O.N.Y. League Game. Mrs. Zaharias has appeared in Briggs Stadium in Detroit, and Yankee Stadium, New York, this year. This is her first League appearance and her first public appearance after winning the Women's National Open at Atlantic City.
Hornell Vs. Jamestown
Municipal Stadium starting at 7:30 P. M.
HORNELL - THURSDAY
LOCKPORT - FRI. & SAT.

Rain-laden morning skies and a forecast of showers throughout the day had John "The Weather Man's Pal" Jachym wondering if another of his special attractions was going out with the tide.

Past attempts by the genial club owner to put some of the nation's top sports personalities before his patrons have run afoul of the elements so consistently that if Mildred "Babe" Zaharias' appearance at the stadium tonight is sprinkled out it would only be another link in the chain of weather reverses that have befallen the Falcons in their home diggins.

Mrs. Zaharias, probably the greatest and most versatile woman athlete in history, is scheduled to put on a 30-minute golf shot making demonstration before the game with the Hornell Leafs. She will also take infield and hitting with one of the clubs.



The Babe is no stranger to Jamestown, local businessman Louis Collins recalled today. She appeared here a number of years ago as the only feminine member of a touring basketball team. Her club met and defeated a team of local all-stars in the old high school gym with Babe playing one of the forward spots throughout the entire game.

"She scored 10 points, as I recall," Collins said, "and displayed exceptional ability as a ball handler and shooter."

Men Golfers Sissies Says Babe After Ban From Tourneys

Take it from Babe Zaharias, the great woman athlete who is in our city tonight for a personal appearance at Municipal Stadium, the men golfers are sissies. "They are afraid to let me play in their big tournaments," the Babe tells us with candor and dispatch.

"I made an informal request to play in the National Open and do you know what they did? Why, the changed their rules, inserting the word "male" to make it strictly a men's tournament."

The Babe feels she can outplay many of the men golfers who are garnering gold and glory on the professional circuit. And it is not a matter of pride. The Babe really feels the current women golfers are not strong enough to draw out her best game.

For example, there's the Tam O'Shanter. "I shot a 71 for my first round then I lost interest and came up with an an 85 and 81 in the next two rounds. In the final round with the pressure on I shot a 72 to win."



Mrs. Zaharias doesn't expect to play golf all of her life, and when she decides to taper off she will go into juvenile delinquency work. "There is a lot to be done for boys and girls in the 10-16 ratio," she explained.

The Babe's husband is George Zaharias, giant Greek former heavyweight wrestling contender. George originally hailed from Cripple Creek, Colo., and it was the writer who first tacked the handle "The Weeping Greek From Cripple Creek" on the big fellow. George never won the heavyweight title, but he was tough enough to give the boys a bad night.



By Frank Hyde *Jamestown Post-Journal* August 19, 1948

Zaharias Gives Shot Making Demonstration

The lowly Hornell Leafs had their claws unleashed last night as they raked the embattled Jamestown Falcons on a beautiful four-hitter, 6-1.



Babe Didrikson Zaharias cheered up the 1,719 paying patrons with her pre-game exhibition. The Babe was ably aided by Toby Lyons, Warren pro, who has broken in to the big-time circuit during the past two years with considerable success. They chipped at a circle in the outfield, then Babe took a turn chucking from the mound, missed several trial swings as a batter, and put on a sparkling show of fielding, fly catching and throwing from third and short left. Her climax was hitting a number of signed tennis balls into the grandstand and bleacher sections.

Jamestown received Babe very well. Friendly as a cub bear, Babe was the acme of graciousness with everyone who approached. Her lively chatter and sense of humor caught the crowd's fancy.

"Just shake your girdle loose and lay into it," she told one female duffer who was plying her with questions on long range hitting.

Earlier in the day, The Babe spent considerable time at Moon Brook Country Club playing three holes and hitting a few off the tee with Toby Lyons, who plans a pretty extensive tour of the pro circuit in 1949.

Photos donated by Paul and Anne Hedin
Babe Didrikson Zaharias at Moon Brook CC
August 18, 1948







