Beltrami County Historical Society presents

BELTRAMI COUNTY WOMEN IN WINTER SPORTS

Special Exhibit, January - March 2022

1921-22 Bemidji High School Girls' Basketball Team (l); Grace White & Alexis Desjarlait, Red Lake Lady Warriors (c); BSU Women's Basketball, ca. 1980s (r)

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WHAT BETTER TIME TO CELEBRATE WOMEN IN SPORTS?

Welcome to the Beltrami County Historical Society’s Beltrami County Women in Winter Sports exhibit. We are thrilled to display the equipment, uniforms, archives, photographs, and memorabilia of athletes from a wide range of indoor and outdoor sports celebrated in the winter season. Many of these sports highlight the lifelong advantages of living in a colder climate!

Thank you for taking this opportunity to view the displays in this exhibit. From lady anglers to Olympic curlers to a cross-country skiing champion and coach, the Women in Winter Sports exhibit champions women of all ages who have impacted winter sports on local, state, national, and international levels. In many instances, these women were pioneers in their respective sports and led the way for many today who appreciate sports recreationally and as observers. For additional photos and stories, check out our blog (https://beltramihistory.org/blog) and our Facebook (/beltramihistory).

Emily Thabes
Executive Director

*Title IX is designed to limit discrimination by sex and sexual harassment in federally-funded institutions. Schools are not allowed to restrict admission or participation in activities based on sex. In terms of sports, male and female students must have equal opportunity for participation.

Figure skater, Bemidji Ice Follies, 1950s. Photo courtesy of Jean Patnode.

Dog sled racing. Photo of and courtesy of Sharon Stack.
Find All the Sports!
First, match the picture on the left to the correct sport on the right. Then, put a checkmark by each sport when you find it in the exhibit!

- CURLING
- FIGURE SKATING
- HOCKEY
- SNOWBOARDING
- CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING
Fun Winter Sports Facts

- Ice skating is believed to have been started by Vikings over 1200 years ago. Some of the first skating blades were made from reindeer bones.
- Sled dog races began in the United States just after 1900. While the Iditarod is more than 1,000 miles, the 1987 Paul Bunyan sled dog race maxed out at 14 miles.
- Ojibwe snowshoe racing, Agimag Gagwejikanidiwin, was recorded first in the early 1800s and today includes races from 50 meters to marathon length.
- The National Cheerleading Association was formed in 1948. 90% of cheerleaders are female.
- The first recorded biathlon race took place in 1767 between Norway and Sweden. Competitors must shoot a 1.77 inch target from a distance of 164 feet - after lap(s) of cross-country skiing.

Interested in trying out a Winter Sport?

Contact these community organizations for more information and learning opportunities!

- Bemidji Area Cross Country Ski Club: https://bemidjicrosscountryski.org/
- Bemidji Community Education: https://www.bemidjicommunityed.com/
- Bemidji Curling Club: https://www.bemidjicurling.org/
- Bemidji Figure Skating Club: https://www.bemidjifigureskatingclub.com/
- Boys and Girls Club of the Bemidji Area: https://www.bgcbemidji.org/about/who-we-are/
- Buena Vista Ski Area: https://www.bvskiarea.com/
- Minnesota Department of Recreation: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/recreation/index.html
- Red Lake Nation Boys and Girls Club: https://www.redlakenation.org/boys-and-girls-club/
- Women Anglers of Minnesota: https://www.womenanglersmn.com/

Thank you to all volunteers and contributors who made this exhibit amazing!!