

= Baseball and Bloomers =

Baseball and Bloomers , also known as Baseball in Bloomers , is a 1911 American silent short sports film produced by the Thanhouser Company . The film stars William Garwood and is the debut of Marguerite Snow . The film focuses on a female seminary which organizes a baseball club and challenges another school to a game . The boys accept to the game with amusement and find that the women are not good at baseball . Two Harvard University baseball stars join the ranks of the girls in disguise and defeat the boys team . The script may have been written by Lloyd Lonergan and the film may have been directed by Barry O 'Neil or Lucius J. Henderson . The film was released on January 6 , 1911 and it received positive reviews . The film is presumed lost .

= = Plot = =

Though the film is presumed lost , a synopsis survives in The Moving Picture World from January 7 , 1911 . It states , " Miss Street 's Seminary for Girls has a very ambitious class of pupils . The young athletes , not content with basketball and tennis , aspire to shine in the great American game , and organize a baseball club . They are so satisfied with themselves that they finally send a challenge to Adair College , which has a crowd of husky young athletes in a club that thinks it amounts to something . When the challenge is received , the boys are first angry , then amused . They decide to accept it , to have fun with the girls . The young women , after some practice , realize that their team , while it may be pretty to look at , is of little real use on the diamond . And the prospect makes them weep . Fortunately for the girls , Jack , the brother of the president , arrives from Harvard . His chum , Jim , is with him . These two young men are baseball stars themselves , and when they are told of the predicament of the girls , they goodnaturedly offer to help them out . The university men disguise themselves as girls , act as battery for the young women , and the college boys , who had looked for a laughable victory , are mowed down , inning after inning , because of the work of pitcher Jack and catcher Jim . The other members of the ' girl ' team have nothing to do except look pretty . When the boy athletes have retired from the field vanquished , the girls reward their battery with one kiss - only one - from each of the other seven players . "

= = Cast = =

William Garwood
Marguerite Snow

= = Production = =

The writer of the scenario was most likely Lloyd Lonergan . He was an experienced newspaperman employed by The New York Evening World while writing scripts for the Thanhouser productions . The film director may have been Barry O 'Neil or Lucius J. Henderson . The role of the cameraman was uncredited in 1910 productions though cameramen employed by the company during this era included Blair Smith , Alfred H. Moses , Jr. and Carl Louis Gregory . The other cast credits are unknown , but many Thanhouser productions are fragmentary . In late 1910 , the Thanhouser company released a list of the important personalities in their films . The list includes G.W. Abbe , Justus D. Barnes , Frank H. Crane , Irene Crane , Marie Eline , Violet Heming , Martin J. Faust , Thomas Fortune , George Middleton , Grace Moore , John W. Noble , Anna Rosemond , and Mrs. George Walters .

This film is important for being the debut of Marguerite Snow , who would become one of the most important actresses for the company . In an interview by Johnson Briscoe , Snow said that her career as an actress was an accidental one . A girl friend of hers suggested she come to the studio to see how motion pictures are made . There at the studio , Edwin Thanhouser asked her if she wanted to be in the film . Snow accepted and she took part in the production until the director asked them to go outside to shoot another scene . Snow then protested about going outside in such a

costume and in winter and proceeded home . A week later she received a phone call and ended up working for six more months before temporarily returning to the stage . Another baseball related film would be released later that year by the Thanhouser Company , The Baseball Bug .

= = Release and reception = =

The single reel comedy , approximately 1 @, @ 000 feet long , was released on January 6 , 1911 . The film had a wide national release ; advertising theaters are known in Indiana , North Carolina , South Dakota , Iowa , Pennsylvania , and Texas . In Arizona , the film would be advertised by one theatre as Baseball Bloomers and it appears to also have been the case in another Kansas theater . The film would also be shown in Hawaii in August 1912 .

The New York Dramatic Mirror gave a brief summary and review of the film and gave minor praise for the production . The reviewer wrote , " The details of this comedy are well worked out , and it is good for a portion of genuine laughs . The girls of Miss Street 's Seminary become so elated over their success in the gymnasium that they feel impelled to branch out , and accordingly they challenge the boys of Adair College to a game of ball . At the last moment the girls feel like backing out , when two of Cornell 's star baseball players arrive in town . They agree to pitch and catch for the girls , who give them bloomers and rats from their hair for disguise . At the eighth inning the score was 0 to 0 . By the ninth it was 0 to 2 , in favor of Miss Street 's Seminary for Girls . The nine girls then showed their gratitude by giving the pitcher and catcher a round of kisses , while the Adair College boys stood off at a respectful distance . The actors were equal to the occasion . " The Billboard affirmed by stating , " Thanhouser producers have again placed a picture of originality on the market in Baseball and Bloomers . It is a farce pure and simple , but it offers many laughable situations . The acting is generally good , but in a few instances scenes were overacted . "