

Jeneane Lesko

Downunder, 2007 JL07

After two great tours in America with the Aussie Hearts, demand was high to bring Jeneane down to Australia. Accompanied by women's baseball writer Anne Aronson, that's exactly what Coach Lesko did.

Originally playing under her maiden name Jeneane DesCoombes, left-handed Coach Lesko pitched in the final two years of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) for the Grand Rapids Chicks in 1953 and 1954. As a rookie she was part of the 1953 championship team. In 1955 and 1956, Lesko travelled America with an All-Star team of players from the league.

In Australia in 2007, Coach Lesko visited Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, and Illawara. At each stop she conducted girls baseball clinics and observed the local scene. She also gave her legendary slide show that tell the story of the AAGPBL and connects it to women's baseball in the modern day.

Along the way on this tour, Lesko was the queen of all media. She appeared on radio and television programs, as well as several newspaper articles.

Most importantly, from the tour organizers to the kids at the clinics, Lesko touched everyone and uplifted their lives. Thank you Jeneane.