



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Mayor Jacobs showcases Women's Basketball Hall of Fame history

*KNOXVILLE, Tenn.*—Women's Basketball Hall of Fame (WBHOF) president Dana Hart can easily tell you about any exhibit in the museum. Choosing a favorite exhibit is not as easy.

“Wow. Let me think,” said Hart during her conversation with Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs for the 'Knox Narratives' docuseries. “My favorite is probably the Spalding rule book written by Senda Berenson, the 'mother of women's basketball' in 1901. There are only three copies in existence.”

Mayor Jacobs is highlighting important local stories throughout March for Women's History Month. The WBHOF is one of the few large tourist attractions in the nation devoted entirely to women's history.

The WBHOF was not originally planned for Knoxville. In the early 1990s, leaders broke ground to build it in Jackson, Tennessee. Fundraising efforts in Jackson eventually fizzled in 1996.

Lady Vols head coach Pat Summitt was one of the local leaders who worked to relocate and open the WBHOF in Knoxville in 1999. Hart said items from Pat Summitt's career are among some of the must-see exhibits in the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

“One thing is the letter that offered Pat Summitt the coaching position at the University of Tennessee as a graduate student. It is done on a typewriter in 1974. At the time, she was driving the bus, washing the clothes, and she was only a couple of years older than her players. She was very young,” said Hart. “She did something for our sport and the history of women that can never be replicated.”

Mayor Jacobs and Hart recalled their excitement when meeting legends of the game at previous WBHOF induction ceremonies. Hart also discussed the evolution of the women's game, and how the changes in the sport paralleled overall societal changes in women's history.

“We certainly invite people to come through. Even if you are not a basketball fan, you are going to find something about women's history you are really going to enjoy,” said Hart.

The WBHOF is offering \$4 admission to all Knox County residents throughout March to celebrate Women's History Month. More information on the hall is available at [WBHOF.com](https://www.wbhof.com).

You can watch the full 10-minute [Knox Narratives episode on YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).

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