THE WAX PACK

ON THE OPEN ROAD IN SEARCH OF BASEBALL’S AFTERLIFE

BRAD BALUKJIAN

SPORTS UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS
CONTENTS
NEW & SELECTED BACKLIST

1 Of Special Interest
4 Baseball
14 Soccer
16 Sports Literature
18 Basketball
20 Black Americans in Sports History
22 Women in Sports
24 Football
26 Golf
27 Hockey
28 Other Sports
30 Outdoor Recreation
32 Sports for Scholars

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Cover credit: Book cover illustration based on 1986 Topps Baseball trading card pack wrapper, courtesy Topps
BLACK COWBOYS OF RODEO
Unsung Heroes from Harlem to Hollywood and the American West
KEITH RYAN CARTWRIGHT
FOREWORD BY DANNY L. GLOVER

Black Cowboys of Rodeo is a collection of one hundred years’ worth of firsthand cowboy stories, set against the backdrop of Reconstruction, Jim Crow, segregation, the civil rights movement, and eventually the integration of a racially divided country.

“The myths and legend of the American West meet the real-life struggles and triumphs of Black cowboys in this fascinating account from journalist Cartwright. . . . This stirring history will have readers rethinking the very definition of Americana.”—Publishers Weekly, starred review

“An essential corrective to the lily-white history of the cowboy and the American West that has been promoted by motion pictures and white supremacists for centuries. It works as both a sweeping look at the cowboy ethos and profiles of scores of those whose greatness made America.”—Nelson George, author, filmmaker, music and culture critic

“Can I get a yee-haw? Black Cowboys of Rodeo is a marvel of a book—built with muscular research and smooth writing, resurrecting larger-than-life characters who will amaze and inspire readers. Cowboys have long been symbols of American grit and self-reliance. Black cowboys are that and more.”—Jonathan Eig, best-selling author of Ali: A Life

November 2021 • 384 pp. • 6 x 9 • 45 photographs, 1 chronology
$34.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-2610-5
LOSERVILLE
How Professional Sports Remade Atlanta—and How Atlanta Remade Professional Sports
CLAYTON TRUTOR
Clayton Trutor examines how Atlanta’s pursuit of the big leagues invented business-as-usual in the business of professional sports.
“Clayton Trutor vividly and expertly untangles the complex ball of issues that made Atlanta’s transformation into a ‘Major League’ sports town so unexpectedly (and maddeningly) difficult. A fascinating look at the way professional sports collided with politics, economics, and social upheaval in the 1960s and 1970s, Loserville also serves as a cautionary tale for any twenty-first-century city that’s hoping to land its own MLB, NFL, NBA, or NHL franchise.”—Dan Epstein, author of Big Hair and Plastic Grass

THE FAST RIDE
Spectacular Bid and the Undoing of a Sure Thing
JACK GILDEN
In an era of spectacular thoroughbreds, Spectacular Bid was perhaps the most exalted racehorse of them all. In 1979, after transcending his sport on an historic run of twelve consecutive stakes victories he lost the Triple Crown due to a series of bizarre events never before accurately reported. The Fast Ride is a story of misapplied power, manipulation, and the steep price of striving in an American era in which getting everything you ever wanted could be the most empty and unfulfilling sensation of all.
“Jack Gilden’s superb reporting turns the story of a great American racehorse into a riveting lesson about the difference between perception and reality. Spectacular Bid and his wild cast of human connections positively pulsate with energy.”—John Eisenberg, author of The League

February 2022 • 504 pp. • 6 x 9 • 12 photographs, index $34.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-2504-7

April 2022 • 336 pp. • 6 x 9 • Index $34.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-3050-8
COMMON ENEMIES
Georgetown Basketball, Miami Football, and the Racial Transformation of College Sports
THOMAS F. SCHALLER

Common Enemies traces how the 1980s Georgetown basketball and Miami football teams led the racial transformation and cultural revolution in major-college sports through the ascension of a “Black style” of play.

“Thomas Schaller’s Common Enemies demonstrates with a searing clarity how racism and rebellion as well as backlash and triumph all existed in the sports world’s recent history before we were wise enough to comprehend their implications. By doing so, he fills a gap in our collective sports consciousness. It’s a story that returns the bracing ‘shock of the new’ that the Canes and Hoyas represented decades ago and how their echoes can still be heard today.”—Dave Zirin, sports editor of the Nation

“Sports continue to be an important backdrop in the fight for equality. . . . The cultural barriers that the Miami and Georgetown programs broke weren’t always obvious in the moment, but with the clear eye of a historian, Schaller shows the important roles these schools played in both educating white America and celebrating Black America.”—Chuck Todd, host of Meet the Press

November 2021 • 304 pp. • 6 x 9 • Index
$32.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-1571-0
THE WAX PACK
On the Open Road in Search of Baseball’s Afterlife
BRAD BALUKJIAN
A Best Baseball Book of 2020 from Sports Collections Digest
A Los Angeles Times Bestseller
NPR’s 2020 Best Books of the Year, selection

Is there life after baseball? Brad Balukjian considers this question and ends up with a meditation on the loss of innocence and the gift of impermanence. Alternately elegiac and uplifting, The Wax Pack is part baseball nostalgia, part road trip travelogue, and all heart, a reminder that greatness is not found in the stats on the backs of baseball cards but in the personal stories of the men on the front of them.

“A wonderful journey that opens into an exploration of sports, nostalgia, American culture, and memory, The Wax Pack will surprise and engage you. It’s a delightful read and a tribute to the power of curiosity.” —Susan Orlean, author of The Orchid Thief

“One of the most fun, honest, funny, human, and uniquely creative baseball books of the year. I’ll admit it. I loved The Wax Pack!” —Jayson Stark, senior baseball writer for The Athletic

“One of the most interesting and pleasing baseball-themed books I have read in quite some time. An original idea, brought to fruition with graceful prose, a sense of humor, empathy, and insight.” —Bob Costas

“Brad Balukjian’s Wax Pack puts you right inside the packaging. You come away feeling the heart of what it means to be a fan of eighties baseball. From his in-depth account of the history of the Topps card factory to seizing the moment to ask the tough questions of these players, he turns the happenstance of fifteen player cards randomly placed in one pack into a family. Your family.” —Doug Glanville, MLB analyst for ESPN

March 2022 • 286 pp. • 6 x 9 • 16 photographs
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2982-3
RED BARBER
The Life and Legacy of a Broadcasting Legend
JUDITH R. HILTNER AND JAMES R. WALKER

This biography of sports announcer Red Barber (1908–92) places his life and broadcasting career in the context of twentieth-century American life; of changing ideology regarding the responsibilities and roles of mass media; and of his own personal journey, including the evolution of his values, his social and political views, and his religious persuasions. He had numerous second and third acts before his death in 1992 at the age of eighty-four.

“This complete and carefully researched biography is both merited and most welcome.”—Bob Costas

“With Red Barber the authors have given this complicated, important figure the biography he deserves.”—John Thorn, official historian, Major League Baseball

“Now, thanks to Judith Hiltner and James Walker, Walter Lanier ‘Red’ Barber has belatedly received the serious and definitive biography he deserves.”—Jane Leavy author of The Big Fella

April 2022 • 544 pp. • 6 x 9 • 26 photographs, 2 illustrations, index $36.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-2285-5

CHARLIE MURPHY
The Iconoclastic Showman behind the Chicago Cubs
JASON CANNON

Charles Webb Murphy was the ebullient, mercurial owner of the Chicago Cubs from 1905 through 1914. Jason Cannon recounts Murphy’s rise from the son of Irish immigrants to sports reporter to Cubs president, charting his legacy as one of the most important but overlooked figures in the National League’s long history. Cannon paints a picture of Murphy’s meteoric rise and precipitous downfall, including his relationship with the Tafts, one of America’s early twentieth-century dynastic families, his successful and tumultuous years as the owner of the Chicago Cubs, and his attempt to rewrite his legacy following his ouster from baseball by the National League Board of Directors.

“Impeccably researched and masterfully written, Charlie Murphy tells the story of one of baseball’s most well-known, forgotten owners. Only after you’ve read it do you realize how much you didn’t know of Murphy and his impact on the game.”—Willie Steele, editor of NINE: A Journal of Baseball History and Culture

June 2022 • 400 pp. • 6 x 9 • 14 photographs, index $36.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-2863-5
LEFTY AND TIM
How Steve Carlton and Tim McCarver Became Baseball’s Best Battery
WILLIAM C. KASHATUS
FOREWORD BY LARRY CHRISTENSON

Lefty and Tim explores the close-knit relationship between pitcher Steve Carlton and catcher Tim McCarver, forged in 1965, when they were batterymates with the St. Louis Cardinals, and culminating in 1980, when the Phillies won their first World Series title. Lefty and Tim addresses the tumultuous sixties, with the racial integration of the Cardinals and the dominance of pitching, and the turbulent early seventies, characterized by labor tensions, the arrival of free agency, and the return of the lively ball.

“Steve Carlton needed Tim McCarver to reach for the stars. In all my years covering baseball, I’ve never seen a pitcher-catcher relationship quite like theirs. McCarver did more than merely help Carlton rediscover his slider and recapture his greatness. He found a place inside Carlton’s circle of trust that reshaped both of their careers. Kashatus does a beautiful job of delving into what made their bond so special, on and off the field.” —Jayson Stark, baseball writer for the Athletic

June 2022 • 376 pp. • 6 x 9 • 22 photographs, 2 illustrations, appendix, index
$34.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-2667-9

THE UMPIRE IS OUT
Calling the Game and Living My True Self
DALE SCOTT WITH ROB NEYER
FOREWORD BY BILLY BEAN

Dale Scott’s career as a professional baseball umpire spanned nearly forty years, including thirty-three in the Major Leagues, from 1985 to 2017. His story is fascinating both for his umpiring career and for his being the first male official in the five major sports to come out as gay while actively working. His book is filled with memorable anecdotes and insights.

“Dale Scott was both consistent and approachable, perhaps the two most important qualities for an umpire. Dale’s personal story is inspirational, but his book also features vivid game stories from a truly great run at the top of his profession.” —David Cone

“Dale’s personal story differs dramatically from those of his umpiring colleagues. And yet, what also shines through is what he and so many of us have in common: an abiding love of baseball and an appreciation for what the game has meant to our lives. This is a textured story, both entertaining and meaningful. And told with uncommon grace.” —Bob Costas

May 2022 • 312 pp. • 6 x 9 • 25 photographs, 1 appendix, index
$34.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-3044-7
BASEBALL REBELS
The Players, People, and Social Movements That Shook Up the Game and Changed America
PETER DREIER AND ROBERT ELIAS
FOREWORD BY DAVE ZIRIN
American history has witnessed an ongoing battle over race and gender inequality. Baseball, the national pastime, has not been exempt from those struggles. Baseball Rebels recounts baseball’s persistent racism, sexism, and homophobia, as well as the efforts by rebels to challenge these injustices. It explores the fascinating baseball rebels who not only fought to change baseball but also participated in the wider movements to change America.

“Baseball is America’s game: it’s a game with an important and often-overlooked history of rebellion, and one that, with fits and starts, has helped lead the nation’s fight against racism, sexism, and homophobia. Don’t believe me? This incisive and compelling book proves it. . . . Highly recommended.”—Jonathan Eig, author of Luckiest Man

“With grace and humanity, [Baseball Rebels tells] must-read stories of barrier-breakers we know, like Satchel Paige, and others we ought to, like Frank Sykes.”—Larry Tye, author of Satchel

April 2022 • 408 pp. • 6 x 9 • 36 illustrations, index
$36.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-1777-6

STUMBLING AROUND THE BASES
The American League’s Mismanagement in the Expansion Eras
ANDY MCCUE
From the late 1950s to the 1980s, baseball’s American League mismanaged integration and expansion, allowing the National League to forge ahead in attendance and prestige. While both leagues had executive structures that presented few barriers to individual team owners acting purely in their own interests, it was the American League that succumbed to infighting—which ultimately led to its disappearance into what we now call Major League Baseball. Stumbling around the Bases is the story of how the American League fell into such a disastrous state, struggling for decades to escape its nadir and, when it finally righted itself, losing its independence.

“As integration and expansion pushed baseball into the modern era, it’s a wonder the bumbling American League owners could even open their gates. With comprehensive research and a clean, crisp style, Andy McCue chronicles all the behind-the-scenes stumbling and scheming that was just as fascinating as the play on the field.”—Tyler Kepner, New York Times national baseball columnist

April 2022 • 208 pp. • 6 x 9 • 4 charts, index
$29.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-0703-6
STOLEN DREAMS
The 1955 Cannon Street All-Stars and Little League Baseball’s Civil War
CHRIS LAMB

When the eleven- and twelve-year-olds on the Cannon Street YMCA All-Star team registered for a baseball tournament in Charleston, South Carolina, in June 1955, it put the team and the forces of integration on a collision course with segregation, bigotry, and the southern way of life.

“[Stolen Dreams] meticulously documents an important moment, and team, that few people will know but should. It’s about the collision of racism and baseball, years after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier, and shows just how far Blacks had left to go to be accepted in America’s pastime. Lamb writes this story with affection, grace, and skill.” —Mike Freeman, editor of race and inequality at USA Today

“An unforgettable story. . . . Lamb illustrates once again the important role baseball plays in understanding and shaping American culture.” —Jonathan Eig, best-selling author of Opening Day: The Story of Jackie Robinson’s First Season

April 2022 • 392 pp. • 6 x 9 • 25 photographs, index $34.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-1945-9

CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE
Sportswriters and the Long Campaign to Desegregate Baseball
CHRIS LAMB

Named a top 50 baseball book of all time by the Huffington Post
Named 2013 Best Book on Journalism and Mass Communication History by the Association Education in Journalism and Mass Communication
Named a top book for 2012 by Choice

Drawing on hundreds of newspaper articles and interviews with journalists, Chris Lamb reveals how differently Black and white newspapers, and Black and white America, viewed racial equality. Between 1933 and 1945, Black newspapers and the communist Daily Worker called for an end to baseball’s color line, while white sportswriters perpetuated the color line by maintaining a “conspiracy of silence.” The alternative presses’ efforts to end baseball’s color line constitute one of the great untold stories of baseball—and the civil rights movement.

“Everyone—casual fans, journalists, and even the most knowledgeable baseball expert—will find something of interest in this significant contribution to our understanding of civil rights and baseball.” —John Paul Hill, NINE: A Journal of Baseball History and Cultures

October 2021 • 416 pp. • 6 x 9 • Index $34.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2937-3
COBRA
A Life of Baseball and Brotherhood
DAVE PARKER AND DAVE JORDAN

Cobra is a candid look at Dave Parker, one of the biggest and most formidable baseball players at the peak of Black participation in the sport during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Parker overcame near-crippling injury, tragedy, and life events to become the highest-paid player in the major leagues. Through a career and a life noted by achievement, wealth, and deep friendships as well as pain and personal setbacks, Parker’s appeal has crossed from baseball legend into pop culture icon.

“Dave Parker played hard and he lived hard. . . . He reveals in relentless detail who he really was and, in so doing, who we all really were.”—Dave Winfield

“Cobra is one of the most gripping and revealing baseball memoirs I’ve ever read. With vivid stories, richly textured characters and unvarnished insights on the good and the bad, Dave Parker and Dave Jordan take the reader on a captivating journey through one of the most compelling careers in baseball history.”—Tyler Kepner, New York Times

April 2021 • 480 pp. • 6 x 9 • 28 photographs
$34.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-1873-5

FORTY YEARS A GIANT
The Life of Horace Stoneham
STEVEN TREDER

2022 SABR Seymour Medal
Finalist for the 2021 CASEY Award for Best Baseball Book of the Year

After inheriting the Giants from his father in 1936, Horace Stoneham oversaw four pennant-winning teams in his first two decades as owner. In 1958 he moved the Giants from New York City to San Francisco, one of two National League owners to bring Major League Baseball to the West Coast. Although the Giants won only one pennant and one division title in their first fifteen years in the Bay Area, they were a consistent contender that featured some of the era’s biggest stars players.

“No one better understands the Giants of the mid-twentieth century than Steve Treder. . . . This is an absorbing look at one of baseball’s most fascinating teams.”—Mark Armour, author of Joe Cronin: A Life in Baseball

“Masterful. . . . This richly contextualized book rescues Stoneham from the sidelines of New York City’s baseball world and places him alongside Walter O’Malley in the story of the sport’s success in California, where he belongs. It is a delight.”—Roberta Newman, author of Here’s the Pitch

June 2021 • 536 pp. • 6 x 9 • 31 photographs, index
$36.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-2419-4
BOUTON
The Life of a Baseball Original
MITCHELL NATHANSON
Named a Best Baseball Book of 2020 by Sports Collectors Digest

New York Times 2020 Summer Reading List
Bouton examines the remarkable life of a player and an author who forever changed the way we view not only sports books but professional sports as a whole.

"Once you start reading, you will not be able to stop. A compelling look at one of the most influential and controversial figures in baseball history."—Brian Kenny, host for MLB Network

April 2022 • 448 pp. • 6 x 9 • 24 photographs, index $24.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2985-4

THE CHALMERS RACE
Ty Cobb, Napoleon Lajoie, and the Controversial 1910 Batting Title That Became a National Obsession
RICK HUHN
FOREWORD BY CHARLES C. ALEXANDER

The Chalmers Race is the story of Ty Cobb and Napoleon Lajoie and the controversial 1910 batting race.

“This book goes beyond baseball, also giving readers an understanding of America itself after the turn of the century. An excellent choice.”—Library Journal, starred review

September 2021 • 330 pp. • 6 x 9 • 25 photographs, index $24.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2938-0

WHEN THE CROWD DIDN’T ROAR
How Baseball’s Strangest Game Ever Gave a Broken City Hope
KEVIN COWHERD

The first comprehensive account of the most unique Major League Baseball game ever played, as well as the tragic events that led up to it and the therapeutic effect it had on a troubled city.

“Cowherd’s book elucidates a chilling collision of race and sport from recent history.”—John Swansburg, New York Times Book Review

“A compassionate, objectively rendered examination of a frightening case of police brutality.”—Wes Lukowsky, Booklist

May 2022 • 192 pp. • 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 • 10 photographs, 1 appendix, index $19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2983-0

BRING IN THE RIGHT-HANDER!
My Twenty-Two Years in the Major Leagues
JERRY REUSS

The tale of Jerry Reuss’s twenty-two year career as a pitcher in the Major Leagues.

“Reuss is a gifted storyteller, and he ably communicates his love for the game in an easy, conversational style that makes for pleasurable reading. His book will appeal to any reader interested in 1970s and 1980s baseball, as well as many other fans.”—Library Journal

September 2021 • 306 pp. • 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 • 30 photographs $21.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2939-7
TWO SIDES OF GLORY
The 1986 Boston Red Sox in Their Own Words
ERIK SHERMAN
FOREWORD BY JOE CASTIGLIONE
Two Sides of Glory is an in-depth, first-person account of intriguing players that made up this once-in-a-generation Boston team. It’s also a look at how the extremes of tantalizing victory and heart-wrenching failure influenced their lives—both on the field and off.

“Erik Sherman’s interviews with the players are invariably intimate and always interesting, making Two Sides of Glory an absorbing read even for a baseball fan like me who has no sympathy for the Red Sox as an institution.”—David Maraniss, Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist

April 2021 • 288 pp. • 6 x 9 • 14 photographs
$29.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-1932-9

THE PRIDE OF MINNESOTA
The Twins in the Turbulent 1960s
THOM HENNINGER
Thom Henninger provides a nostalgic look at the era’s elite Minnesota Twins teams and the turbulent times in which they competed in four dramatic American League pennant races between 1965 and 1970.

“Thom Henninger covers the shifts and upheavals of a period that was a magical time for Minnesota baseball fans. . . . A hit for baseball fans and beyond.”—Stew Thornley, Minnesota baseball historian

May 2021 • 344 pp. • 6 x 9 • 21 photographs, 3 tables, index
$32.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-2560-3

TONY LAZZERI
Yankees Legend and Baseball Pioneer
LAWRENCE BALDASSARO
A biography of Tony Lazzeri, a key member of the Yankees’ legendary Murderers’ Row lineup between 1926 and 1937 and the first major baseball star of Italian descent.

“Baldassaro has scored a gem. . . . This book adds much new detail and perspective to the history and development of baseball. It is a must-read for baseball fans, particularly fans of the New York Yankees.”—Steve Dixon, Library Journal, starred review

April 2021 • 352 pp. • 6 x 9 • 25 photographs, index
$34.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-1675-5

CLUBBIE
A Minor League Baseball Memoir
GREG LARSON
Clubbie is a hilarious and illuminating memoir about a starry-eyed baseball fan who accidentally became part of the Minor League system that exploited his heroes.

“Does what happens in the clubhouse stay in the clubhouse? No. . . . It is not Disneyland. Teammates brawl, players quit in mid-game, and one-upmanship rules. Clubbie Larson, also a stand-up comedian, offers a truly hilarious view of Double-A ball.”—John Vorperian, SABR Newsletter

April 2021 • 264 pp. • 6 x 9
$27.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-2429-3
1962
Baseball and America in the Time of JFK
DAVID KRELL
An engaging history of the 1962 baseball season and a tumultuous American year.
“Cultural historian Krell weaves a gripping account of a momentous baseball season, five no-hitters, an exceptional NL playoff between the Giants and Dodgers, and a seven-game World Series showcasing Mantle and Mays. All this and more against the backdrop of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Space Race, and the Civil Rights movement.”—John Vorperian, SABR Newsletter
May 2021 • 384 pp. • 6 x 9 • 27 photographs, index $34.95 • hardcover • 978-0-8032-9087-7

THE BEST TEAM OVER THERE
The Untold Story of Grover Cleveland Alexander and the Great War
JIM LEEKE
Jim Leeke tells the little-known history of Grover Cleveland Alexander and fellow athletes in the 342nd Field Artillery Regiment during the Great War.
“No one writes about the connections between baseball and World War I with more authority and accuracy than Jim Leeke. . . . The result is a story that will swell you with pride and reduce you to tears.”—Rick Huhn, author of The Chalmers Race
March 2021 • 280 pp. • 6 x 9 • 23 photographs, 6 illustrations, 2 maps, 2 appendixes, index
$29.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-1716-5

COMEBACK PITCHERS
The Remarkable Careers of Howard Ehmke and Jack Quinn
LYLE SPATZ AND STEVE STEINBERG
FOREWORD BY PAT WILLIAMS
Comeback Pitchers is the story of two pitchers, Jack Quinn and Howard Ehmke, whose intertwining careers began in the Deadball Era and continued into the 1920s and 1930s.
“Steinberg and Spatz—meticulous researchers who spin a riveting yarn while getting their facts right—have pitched a perfect double-header with this dual biography of two of baseball’s least known but most fascinating characters.”—Norman L. Macht, author of the three-volume biography of Connie Mack
April 2021 • 512 pp. • 6 x 9 • 50 photographs, index $39.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-2202-2

SABR 50 AT 50
The Society for American Baseball Research’s Fifty Most Essential Contributions to the Game
EDITED BY BILL NOWLIN
SABR 50 at 50 celebrates and highlights the Society for American Baseball Research’s wide-ranging contributions to the game of baseball.
“This compilation, a distillation of all that is important to the society’s members . . . showcases the SABRite at his or her baseball-loving, stat-obsessed best.”—Paul Dickson, Wall Street Journal
September 2020 • 632 pp. • 7 x 10 • 53 figures, 57 tables
$49.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-2268-8
THE CALLED SHOT
Babe Ruth, the Chicago Cubs, and the Unforgettable Major League Baseball Season of 1932
THOMAS WOLF
Best Baseball Book of 2020 from Sports Collections Digest
The story of the thrilling 1932 baseball season and Babe Ruth’s called shot.
“[Wolf] delivers a solid and exciting look at the 1932 baseball season. . . . Baseball fans will delight in this thrillingly told history.” —Publishers Weekly, starred review
“This book has it all. It is well-written, well-researched, and full of surprises.” —Mark McGee, NINE
May 2020 • 408 pp. • 6 x 9 • 22 photographs, 6 tables, index $36.95 • hardcover • 978-0-8032-5524-1

ISSEI BASEBALL
The Story of the First Japanese American Ballplayers
ROBERT K. FITTS
2021 SABR Baseball Research Award
Issei Baseball focuses on a small group of men who formed the first professional and semiprofessional Japanese baseball clubs. Through these men, Robert K. Fitts examines the history of early Japanese American baseball and the Japanese immigrant experience.
“Rob Fitts majestically re-creates the mood of the era and sheds light on a glorious period of this epic American odyssey.” —Kerry Yo Nakagawa, author, filmmaker, and historian
April 2020 • 344 pp. • 6 x 9 • 28 photographs, 5 illustrations, 8 tables, 3 appendixes, index $29.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-1348-8

THE COLONEL AND HUG
The Partnership that Transformed the New York Yankees
STEVE STEINBERG AND LYLE SPATZ
FOREWORD BY MARTY APPEL
2016 SABR Baseball Research Award
The story of New York Yankees owner Jacob Ruppert and manager Miller Huggins, who, from 1918 to 1929, partnered to build the Yankees to become and remain the nation’s dominant sports franchise.
“A top-notch sports biography.” —Kirkus Reviews, starred
“This book provides a valuable service in helping its readers better understand the genesis of the greatest dynasty in American sports history.” —Inside Game
May 2015 • 576 pp. • 6 x 9 • 45 photographs $34.95 • hardcover • 978-0-8032-4865-6

ALOU
My Baseball Journey
FELIPE ALOU WITH PETER KERASOTIS
FOREWORD BY PEDRO MARTÍNEZ
AFTERWORD BY BRUCE BOCHY
The story of Felipe Alou, a pioneering All-Star baseball player, manager, and mentor from the Dominican Republic who is one of the game’s most respected figures in the last sixty years.
“Felipe Alou is one of the best ambassadors for baseball and an even better ambassador for the human race.” —Reggie Jackson
April 2020 • 348 pp. • 6 x 9 • 35 photographs, 1 illustration, 1 chronology $19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-1404-1
RED LETTERS
Two Fervent Liverpool FC Supporters Correspond through the Epic Season That Wouldn’t End
MICHAEL MACCAMBRIDGE AND NEIL ATKINSON
FOREWORD BY GRANT WAHL

Red Letters is the story of Liverpool FC’s first title-winning season in thirty years, game by game, in real time, with hopes and expectations tested and altered as the season progresses—through insights from two avid Liverpool supporters: Michael MacCambridge in Austin, Texas, and Neil Atkinson in Liverpool. Throughout the season Atkinson and MacCambridge exchanged letters, contemplating Liverpool’s progress, comparing and contrasting perspectives on their club, sport, COVID-19, and, in the end, considering what it means to finally have a championship season in the strangest of worlds.

“Passionate and perceptive, contemplative and comprehensive, MacCambridge and Atkinson take you on a journey like no other through a season like no other, as hope and excitement give way to frustration and fear. What stands out, though, is not the agony and ecstasy of Liverpool’s title win but the warmth and the wit of the authors as the world changes around them and their team.”—Rory Smith, chief soccer correspondent for the New York Times

November 2021 • 464 pp. • 6 x 9 • 31 photographs
$36.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-2976-2

THE SISTERHOOD
The 99ers and the Rise of U.S. Women’s Soccer
ROB GOLDMAN

The Sisterhood is the story of the first and second generations of national team players, known as the 99ers, who were the driving force behind the rise of U.S. women’s soccer and who built the foundation for the team’s enduring success. It takes the reader onto the pitch for the team’s greatest victories and most heartbreaking defeats and into the minds of such players and coaches as Michelle Akers, Julie Foudy, Mia Hamm, Brandi Chastain, Anson Dorrance, and Tony DiCicco.

“Rob Goldman vividly captures the 99ers’ personalities, mentality, and our love for the game and for each other. I lived this story and became a better player and person because of these women. The Sisterhood shows you why.”—Kristine Lilly, National Soccer Hall of Fame member, Olympic gold medalist, and 1991 and 1999 World Cup winner

“Includes some of my favorite stories from the badass women whose DNA and gritty mentality are the inspiration and legacy of today’s world-dominating U.S. Women’s National Soccer Team.”—Michelle Akers, National Soccer Hall of Fame

November 2021 • 320 pp. • 6 x 9 • 34 photographs
$32.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-2883-3
THE SOCCER DIARIES
An American’s Thirty-Year Pursuit of the International Game
MICHAEL J. AGOVINO

A portrait of soccer’s culture and an intimate history of its coming of age in the United States and beyond. Written from the perspective of fan, pickup player, and journalist, it covers the author’s obsession with soccer and its phenomenal evolution over the last thirty years.

“An intimate and wonderfully written account of a sport that is increasingly shaking America’s soul out.”—Colum McCann, author of the National Book Award winner Let the Great World Spin

“A funny and affecting account of one American’s stubborn embrace of soccer.”
—Esquire

“A gripping narrative... offering insights into the growth of soccer’s popularity in America.”
—Souvik Naha, Journal of Sport History

May 2018 • 318 pp. • 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 • 3 photographs, 1 illustration
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-0597-1

DEFYING EXPECTATIONS
Phil Rawlins and the Orlando City Soccer Story
SIMON VENESS AND SUSAN VENESS

Through nine years of toil and heartache, inspiration and joy, Englishman Phil Rawlins bets his fortune and develops the MLS Orlando City Soccer Club from an unlikely minor league beginnings into one of the greatest start-up stories on the U.S. sports landscape just as pro soccer comes into its own as a growing American passion.

“This is a thoroughly-researched, extremely well-written book by two veteran writers... Soccer fans, indeed all sports fans as well as general readers, will enjoy reading this excellent book.”—G. Louis Heath, Arete

“The authors have gotten to the heart of a vital story about starting a soccer team in North America that highlights Phil Rawlins’s unquenchable passion for the game, and the drive needed to be successful.”—Gary Mellor, managing director of Beswicks Sports (UK)

November 2017 • 304 pp. • 6 x 9 • 28 photographs, index
$26.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-0176-8
ESCAPE FROM CASTRO’S CUBA
A Novel
TIM WENDEL
2021 Professional Achievement Award, Johns Hopkins University faculty
In this visionary sequel to Castro’s Curveball, former Minor League catcher Billy Bryan finds himself back in Havana in 2016 with a small film role. He soon realizes that this place and his past remain as star-crossed as when he played winter ball in the Cuban capital decades before. Once again Billy must navigate the crosscurrents of the so-called City of Columns, where the Old Havana alleyways still fan out, crooked and broken, like an old catcher’s fingers.

“Few know Cuba and its national pastime of béisbol better than Tim Wendel. Fewer still write about it with such honesty, grace, and insight.”—Luis Tiant, former Major League pitcher and author of Son of Havana

“[An] exquisite portrait of an aging baseball man of conscience and character who refuses to quit on the people and the game he loves.” —Jane Leavy, author of The Big Fella: Babe Ruth and the World He Created

March 2021 • 270 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2292-3

BODIES BUILT FOR GAME
The Prairie Schooner Anthology of Contemporary Sports Writing
EDITED BY NATALIE DIAZ
HANNAH ENSOR, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Bodies Built for Game brings together poems, essays, and stories that challenge our traditional ideas of sport and question the power structures that athletics enforce. What is it that drives us to athletics? What is it that makes us break our own bodies or the bodies of others as we root for these unnatural and performed victories? With contributions from Hanif Abdurraqib, Fatimah Asghar, Reginald Dwayne Betts, Louise Erdrich, Toni Jensen, Ada Limón, Tommy Orange, Claudia Rankine, Danez Smith, and Maya Washington, among others, this book challenges America by questioning its games.

“A valuable collection of critical commentary on salient issues pertaining to identity and power structures. . . . As a celebrated poet and essayist as well as former professional female athlete in the American sports industry, Diaz (Mojave), is an excellent authority on these themes.”—Tara Keegan, American Indian Quarterly

October 2019 • 402 pp. • 6 x 9
$26.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-1773-8
NO PLACE I WOULD RATHER BE
Roger Angell and a Life in Baseball Writing
JOE BONOMO

No Place I Would Rather Be is a look at Roger Angell’s writing over the decades, including his early short stories, pieces for the New Yorker, and later autobiographical essays, and at the common threads that run through it.

“The game of baseball best represents our country’s soul, and no one has chronicled its beauty better than Roger Angell. With only class and eloquence, Roger’s insights have taught us all—starting with sport and extending to humanity.”—Joe Torre, MLB’s chief baseball officer

May 2019 • 232 pp. • 6 x 9 • 5 photographs, index
$27.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-1325-9

THE LOST JOURNALISM OF RING LARDNER
RING LARDNER
EDITED BY RON RAPOPORT
FOREWORD BY JAMES LARDNER

This anthology of journalist Ring Lardner’s writings on sports and other nonfiction topics collects works that have been mostly unavailable for decades.

“It’s good to have the lost treasure of Ring Lardner the journalist back with us again. At long last.”—Chicago Tribune

“This book is an absolute jewel. . . . Ron Rapoport has contributed a masterful collection to the world of sports and literature.”—Dan Jenkins

January 2017 • 592 pp. • 6 x 9
$39.95 • hardcover • 978-0-8032-6973-6

THE ROGER KAHN READER
Six Decades of Sportswriting
ROGER KAHN
EDITED AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY BILL DWYRE

A rich collection of stories and articles by the dean of American sportswriters, Roger Kahn. Written across six decades, this volume shows his ability to describe the athletes he profiled as they truly were in a manner neither compromised nor cruel but always authentic and up close.

“Spending a few hours with The Roger Kahn Reader is like a time-machine voyage back to a sports world of authentic heroes, colorful but not obnoxious characters, just causes, smart talk and love of the games. Roger Kahn helped create that world and reanimates it here for our pleasure.”—Edward Kosner, Wall Street Journal

June 2018 • 408 pp. • 6 x 9 • 2 tables
$32.95 • hardcover • 978-0-8032-9472-1

THE GLOBAL GAME
Writers on Soccer
EDITED BY JOHN TURNBULL, THOM SATTERLEE, AND ALON RAAB

The writings gathered in this volume reflect the universal and infinitely varied ways in which soccer connects with human experience. Poetry and prose from Ted Hughes, Charles Simic, Eduardo Galeano, Günter Grass, Giovanna Pollarolo, Nobel Prize winner Mario Vargas Llosa, and Elvis Costello take us to a dizzying array of cultures and climes, from Missoula, Montana, to Sierra Leone.

November 2008 • 316 pp. • 6 x 9
$21.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-1078-3
JUMP SHOOTING TO A HIGHER DEGREE
My Basketball Odyssey
SHELDON ANDERSON
Jump Shooting to a Higher Degree chronicles Sheldon Anderson’s basketball career from grade school through his years playing professionally in West Germany and communist Poland in 1987.
“A delightful, often wry nonfiction basketball bildungsroman. . . . This supple narrative, replete with poignant anecdotes, demonstrates how the love of a game can help shape one’s identity, values, and pave the way for future success.” —Daniel A. Nathan, coeditor of Baseball beyond Our Borders
September 2021 • 208 pp. • 6 x 9 • 20 photographs
$21.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2648-8

THE SPEED GAME
My Fast Times in Basketball
PAUL WESTHEAD
Paul Westhead’s The Speed Game offers a treasure trove of information and stories about how he developed a style of basketball that not only won at the highest levels but went on to influence the game as it is played today.
“Don’t get the idea that The Speed Game is infatuated repetitiously with a scheme for winning basketball games. Mr. Westhead gives us a lot more. It may be a surprise to readers to learn how graceful and interesting a writer he is.” —Fred Barnes, Wall Street Journal
November 2020 • 216 pp. • 6 x 9 • 15 photographs
$29.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-2260-2

HAVIN’ A BALL
My Improbable Basketball Journey
RICHIE ADOBATO WITH PETER KERASOTIS
FOREWORD BY DICK VITALE
Richie Adubato—one of basketball’s most colorful characters and storytellers—chronicles his life in the game, from New Jersey high schools to head coach in both the NBA and the WNBA.
“If you’re a fan of the Magic in particular and the NBA in general, this is a must-read with Adubato taking us on a colorful, nomadic odyssey through his 60 years as a high school, college, NBA and WNBA head coach.” —Mike Bianchi, Orlando Sentinel
October 2020 • 216 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½ • 35 photographs, 1 appendix
$26.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-1282-5
THE JAMES NAISMITH READER
Basketball in His Own Words
EDITED BY DOUGLAS STARK

The James Naismith Reader is a collection of speeches, letters, notes, radio interview transcripts, and original writings from the inventor of basketball, from the original rules in 1891 to an excerpt from the posthumous publication of his book Basketball: Its Origin and Development.

“A valuable resource for anyone interested in the formation and development of the game.”—Rob Rains, author of James Naismith: The Man Who Invented Basketball

February 2021 • 282 pp. • 6 x 9 • 12 photographs, 1 illustration, 1 table
$22.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-1901-5

THE CAP
How Larry Fleisher and David Stern Built the Modern NBA
JOSHUA MENDELSOHN

The Cap brings the economic history of professional basketball to life by going behind the scenes to tell the story of the deal between the NBA and the National Basketball Players Association that created the salary cap in 1983, the first in all of sports.

“Mr. Mendelsohn manages to highlight a number of attributes that still distinguish the league.”—New York Times

“A legal thriller.”—David M. Shribman, Wall Street Journal

October 2020 • 376 pp. • 6 x 9 • index
$32.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-1878-0

SHAKE AND BAKE
The Life and Times of NBA Great Archie Clark
BOB KUSKA WITH ARCHIE CLARK

Shake and Bake is the story of Archie Clark, one of the great NBA guards of the 1960s and 1970s.

“I had the good fortune of meeting Archie Clark while I was an undergrad at UCLA and he was playing for the Lakers. Archie is one of those unique people who has an awesome insight about life, which, in my opinion, is extraordinary. When you read this book you will understand what I’m talking about.”—Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

February 2021 • 352 pp. • 6 x 9
$29.95 • hardcover • 978-0-8032-2654-8

NUMBERS DON’T LIE
New Adventures in Counting and What Counts in Basketball Analytics
YAGO COLÁS

Numbers Don’t Lie gives readers a multilayered understanding of basketball analytics on its own terms, describes the historical and contemporary conditions in basketball culture, science, and society that have facilitated the rise of basketball analytics, and shows the varying impact of basketball analytics.

“A fascinating history of the development of statistics keeping in the sport of basketball... The author effectively interweaves personal vignettes with his historical account of how big data has transformed the sport of basketball.”—L. Kong, Choice

November 2020 • 360 pp. • 6 x 9 • 5 illustrations, 4 tables, 3 graphs, index
$34.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-1614-4
OSCAR CHARLESTON
The Life and Legend of Baseball’s Greatest Forgotten Player
JEREMY BEER
2020 SABR Seymour Medal
2019 CASEY Award for Best Baseball Book of the Year
2019 SABR’s Larry Ritter and Robert Peterson Awards
The biography of Oscar Charleston, a Negro Leagues legend and one of baseball’s greatest and most unjustifiably overlooked players.
“A fascinating story and an important piece of sports history.” —Gus Palas, Library Journal, starred review
April 2021 • 456 pp. • 6 x 9 • 32 photographs, 1 appendix, index
$21.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2496-5

THE BLACK BRUINS
JAMES W. JOHNSON
The intertwined story of five influential African American athletes who came together as teammates at UCLA in the 1930s, a time when racial discrimination in sports was widespread across the nation. Their career pursuits after college precipitated political and social change in the world of sports, entertainment, and politics.
“Johnson engagingly captures the lives, struggles, and triumphs of five men whose greatness transcended American sports.” —Kirkus, starred review
October 2019 • 324 pp. • 6 x 9 • 15 photographs, index
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-1704-2

INVISIBLE MEN
Life in Baseball’s Negro Leagues
DONN ROGOSIN
FOREWORD BY MONTE IRVIN
WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION BY THE AUTHOR
Based on interviews with the greats and journeymen of baseball’s Negro Leagues, this narrative reveals a glorious chapter in sports history and African American history.
“This fascinating book is a milestone in baseball scholarship.” —Ken Burns
“There are certain tales of the arena so inspiring and enraging that they need periodic retelling. And when they can be retold with fresh scholarship and from a contemporary perspective, there is cause for cheering in both the bleachers and the library stacks.” —Robert Lipsyte, New York Times Book Review
October 2020 • 342 pp. • 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 • 40 photographs, 10 illustrations, 2 appendixes, index
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2339-5

GREATNESS IN THE SHADOWS
Larry Doby and the Integration of the American League
DOUGLAS M. BRANSON
Larry Doby breaks the color barrier as the first Black player to integrate the American League and, though second behind Jackie Robinson, his path was no less difficult than Robinson’s and in some ways might have been harder.
“A must-read for anyone who cares about the Jackie Robinson story and the integration of baseball. Doby has been neglected for far too long, so it’s exciting to see Branson give Doby his due.” —Terry Pluto, author of Our Tribe: A Baseball Memoir
April 2016 • 336 pp. • 6 x 9 • 23 photographs, 3 tables
$34.95 • hardcover • 978-0-8032-8552-1
JACKIE AND CAMPY
The Untold Story of Their Rocky Relationship and the Breaking of Baseball’s Color Line
WILLIAM C. KASHATUS
Shines light on the complicated relationship between Jackie Robinson and Roy Campanella and the integration of baseball.

“Enhancing our understanding of attitudes toward integration and race relations at a pivotal stage of American history through this story of baseball, this book is highly recommended as social and sports history.” —Library Journal, starred review

“A superb narrative of sports, race, and politics in the 1950s and ‘60s.” —Publishers Weekly

April 2014 • 248 pp. • 6 x 9 • 23 photographs, 1 map
$24.95 • hardcover • 978-0-8032-4633-1

MAYBE I’LL PITCH FOREVER
LEROY “SATCHEL” PAIGE AND DAVID LIPMAN
The story of Satchel Paige who was forty-two years old in 1948 when he became the first Black pitcher in the American League. Struggle—against early poverty and racial discrimination—was part of Paige’s story. So was fast living and a humorous point of view.

“Not only was Satchel Paige an amazing athlete, he was one of the great American humorists in the tradition of Mark Twain, Will Rogers, and Yogi Berra. The most famous Black player of his era shines through the pages of this remarkable autobiography.” —John B. Holway

January 1993 • 299 pp. • 5 ¼ x 8 • Illustrations
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-8732-7

THEY CLEARED THE LANE
The NBA’s Black Pioneers
RON THOMAS
The largely untold and entertaining story of what basketball was really like for the first Black NBA players, full of anecdotes and little-known history.

“This book is important not just for basketball fans but for those who want to understand the role played by African Americans in the development of the NBA and big-time sports today.” —Library Journal

“On point and on time. I am deeply touched by this book.” —Julius Erving

March 2004 • 288 pp. • 6 x 9 • Illustrations
$19.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-9454-7

YOUNG, BLACK, RICH, AND FAMOUS
The Rise of the NBA, the Hip Hop Invasion, and the Transformation of American Culture
TODD BOYD WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION BY THE AUTHOR
A revealing history of modern basketball showing how hip-hop culture has been the key shaping force in the game, and a powerful metaphor for exploring larger themes of race, class, and identity.

“A powerful and provocative history of modern basketball and how issues of race, class, and popular culture have played out both on and off the basketball court.” —Publishers Weekly

March 2008 • 216 pp. • 6 ¼ x 9 ½
$18.95 • paperback • 978-0-8032-1675-4

nebraskapress.unl.edu | unpblog.com
THE SISTERHOOD
The 99ers and the Rise of U.S. Women’s Soccer
ROB GOLDMAN

The Sisterhood is the story of the first and second generations of national team players, known as the 99ers, who were the driving force behind the rise of U.S. women’s soccer and who built the foundation for the team’s enduring success.

“Rob Goldman vividly captures the 99ers’ personalities, mentality, and our love for the game and for each other. I lived this story and became a better player and person because of these women. The Sisterhood shows you why.”—Kristine Lilly, National Soccer Hall of Fame member, Olympic gold medalist, and 1991 and 1999 World Cup winner

November 2021 • 320 pp. • 6 x 9 • 34 photographs
$32.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-2883-3

ISABEL “LEFTY” ALVAREZ
The Improbable Life of a Cuban American Baseball Star
KAT D. WILLIAMS

Kat D. Williams traces Isabel “Lefty” Alvarez’s life from her childhood in Cuba to her reinvention of herself as a professional American baseball player, illuminating the importance of sport as a source of stability in a life defined by challenges.

“Kat D. Williams tells [Alvarez’s] remarkable story, revealing the courageous struggle Lefty overcame to make it in America.”—Rob Sheinkopf, NINE: A Journal of Baseball History and Culture

May 2020 • 208 pp. • 6 x 9 • 23 photographs, 2 appendixes, index
$29.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-1882-7

MAKING MY PITCH
A Woman’s Baseball Odyssey
ILA JANE BORDERS WITH JEAN HASTINGS ARDELL
FOREWORD BY MIKE VEECK

Named an “Over the Rainbow Book” by the ALA’s LGBTQ Round Table

The story of Ila Jane Borders, the first woman to play pro baseball since the Negro Leagues of the modern era and the first woman to pitch a winning game. Making My Pitch shows what it’s like to be the only woman on the team bus, in the clubhouse, and on the field of play.

“An inspiring and important account, told with grace and self-awareness that will appeal to baseball and sports fans along with readers interested in LGBTQ memoirs.”—Library Journal

April 2019 • 264 pp. • 6 x 9 • 22 photographs
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-1405-8
A GAME OF THEIR OWN
Voices of Contemporary Women in Baseball
JENNIFER RING


The story of the women who played baseball on the 2010 Team USA and the Women’s World Cup Tournament in Venezuela, and who struggle to gain acceptance in a game that continues to exclude them.

“Fascinating.” —Huffington Post

“An important contribution to sports and women’s history, will interest anyone curious about an overlooked segment of amateur athletics.” —Booklist

April 2018 • 392 pp. • 6 x 9 • 41 photographs, 2 appendices, index
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-0598-8

THE REBOUNDERS
A Division I Basketball Journey
AMANDA OTTAWAY

Written from a former player’s perspective, The Rebounders traces the experiences of women’s D-I basketball players, from the recruiting stage as teenagers to wins, losses, injuries and coming of age as college-educated women in their twenties.

“The Rebounders captures the spirit of collegiate sport with both candor and joy.”
—Madeleine Blais, Pulitzer Prize winner and author of In These Girls, Hope Is a Muscle

March 2018 • 304 pp. • 6 x 9
$29.95 • hardcover • 978-0-8032-9684-8

WOMEN ON THE MOVE
The Forgotten Era of Women’s Bicycle Racing
ROGER GILLES

Women on the Move tells the full story of America’s most popular arena sport during the 1890s, women’s professional bicycle racing.

“Gilles’s book is a window into a virtually unknown time in women’s sports, and it is important because it adds to the history of female athletes who have overcome so many obstacles to be able to compete.”
—Britni de la Cretaz, Guardian

October 2018 • 360 pp. • 6 x 9 • 31 photographs, index
$29.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-0417-2

DREAM LIKE A CHAMPION
Wins, Losses, and Leadership the Nebraska Volleyball Way
JOHN COOK WITH BRANDON VOGEL
WITH A NEW CHAPTER BY THE AUTHORS

University of Nebraska–Lincoln 2017 national championship volleyball coach John Cook shares the coaching and leadership philosophy that has enabled him to become one of the winningest coaches in the sport.

“Great coaches and teachers relentlessly strive for learning and improvement. . . . John Cook’s story is permeated with that pursuit: what an innovator! If you crave the ‘better,’ you’d better read this book.”
—Karch Kiraly, head coach, U.S. women’s National Volleyball Team

September 2018 • 232 pp. • 6 x 9 • 20 photographs
$17.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-1191-0
COLLISION OF WILLS
Johnny Unitas, Don Shula, and the Rise of the Modern NFL
JACK GILDEN
Collision of Wills looks at the complicated relationship between Don Shula, the National Football League’s winningest coach of all time, and his star player Johnny Unitas, their stunning success, their colossal failures, and how they raised the level of competition in the era that built the league.

“Gilden’s detailed book captures the excitement of the Unitas-led Colts drives and provides a glimpse into one of pro football’s greatest player-coach relationships.”—Publishers Weekly

“Jack Gilden’s new book reminds us that the game, even in its golden era, has always had controversy. But it was usually well-hidden. Gilden uncovers much that we never suspected, in a book about two of the most legendary figures the game has ever known. . . . This one’s not for the hero worshippers who wish only to think of their favorite teams as happy bands of brothers. It’s about one of the greatest teams in football history—the late, lamented Colts before they were snatched from Baltimore—and the sheer contempt their quarterback and coach had for each other.”—Michael Olesker, Baltimore Post-Examiner

HELL WITH THE LID OFF
Inside the Fierce Rivalry between the 1970s Oakland Raiders and Pittsburgh Steelers
ED GRUVER AND JIM CAMPBELL
FOREWORD BY ANDY RUSSELL
Hell with the Lid Off looks at the ferocious five-year war waged by Pittsburgh and Oakland for NFL supremacy during the turbulent seventies. The roots of their rivalry dated back to the 1972 playoff game in Pittsburgh that ended with the “Immaculate Reception,” Franco Harris’s stunning touch-down that led the Steelers to a win over the Raiders in their first postseason meeting. That famous game ignited a fiery rivalry for NFL supremacy. Between 1972 and 1977, the Steelers and the Raiders collided in the playoffs five straight seasons and in the AFC title game three consecutive years.

“The five-year rivalry between [the Steelers and Raiders] is chronicled in exquisite detail. Tons of nuggets that the most die-hard old school NFL fans will eat up. Highest recommendation!”—Ken Gelman, NFL writer and historian

September 2020 • 352 pp. • 6 x 9 • 11 photographs, index
$21.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2229-9

October 2019 • 400 pp. • 6 x 9 • 18 photographs, 4 illustrations
$29.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-1467-6
PRESENT AT THE CREATION
My Life in the NFL and the Rise of America's Game
UPTON BELL WITH RON BORGES
The story of pro football's explosive growth from sport to cultural icon through the eyes of Upton Bell, former NFL team executive and general manager and son of NFL commissioner Bert Bell.

“Do yourself a favor and pick up Present at the Creation. . . . It's the story of the NFL through the clear eyes of a wise and funny man who lived through just about all of it.” — Dan Shaughnessy, Boston Globe

September 2019 • 416 pp. • 6 x 9 • 37 photographs, 1 illustration
$19.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-1703-5

SPIRALS
A Family’s Education in Football
TIMOTHY B. SPEARS
Spirals tracks the relationship between college football, higher education, and a family's involvement in the sport.

“Professor Spears grew up with a noble football lineage. . . . The author uses that history to think deeply about men and violence, football and masculinity, family and higher education. This is no mere jock memoir. Spirals is one of the most thoughtful books I know about sports.” —Elliott Gorn, author of The Manly Art: Bare-Knuckle Prize Fighting in America

October 2018 • 184 pp. • 6 x 9 • 20 photographs, index
$24.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-0363-2

THE DANCING BEAR
My Eighteen Years in the Trenches of the AFL and NFL
RON MCDOLE WITH ROB MORRIS
FOREWORD BY GEORGE FLINT
Ron McDole recounts his memorable life as one of the most underrated defensive players in pro football in the sixties and seventies.

“A captivating story that covers some of the most important points in the game’s (and our nation’s) history. . . . This book is a must-have not only for fans of the Bills and the Redskins but for football fans of every stripe. The Dancing Bear has scored a touchdown!” —Jeffrey J. Miller, author of Rockin' the Rockpile: The Buffalo Bills of the American Football League

October 2018 • 248 pp. • 6 x 9 • 21 photographs, 1 table, index
$29.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-1261-0

REDSKINS
Insult and Brand
C. RICHARD KING
Named a 2016 Favorite Book by the Progressive
An in-depth examination of how the ongoing struggle over the Washington NFL franchise name raises questions about popular perceptions of American Indians, the cultural life of consumer brands, and existing obstacles to inclusion and equality.

“[A] must-read book.” —Chicago Tribune

March 2019 • 258 pp. • 6 x 9 • 11 photographs, 1 illustration, index
$18.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-1347-1
THE MASTERS
A Hole-by-Hole History of America’s Golf Classic
DAVID SOWELL
Provides stories and highlights from the Masters from its inception up through 2018.
“Every kind of book on the Masters that could be written had been written, until David Sowell came along. He takes a route previously not taken, giving each of the eighteen holes of Augusta National its own fifteen minutes of fame.”—Furman Bisher, the late legendary sports columnist for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution
March 2021 • 306 pp. • 6 x 9 • 18 illustrations, 2 appendixes, index
$21.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2497-2

THE HOLE TRUTH
Determining the Greatest Players in Golf Using Sabermetrics
BILL FELBER
The Hole Truth is the first statistics-based analytical approach to ranking the best players in pro golf history.
“A must-read for golfers and golf fans who love the game’s metrics, and who are fascinated by discussions regarding how players of yesterday would fare against the greats of today. You’ll be amazed.”—Jim Colbert, eight-time winner on the PGA Tour, winner of the Senior Players Championship, and golf analyst for ESPN
January 2019 • 328 pp. • 6 x 9 • 108 tables, 69 charts, index
$29.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-0654-1

THE IMMORTAL BOBBY
Bobby Jones and the Golden Age of Golf
RON RAPOPORT
WITH A NEW PREFACE BY THE AUTHOR
The biography of Bobby Jones, the only golfer to win the Grand Slam and a key figure in America’s Golden Age of Sports.
“Engrossing. . . . [This] book deserves a wide audience for its lively depiction of both golf and society early in the last century and for several surprising revelations about the most beloved sportsman of his day.”—John Paul Newport, Wall Street Journal
March 2021 • 366 pp. • 6 x 9 • 12 photographs, index
$24.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2495-8

PLAYING THROUGH
Modern Golf’s Most Iconic Players and Moments
JIM MORIARTY
Playing Through features informed and insightful pieces on pro golf from the early 1980s to the present from one of the game’s most respected writers.
“Any collection of Jim Moriarty’s writings on golf is reason to celebrate for any true fan of the game. He writes effortlessly about players’ trials and triumphs in a full-bodied manner that recalls the finest storytellers of the past century. Here’s one for your reading chair and library, a true perennial.”—James Dodson, author of Final Rounds and American Triumvirate
October 2016 • 288 pp. • 6 x 9
$34.95 • hardcover • 978-0-8032-7865-3
WE WANT FISH STICKS
The Bizarre and Infamous Rebranding of the New York Islanders
NICHOLAS HIRSHON
FOREWORD BY ÉRIC FICHAUD

We Want Fish Sticks tells the colorful story of the worst rebranding campaign in sports history. During three torturous seasons that were supposed to signal a return to Stanley Cup glory, the team and its fans endured the worst period in franchise history.

“There were times during the mid- to late-1990s when Barnum and Bailey had nothing on the New York Islanders. From a disastrous rebranding to ownership fiascos, they became a bad hockey joke. Thanks to Nick Hirshon’s narrative, it’s far more enjoyable to revisit today than it was to experience in real time.”—Howie Rose, television play-by-play broadcaster for the New York Islanders, 1995–2016

“A great behind-the-scenes look at one of history’s most (in)famous team designs and an excellent primer on team design in general.”—Paul Lukas, ESPN.com columnist and founder of Uni Watch

October 2020 • 312 pp. • 6 x 9 • 20 photographs, 1 appendix, index
$21.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2230-5

THE CALIFORNIA GOLDEN SEALS
A Tale of White Skates, Red Ink, and One of the NHL’s Most Outlandish Teams
STEVE CURRIER

One of pro hockey’s legendary misfires, the 1967–78 California Golden Seals were a revolving door of players, owners, and marketing missteps that made them hockey’s traveling circus.

“The Seals are remembered today as one of the most colorful outfits in hockey history. And now the whole story of hockey, chaos, and heartbreak is expertly told in Steve Currier’s The California Golden Seals, a book that shines a long-overdue spotlight on a team and a time, the likes of which we shall never see again.”—Todd Denault, author of Jacques Plante: The Man Who Changed the Face of Hockey

“This detailed history of the ill-fated and often forgotten team lets us in on everything that was right, and especially everything that was wrong with the Seals. . . . These were real men with real highs and real lows. Lots of lows. Steve Currier takes us on a great trip back in time to the NHL’s original Northern California adventure.”—Ken Reid, anchor for SportsNet and author of Hockey Card Stories

October 2020 • 498 pp. • 6 x 9 • 38 photographs, 8 illustrations, 25 tables, index
$24.95 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2228-2
DIFFERENT STROKES
Serena, Venus, and the Unfinished Black Tennis Revolution
CECIL HARRIS

Different Strokes examines how Black Americans are collectively faring in tennis, on the court and off. Despite the success of the Williams sisters and the election of former pro player Katrina Adams as the U.S. Tennis Association’s first Black president, few Black people have been hired as umpires, tournament directors, and tournament referees. The reality is that while significant progress has been made in the sport, much work remains before anything resembling true equality is achieved.

“An important contribution to sports collections.”—Brenda Barrera, Booklist

“Cecil Harris has written an exhaustive, multifaceted look at tennis through an African American lens. He expertly details how the sport—despite producing the remarkable Williams sisters—still faces struggles in overcoming its troubling history regarding Black folks.”—Deron Snyder, sports columnist for the Washington Times

February 2020 • 256 pp. • 6 x 9 • 15 photographs, index $29.95 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-1465-2

HEARTS OF LIONS
The History of American Bicycle Racing
PETER JOFFRE NYE
FOREWORD BY ERIC HEIDEN

Bike racers were the media darlings of the United States less than a century ago—dashing, eccentric, and very rich daredevils. Until the 1920s bike races drew larger crowds than any other American sports event, including Major League Baseball games. Prize-winning racer and journalist Peter Joffre Nye vividly re-creates this period of sports history through the 2016 Rio Olympics, in Hearts of Lions, a true story of courage, daring, and occasional lunacy.

“Mr. Nye’s history-rich writing has the fluid pace of a peloton coursing through the French countryside. Old stories remain as captivating today as they were decades ago. Most important, he shows how the bicycle has remained a constant despite the arrival of new protagonists and technologies.”—Michael Barry, Wall Street Journal

“Essential reading for everybody who wants to understand the USA’s long and important role in a global sport.”—Feargal McKay, Podium Café

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DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD
The Many Lives of Hemingway’s Friend, the American Matador Sidney Franklin
BART PAUL
The story of Sidney Franklin, a gay Jewish American bullfighter who triumphed over prejudice and adversity as he achieved what no American had ever accomplished, teaching Ernest Hemingway lessons in grace, machismo, and respect.

“An absorbing biography of a twentieth-century original, a confidante, lover, narcissist, and bravura performer whose capacity for suffering captured one of America’s greatest literary minds.”—Publishers Weekly

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14 photographs, 2 illustrations, index
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The Life and Times of Duke Kahanamoku
DAVID DAVIS

“A belated and bountiful tribute to this great Hawaiian’s memory.”—Wall Street Journal

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May 2018 • 354 pp. • 6 x 9 • 34 photographs, index
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Bruce Lee and the Dawn of Martial Arts in America
CHARLES RUSSO
FOREWORD BY SHANNON LEE
An early and largely unknown chapter of Bruce Lee’s career anchors this in-depth chronicle of the trailblazing martial arts scene on San Francisco Bay during the early 1960s.

“[Striking Distance] both solidifies Bruce Lee’s place in martial arts, pop culture, and history while at the same time demonstrating that there was a good reason Bruce was a walking legend in his brief time on this planet. Bravo!”—W. Kamau Bell, comic and host of CNN’s United Shades of America

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JEWISH SPORTS LEGENDS
The International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame
JOSEPH SIEGMAN
FOREWORD BY MARK SPITZ
In photos and short biographies, Jewish Sports Legends introduces famous, and not so famous, Jewish sports greats through history.

“A fine accomplishment. It’s exhaustive research into a myriad of sports, and the accompanying biographies and pictures are done first class. . . . It is an education.”—Los Angeles Times

August 2020 • 352 pp. • 8 1/2 x 11 • 446 photographs
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FROM RAILS TO TRAILS
The Making of America’s Active Transportation Network
PETER HARNIK

From Rails to Trails is the fascinating inside story of the nation’s new multiuse trail network, created out of the economic contraction of the once-mighty railroads and the political rise of the humble bicycle. Just as automobiles and trucks were rapidly coming to dominate all ground transport, grassroots activists and innovative lawyers stepped into the breach and fashioned recycled rail corridors into a whole new system of car-free transportation and recreation paths. They undergirded it with a funding mechanism to sustain it.


“Peter Harnik captures the history of a movement that has provided so many pathways for people to commute, recreate, and enjoy nature. . . . I hope this story will inspire emerging generations to recognize the rights-of-way for future projects that benefit our communities.” —Sally Jewell, former U.S. secretary of the interior and former CEO of REI

May 2021 • 288 pp. • 6 x 9 • 23 photographs, 2 illustrations, 5 maps, 19 tables, 7 graphs, index
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NEBRASKA’S BUCKS AND BULLS
The Greatest Stories of Hunting Whitetail, Mule Deer, and Elk in the Cornhusker State
JOEL W. HELMER
FOREWORD BY RANDY STUTHEIT

Nebraska’s Bucks and Bulls captures the passion and excitement of big-game hunting in Nebraska through the stories and photographs of the greatest whitetail, mule deer, and elk shot in Nebraska hunting history, from the 1940s to the present. Recounted by an avid hunter and official measurer for the Boone and Crockett Club, which created the scoring system for measuring North American big-game animals, each chapter tells the story of a buck or bull certified through official state or national records books.

“Nebraska has long been a sleeper state for big game, and this book backs up that claim with tons of facts and photos. If you’re a fan of outstanding Great Plains bucks and bulls, you need to read every page.” —Gordon Whittington, editor in chief of North American Whitetail

“Entertaining and informative, this collection of stories will serve as an important chapter in the larger story of big-game hunting in Nebraska.” —Eric Fowler, regional editor of Nebraskaland Magazine

October 2020 • 360 pp. • 6 x 9 • 87 photographs, 14 illustrations, 1 map, index
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THEODORE ROOSEVELT, NATURALIST IN THE ARENA
EDITED BY CHAR MILLER AND CLAY S. JENKINSON

Drawing on an array of approaches—biographical, ecological and environmental, literary and political—Theodore Roosevelt, Naturalist in the Arena analyzes the different elements of Roosevelt’s manifold encounters with the great outdoors.

“A marvelous job of reminding the world why Theodore Roosevelt was America’s first green president. All the essays included in this volume are first rate. A dazzling addition to Progressive Era and environmental history studies. Highly recommended!”
—Douglas Brinkley, Katherine Tsanoff Brown Chair in Humanities and professor of history, Rice University

March 2020 • 264 pp. • 6 x 9 • 31 photographs, 5 illustrations, index
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LOW MOUNTAINS OR HIGH TEA
Misadventures in Britain’s National Parks
STEVE SIEBERSON

Low Mountains or High Tea dishes up the charms and eccentricities of the British countryside as seen through the eyes of an American husband and wife who had entirely different ideas on how to spend a holiday abroad.

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—Brent Spencer, author of Rattlesnake Daddy

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Fly Fishing and Public Lands in the American West
QUINN GROVER

Wilderness of Hope explores one fly angler’s relationship with the public lands and public waterways of the American West and how those public resources complicate and enrich a conception of wildness.

“With Grover’s years of experience as a fisherman used as a jumping-off point, this book is a meditation on how interactions with the wild stay with people as they go about their lives in the modern world.”—Erin H. Turner, Big Sky Journal

September 2019 • 248 pp. • 5 ½ x 8 ½
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Outdoor Lives

IN SEARCH OF MONSTER FISH
Angling for a More Sustainable Planet
MARK SPITZER

In Search of Monster Fish investigates fourteen global fish species that are often considered hideous and dangerous. It combines an active first-person narration with credible information from the history, science, folklore, fishery management, and politics of some of the world’s most mythic creatures.

“It’s the juxtaposition of Spitzer’s thoughtful and adventurous sides that sets his book apart, making for a powerful mixture of entertaining wildlife jaunt and moving environmental advocacy.”—Publishers Weekly

June 2019 • 208 pp. • 6 x 9 • 39 photographs, 1 illustration
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SPORTS AND AGING
A Prescription for Longevity
EDITED AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
GERALD R. GEMS

In *Sports and Aging*, a wide-ranging group of physically active people, including many scholar-athletes, fifty years and older, discuss sports in the context of aging and their own athletic experiences. This collection of personal accounts includes a spectrum of contributors across genders and racial, ethnic, national, religious, social class, and educational backgrounds, to determine whether there are any common characteristics that can promote long, happy, healthy, and meaningful lifespans.

“These essays are thoughtful and reflective accounts of the lived experience of aging practitioners of sport and physical activity... [This book] will inspire others to join communities of movement, exercise, and fitness in a time when health and the communal are becoming increasingly important.”—Susan J. Bandy, professor in the Sport and Humanities Program at Ohio State University

June 2022 • 330 pp. • 6 x 9 • 6 photographs, 1 appendix, index
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ON THE SIDELINES
Gendered Neoliberalism and the American Female Sportscaster
GUY HARRISON
FOREWORD BY JULIE DICARO

On the Sidelines is an interdisciplinary examination of the current state of gender relations and representation within the U.S. electronic sports media industry, both on television and online. The sports media industry is as much a gendering space as it is a gendered space. By placing the onus on women to learn “how to deal,” the sportscasting industry is paradoxically complicit yet seemingly absolved of any responsibility for its role in the maintenance of an institution that has been historically problematic for women.

“A scholarly discussion that challenges both fans and media professionals to look inward rather than dismiss problems like online trolls, harassment, sexism and racism as simply the cost of becoming a public figure.”—Oskar Garcia, New York Times

“Harrison’s careful and detailed analysis supports the gradual (and likely contested) social construction of a new normal, one where women can flourish both on and off the sidelines.”—Rachel Allison, *Gender and Society*

August 2021 • 186 pp. • 6 x 9 • Index
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Sports, Media, and Society
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Critical Readings of the Sports Documentary
EDITED BY SAMANTHA N. SHEPPARD AND TRAVIS VOGAN

Sporting Realities is a collection that explores the sports documentary’s cultural meanings, aesthetic practices, industrial and commercial dimensions, and political contours across historical, social, medium-specific, and geographic contexts.

“The contributions to this anthology offer a critical and methodologically varied take on sport documentaries’ industrial, aesthetic, and ideological potentials. They combine detailed textual analysis with pertinent theoretical and historical reflection. Thus, they give a convincing account of both the specific formal procedures of sports documentaries and their strong entanglement with much broader dynamics, be it memorial culture, intersectionality, or branding strategies.”—Markus Stauff, coeditor of Filmgenres: Sportfilm

September 2020 • 246 pp. • 6 x 9 • Index $99.00 • hardcover • 978-1-4962-1757-8 $30.00 • paperback • 978-1-4962-2179-7
Sports, Media, and Society

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Cinema, Sports, and Nation
KATHARINA BONZEL

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“Bonzel demonstrates how and why our sense of belonging to (or marginalization within) a nation morphs over time. This book is for anyone interested in national myths, dreams, anxieties, and nightmares, as conveyed through sports films. A welcome study of a burgeoning and influential film genre!”—Chris Holmlund, professor emerita of cinema studies, women/gender/sexuality studies, and French at the University of Tennessee

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MELODY L. HOFFMANN

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AND BASEBALL
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CHARLES DEMOTTE

A social history of baseball on Chicago’s South Side in the early decades of the twentieth century, drawing on the writings of novelist James T. Farrell, along with historical sources related to baseball’s rich history in this era.

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Cycling, Cities, and the Common Good
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JAIME SCHULTZ
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DAVID NAZE
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