

Young, James V. and McClure, Arthur F., *Remembering Their Glory: Sports Heroes of the 1940's*. Cranbury, N.J.: A. S. Barnes and Company, 1977. Pp. 257. Bibliographical notes, illus., index. \$17.50.

If you enjoy lounging around someone else's den while watching *their* home movies, then you'll love this book. Authors Young and McClure have concocted a scrapbook of personal anecdotes, homologous photographs, and standard narratives of the great sports events and heroes of the 1940's in America. Their thesis is both predictable and boring: today's sports heroes are no longer heroes in the "true" sense; commercialism has outmuscled fun; and, gee, wouldn't it be nice if we could find Joe DiMaggio for Mrs. Robinson. The initial temptation to classify *Remembering Their Heroes* as history is quickly dashed when one finds not only no footnotes, but insufficient labelling of the sources that were used. But then one doesn't normally insert footnotes into a family scrapbook.

The reader is presented with pictures of both authors in boyhood garb, pictures of the authors' childhood toys and games, and pictures of other '40's-era memorabilia. These graphics are interspersed between nostalgic tales of yesteryear and an unannotated survey of some of the current pop literature on heroes and hero worship. For the latter, Young and McClure rely heavily on sportswriters such as *Sport's* Paul Hemphill and Al Silverman, *Sports Illustrated's* Bil Gilbert and Dan Jenkins, and *The Sporting News's* John Steadman and Furman Bisher. The only bright light in this muddled discussion is a brief excerpt from David Voight's

[sic] *JSH* article from the spring of 1974. They also include remarks made by author Young to a coffee-hour class at the First Congregational Church of Waterloo, Iowa: . . . The *real* heroes are too often played down or ignored. . . . The world would be better off . . . if the right heroes were emulated. . . . (p. 25.) The right heroes to emulate, according to Young and McClure, are Steve Garvey and Roger Staubach. The fact that Staubach punched out rival quarterback Clint Longley in the Dallas Cowboy locker room apparently should be admired by us all. Blacks are given scant coverage, even in the section on baseball: . . . in 1947, [Jackie] Robinson responded *admirably not only as a gentleman* [my italics] but also by leading the NL with thirty-nine stolen bases. . . . (p. 51.) Besides baseball, the authors cover track and field, football, and basketball in depth. They barely touch upon golf, tennis, hockey, and other seemingly “minor” sports. The real meat of the book is to be found in chapters 1 and 7. Unfortunately, this inverted sandwich effect is meager in its analysis. The discussion of heroes in literature, the need for heroes at all, and the section on why sport should concern the social scientist are much too brief, undocumented, and cursory.

The book fills a nice gap in a certain sense. There is little in the way of primary (or secondary, for that matter) sources having to do with sport during World War II and/or the 1940’s. However, this first venture into sports by both authors (who both teach at Central Missouri State University) is merely a coffee table scrapbook that is of little use to sports historians.

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