

VI. Baseball

VI-1 Altherr, Thomas L. "The Most Summery, Bold, Free & Spacious Game: Charles King Newcomb and Philadelphia Baseball, 1866-1871," *Pennsylvania History*, 52, No. 2 (April 1985), 69-85.

The author, based on the writings of Charles King Newcomb, a Philadelphia man of letters, offers an interesting perspective on early organized baseball in America. He described Philadelphia area baseball during the late 1860s, a period in baseball history that rarely attracted the interests of mid-nineteenth century intellectuals. The numerous baseball references found in his twenty-nine volume journal add historical insight into the social and cultural changes in post-Civil War America and in Philadelphia. Based on primary and secondary works; 90 notes.

—Dennis Booher

VI-2 Benswager, William E. "Professional Baseball in Pittsburgh," *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*, 30, No. 1 (May-June 1947), 9-14.

The information in this article was initially presented at a meeting of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania in December, 1946. Although the author erroneously states some information, the paper does present an interesting chronological history of

professional baseball in Pittsburgh from 1876-1946, including highlights about Billy Sunday, Connie Mack, Honus Wagner, Joe Cronin, and Al Lopez. No notes.

—Dennis Booher

VI-3 Jones, Terry. "Foul Ball in the Front Office: Racial Practices in Baseball Management," *The Black Scholar*, No. 3 (1987), 16-24.

The author analyzes race relations in American baseball since the integration of blacks in 1947. He concludes that overt and covert racism, the "old boy" network, white prejudice, and informal procedures for recruitment, hiring, and promotion impeded blacks' entrance into managerial roles in baseball and other sports. Based on primary and secondary works; 21 notes.

—Linda Williams

VI-4 Kirsch, George B. "Baseball Spectators, 1855-1870," *Baseball History*, 2 (Fall 1987), 4-20.

This article provides interesting historical and sociological perspectives of spectators at early baseball games. Kirsch examines the various factions that comprised the baseball audiences of the time including women, gamblers, and rowdies. The influence of paid admission on spectators behavior and fan support through ethnic affiliations are also discussed. The article not only examines the composition of the crowds but also the reasons for attending and supporting teams at early baseball games. Based on primary and secondary sources; 56 notes; one photograph.

—Jim Olson

VI-5 Noble, Richard E. "Saving Face: The Genesis of the Catcher's Mask," *Baseball History*, 2 (Fall 1987), 45-49.

Noble's article documents the development of the catcher's "tools of ignorance." While brief mention is made of the development and introduction of several pieces of equipment, particular attention is given to the catcher's mask. The history of protective equipment is traced through the genesis and the introduction of the catcher's mask into the game of baseball. The historical controversy regarding the invention of the catcher's mask is also addressed and resolved in the article. Based on primary and secondary sources; 22 notes; one photograph.

—Jim Olson

VI-6 Ruck, Rob. "Black Sandlot Baseball: The Pittsburgh Crawfords," *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*, 66, No. 1 (January 1983), 49-68.

Initially, sandlot referred to the field of play, but early in the twentieth century sandlot became synonymous with independent baseball. As professional teams organized, baseball became a business. Yet during the 1920s, the number of non-professional teams, black and white, continued to grow. Although most of the teams in the Pittsburgh area sandlots were made up of white players, one team, the Crawfords, will be remembered for its baseball prowess and interracial origin. Based on primary and secondary works; 32 notes; 8 photographs.

—Dennis Booher

VI-7 Society for American Baseball Research, *The National Pastime-Special Pictorial Issue: The Dead Ball Era*. Manhattan, Kansas: Ag Press, Spring 1986.

This special issue celebrates baseball's Dead Ball Era, 1901-1919. Over 200 rare photographs with written text serve to illustrate one of the most colorful eras of

baseball. This pictorial retrospect offers images of players, teams, events, and artifacts as well as an historical insight into the game of baseball during this time period.

—Jim Olson

VI-8 Society for American Baseball Research, *The National Pastime-Special Pictorial Issue: The 19th Century*. Manhattan, Kansas: Ag Press, Spring 1984.

This entire issue of the *National Pastime* offers an historical glimpse into 19th century baseball. Some 275 pictures of players, teams, events, and artifacts document the development and rise of baseball during its infancy. Written text describes the photographs while keeping them in historical perspective. Research into this collection of rare photographs is extensive and affords the reader an opportunity to gain insight into the development of the game of baseball.

—Jim Olson

VI-9 Summers, Jim L. "The North Carolina State Professional Baseball League of 1902," *The North Carolina Historical Review*, Vol. 64, No. 3 (July 1987), 247-273.

The North Carolina State Professional Baseball League of 1902, comprised of "Class D" teams in Charlotte, Raleigh, Durham, Greensboro, New Bern, and Wilmington, folded after 10 weeks due to lack of fan support, but laid the groundwork for later, more successful leagues. A rigid salary limit and governance by young men of distinction failed to compensate for the imbalance in team competitiveness, the performances and treatment of umpires, and a high turnover in managers and players. Based on primary and secondary sources; 76 notes; 13 photographs.

—Angela Lumpkin