

### III. Baseball

III-1 Bluthardt, Robert F. "Fenway Park and the Golden Age of the Baseball Park," *Journal of Popular Culture*, (Summer 1987), 43-52.

The author discusses new and reconstructed ballparks of 1909-1915 that reflected urbanization of the game. These parks were built from concrete and steel to eliminate fear of fire, while increased seating capacity required new methods of crowd control. Although more impersonal, these parks provided players and fans greater comfort. These permanent structures gave teams a sense of stability. All but four parks have been replaced by modern super-structures. Based on primary and secondary works; 37 notes.

—Cathy Buell

III-2 Franks, Joel. "Sweeney of San Francisco: A Local Boy Makes Good, Then Not So Good," *Baseball History*, 2, No. 4 (Winter 1987/1988), 52-62.

Charley Sweeney, the first native Californian to achieve stardom in big league baseball and a product of the early California Baseball League, was an established pitcher when Providence offered him a contract. Sweeney's glory year in 1884 was followed by several substandard years with various ball clubs, a passion for the bottle, and an eventual conviction for manslaughter. This article not only traces his career but

provides a glimpse at the early history of baseball in the Golden State. Based on primary and secondary sources; 33 notes; no photographs.

—Jim Olson

III-3 Holway, John B. "Louis Van Zelst in the Age of Magic," *The National Pastime*, 2, No. 1(1983), 30-33.

This article explores the strong relationship between superstition and early baseball. Specifically examined are the use of mascots such as the Philadelphia Athletics' hunchbacked Louis Van Zelst, the New York Giant's visionary Charles Victory Faust, and fetishes by Boston Braves' manager George Stallings. Individual season and World Series performances are used to illustrate the fact that many early ballplayers ascribed equal weight to superstition and skill in determining victory. Based on primary and secondary sources; no notes; no photographs.

—Jim Olson

III-4 Murphy, J. M. "Napoleon Lajoie: Modern Baseball's First Superstar." *The National Pastime*, 7, No. 1 (Spring 1988), 1-79.

This special biographical issue chronicles the life of one of baseball's forgotten stars, Napoleon Lajoie. Truly one of the game's all-time great players and as Murphy argues, modern baseball's first superstar, Hall of Famer Lajoie has been all but forgotten save for hardcore baseball fans and historians. Larry Lajoie's contributions to baseball as a player and manager are well documented in this book length issue of *The National Pastime*. Based on primary and secondary sources; no note; 56 photographs.

—Jim Olson

III-5 Plasketes, George M. "The Rebel Hero in Baseball: Bill 'Spaceman' Lee in an Orbit All His Own," *Journal of Popular Culture*, (Summr 1987), 121-139.

The author attempts to categorize former baseball player Bill Lee as a rebel hero, one characterized by a vitality for life but also opposed to the dominant culture. Lee, baseball's "flake of flakes," did not fit as corporate baseball became less tolerant of his nonconformist approach to the game. He rebelled against the corruption of the game, society, humans, and the earth. A rebel hero, he provided society with an idealized image of itself. Based on primary and secondary works; 19 notes.

—Cathy Buell

III-6 Suehsdorf, A. D. "Too Much Johnson," *Baseball History*, 2, No. 4 (Winter 1987/1988), 32-51.

This article tracks the baseball career of Walter Johnson between 1905-1907. In Southern California, Johnson played variously with Fullerton Union High School, the Olinda "Oil Wells," and other teams in Anaheim and Santa Ana. Rejecting an offer from the Los Angeles Angels of the Pacific Coast League, Johnson signed with Weiser of the Idaho State League for whom he starred for two seasons before joining the Washington Senators. Based on primary and secondary sources; 22 notes; 3 photographs.

—Jim Olson