

"Beyond the Box Score: New Resources for Sport History." *Chicago Historical Society, Clark Street at North Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, December 19, 1990-August 18, 1991.* Corey Seeman, exhibit curator.

This exhibit challenges sport historians to look "beyond the box score" of old newspapers to derive new interpretations. More recent scholarly works have done so; nevertheless, the point is well made that much is yet to be done, and the sources are available.

Faced with space and budget limitations, curator Corey Seeman chose to focus primarily on professional sports and industrial recreation programs by utilizing primary materials from the Chicago Historical Society collections. Suitably displayed outside the entry to the research library, the exhibit demonstrates the range of available resources at the institution by incorporating sculpture, manuscripts, prints and photos.

Nineteenth century American and German baseball statuettes are featured from the sculpture collection, while the manuscripts provide a wealth of material. A coroner's report on the death of a spectator provides new information that might be used to construct a profile of early patrons. A Civil War diary and correspondence with Judge Landis, William Wrigley, and Bill Veeck give insights into the meaning of baseball in American culture. Transcripts of radio broadcasts with sport themes indicate the power of media to shape societal values. Approximately half of the exhibit pertains to baseball, and includes excerpts from Claude Barnett's Associated Negro Press Collection on desegregation. Other resources include local community council records concerning lights at Wrigley Field. Another showcase highlights the 1927 Dempsey-Tunney fight with the scrapbook and accounts of George Getz, the local promoter for Tex Rickard. The account book shows a \$1 000,000 guarantee to Tunney; while other materials show fan petitions to overturn the "long count" verdict. Industrial recreation materials include photos of company and union teams, as well as union correspondence that caused Gabby Hartnett to retract his endorsement of a foreign product and the NFL Players' Association alliance with the AFL-CIO.

This small, but fascinating exhibit achieves its purpose. It provides intriguing vignettes and whets the appetite for much more. The final wall mounting includes a helpful index of archival materials at the Chicago Historical Society useful to sport historians. Substantial baseball materials include the Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis papers, William Wrigley papers, the Bill Veeck tapes, team records of the Cubs and the 1850s Olympics, and records of the Negro-American Baseball League. The archives contain the personal papers and records of many other influential sports figures, teams, and agencies that made Chicago their home or headquarters.

The index is impressive and beneficial to those engaged in both local and national research; but even it belies the true depth and scope of the society's resources. Its photo collection is outstanding, while manuscripts cover the range of leisure pursuits from pre-modern pioneers to recent urban issues. The development of parks, playgrounds, settlements, social-athletic clubs, the

YMCA and interscholastic athletics can be examined in extensive annual records. The society also contains strong collections of local and ethnic histories. For those who would rather not look “beyond the box score,” old newspaper collections are available. No brochures on the various collections are currently available, but an extremely helpful staff provides assistance.

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Jerry Gems