
Journal Surveys

I. North America

I-1 ANDERSON, WILLIAM M. "Ozzie Virgil Breaks the Color Barrier with the Detroit Tigers." *Michigan History*, 81, no. 6 (November/December 1997), 46-53.

The Detroit Tigers baseball club was one of the last major league teams to integrate. Owner Walter Briggs claimed he could not find any good black players. The black press pressured the Tigers to integrate and inspired a letter writing campaign from the black community. In 1958, the Tigers made Ozzie Virgil, originally from the Dominican Republic, their first black player. Virgil was treated well by fans and teammates. Based on primary and secondary sources, no notes.

—David Welky

I-2 BACON, JOHN U. "He Ain't Gentle, But He's a Real Gentleman." *Michigan History*, 81, no. 6 (November/December 1997), 11-15.

Joe Louis's skill and sportsmanship made him an American hero and boxing respectable during the 1930s and 1940s. Louis rose from an Alabama sharecropping family to become one of America's most popular heavyweight champions. To avoid racial incidents, he fought cleanly and never smiled when he knocked out a white opponent. Louis's knockout of German fighter Max Schmeling in 1938 proved to Americans that they did not have to back down from any foreign threat. No notes.

—David Welky

I-3 BOWMAN, LARRY G. "Detroit's First World Champions." *Michigan History*, 81, no. 6 (November/December 1997), 40-45.

After several baseball teams failed in the Northeast during the 1870s, the National League began placing teams in Midwestern cities. The new Detroit Wolverines struggled before winning their first pennant in 1887. That year they played the St. Louis Browns in a fifteen-game exhibition tour to determine the World's Champion. In following years, teams played shorter series in their home parks to draw larger crowds and save expenses. Based on secondary sources, no notes.

—David Welky

I-4 CAIN, DAVID. "1996: The Year of the Whiffled Ball," *The Baseball Research Journal*, no. 26 (1997), 85-88.

The 1996 Detroit Tigers amassed 1,268 strikeouts, breaking the season mark of 1,203 by the 1968 New York Mets. Nineteen of the 28 major-league teams struck out more than 1,000 times, bettering the 1991 mark of eight teams. Both the American League and National League set strikeout records in 1966. In 1996, eight major league teams fanned more than 1,100 times. The American Leaguers struck out 14,056 times, breaking the 1987 record of 13,442. The National Leaguers struck out 15,253 times, breaking the 1993 record of 13,358.

—Larry S. Bonura

I-5 COLEMAN, ANNIE GILBERT. "The Unbearable Whiteness of Skiing." *Pacific Historical Review*, 65, no. 4 (November 1996), 583-614.

With the development of ski resorts in the American west in the 1930s and 1940s, European techniques, instructors, fashions, architecture, and food were emphasized, thus keeping the slopes white. Only in recent years with the founding of the African American National Brotherhood of Skiers and the opening of ski areas such as Ski Apache, run by the Mescalero Apaches, has color and ethnic diversity appeared in American skiing. Based on primary and secondary sources. Fifty-one notes, eight illustrations.

—Lynne Emery

I-6 CROUSE, GREG. "Cutting Across the Grain." *The Baseball Research Journal*, no. 26 (1997), 21-23.

In 1991, Cleveland's 27-year-old left-handed pitcher, Eric Bell, had a 4-0 record, giving him the best record of undefeated pitchers on 100-loss teams since 1901. The first pitcher to be undefeated on a 100-loss team was 20-year-old left-hander Floyd (Rube) Kroh, who won the only game he pitched for the 1906 Boston Americans. This article has a chart of 53 pitchers who have at least one win during an undefeated season for one of the 118 teams that lost 100 or more games.

—Larry S. Bonura

I-7 DRAEGER, CAREY L. "Girls of Summer." *Michigan History*, 81, no. 6 (November/December 1997), 16-20.

The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League was formed in 1942 by Philip K. Wrigley. Wrigley hoped to keep fan interest in baseball alive while major leaguers were off fighting in World War II. The AAGPBL became popular in the Midwest and often outdrew men's semipro teams. The League folded in 1954 when major league baseball rebounded and began to be shown on television. Based on primary and secondary sources, no notes.

—David Welky

I-8 KRAH, STEVE. "The Limestone League." *The Baseball Research Journal*, no. 26 (1997), 118-121.

Because of travel restrictions during World War II, all major league teams were forced to conduct spring training in the north. Six clubs—the Chicago Cubs, Chicago White Sox, Cincinnati Reds, Cleveland Indians, Detroit Tigers, and Pittsburgh Pirates—were in Indiana in 1943-1945. They formed an informal circuit that came to be called the Limestone League. This article discusses these teams at spring training during the war years. Includes a list of the regulars and which players were WWII veterans.

—Larry S. Bonura

I-9 HEATON, JR., EUGENE E. and HEATON, ALAN W. "World Series Versus Career Batting," *The Baseball Research Journal*, no. 26 (1997), 63-65.

This article asks, "Do hitters hit as well in the fall?" How do batters' World Series performances compare with their career batting records? The authors compare World Series from 1903-1989. They use the total production average: sum the total number of bases resulting from the batter's hits, add bases on balls, runs scored, and runs batted in (minus home runs, to avoid double-counting), and divide that sum by number of plate appearances (at-bats plus walks). The result: There is about a 10 percent decline in batting average.

—Larry S. Bonura

I-10 HILLMAN, JOHN. "Baseball's Perfect Hitters." *The Baseball Research Journal*, no. 26 (1997), 102-103.

In the history of baseball, only 64 players have retired with perfect batting marks. The majority garnered a solitary single in a solo at-bat. Eleven of this group of 64 had doubles, four gained triples, and one had a home run. Through 1995, eight men bettered their one-for-one counterparts. Seven achieved a two-for-two lifetime mark, and one (John Paciorek for the Houston Colt .45's) reigns supreme at three-for-three.

—Larry S. Bonura

I-11 MATINALE, KENNETH. "50, Count 'Em, 50!" *The Baseball Research Journal*, no. 26 (1997), 46-49.

The 15 players who have 50 home runs in a season did so only 23 times through 1997. Matinale presents the 50 home-run-club members and discusses who fared best in other batting categories during that 50 home-run year: Babe Ruth has the most runs, 177; Jimmie Foxx, the most hits, 213; Albert Belle, the most doubles, 52; Ruth, the most triples, 16; Hack Wilson, the most RBIs, 190; Ruth, the most walks, 148. Only seven times did a 50-homer individual strike out 100 times. Ruth also hit 50 home runs in a season four times.

—Larry S. Bonura

I-12 MILLER, RAY. "Great Clouds." *The Baseball Research Journal*, no. 26 (1997), 68-73.

Miller looks at the top home-run performances in America's classic ballparks: Baker Bowl (1895-1938), Braves Field (1915-1952), Comiskey Park (1910-1991), Crosley Field (1912-1970), Ebbets Field (1913-1957), Fenway Park (1912-present), Forbes Field (1909-1971), Griffith Stadium (1911-1961), League Park (1910-1946), Polo Grounds (1911-1957), Shibe Park (1909-1952), Sportsman's Park (1909-1953), Tiger's Stadium (1912-Present), Wrigley Field (1914-present), and Yankee Stadium (1923-present). Includes a bibliography,

—Larry S. Bonura

I-13 NACK, WILLIAM. "The Long Count." *Sports Illustrated*, 87, no. 12 (September 22, 1997), 72-87.

Reflecting on the 70th anniversary of the 1927 Dempsey-Tunney fight, William Nack argues that it was the jewel of the golden age of sports. Some 50 million people heard the broadcast as the referee gave Tunney an extra five seconds to recover when he went down in the seventh round. Tunney rebounded and won a tenth-round decision. Although he failed to regain the heavyweight title he lost to Tunney the year before, the fight made Dempsey a national hero.

—Rich Loosbrock

I-14 HILLIARD, ROBERT T. "Caged Perfection: The Story of Pittsburgh's South Side Basketball Team." *Pittsburgh History*, 80, no. 4 (Winter 1997/98), 132-141.

The only professional team in Pittsburgh to achieve an undefeated season (20-0 in 1903/04) the South Side basketball team played to capacity crowds against opponents from college, all-star, and independent teams. One innovative player, Henry Liebau, may have been the first to use the hook shot. The South Siders disbanded with the demise of the Central League in 1912. Based on primary and secondary sources, includes illustrations, 46 notes.

—Susan Hamburger

I-15 PESCH, RONALD D. "Women on the Court: How Title IX Changed High School Sports." *Michigan History*, 81, no. 6 (November/December 1997), 59-63.

In Michigan, girls' high school basketball may actually predate boys basketball. Girls' basketball remained popular through the 1920s but was cut from most schools during the Great Depression. The sport reemerged on a small scale during the 1960s. Girls' basketball grew after the passage of Title IX in 1973, the year of the first Women's Michigan state tournament. Today, women's basketball is becoming more popular, expanding to both collegiate and professional leagues. Based on primary and secondary sources, no notes.

—David Welky

I-16 RILEY, JAMES A., PARDON, JOHN F., and SMITH, III, JAMES D. "Chet Hoff at 106." *The Baseball Research Journal*, no. 26 (1997), 74-76.

At 106, Chet Hoff is the oldest living ex-major league ballplayer. He also holds the all-time record for longevity among ex-major leaguers. He began his

playing career with the New York Highlanders of the American League in 1911. Includes photos.

—Larry S. Bonura

I-17 SOIFER, PAUL. "A Tale of Two Women: Babe Didrikson, Lillian Copeland, and the Women's Discus at the 1932 Olympic Games." *Southern California Quarterly*, 78, no. 3 (Fall 1996), 243-256.

The fact that she did not qualify in the discus for the 1932 Olympic Games seemed to rankle Babe Didrikson as late as twenty years after the event. The brash, boastful Didrikson contrasted with the well-liked, respected, elder stateswoman Lillian Copeland who won the event. To prove her prowess, Didrikson entered a post-Olympic meet in the discus, placing second but with a toss longer than Copeland's gold medal throw. Based on primary and secondary sources, 33 notes, five photos.

—Lynne Emery

I-18 SULECKI, JERRY. "Baseball's 'Iron Men.'" *The Baseball Research Journal*, no. 26 (1997), 17-20.

Of the 31 ballplayers who have played more than 500 consecutive games, eight patrolled center field and 19 have been infielders: six first basemen, five shortstops, five second basemen, and three third basemen. Only two left fielders and one right fielder make the list. No catcher has ever accomplished this number. Only six players have played in more than 1,000 consecutive games: Cal Ripkin, Jr. (2,315+), Lou Gehrig (2,130), Everett Scott (1,307), Steve Garvey (1,207), Billy Williams (1,117), and Joe Sewell (1,103). No notes.

—Larry S. Bonura

I-19 SWANK, WILLIAM G. and SMITH, III, JAMES D. "This Was Paradise: Voices of the Pacific Coast League Padres, 1936-1958." *Journal of San Diego History*, 41, no. 1 (Winter 1995), 2-35.

Organized in 1903, the Pacific Coast League was the West Coast's version of major league baseball until 1958 when the Dodgers and Giants moved west. The San Diego Padres began in 1936 and many well-known athletes played for the franchise. Oral histories from 27 players representing each year and every position on the team are edited here and include players such as Bobby Doerr, Ted Williams, Jimmy Reese, Bob Lemon, and Rudy Regalado. Based on oral histories, no notes, 35 photos.

—Lynne Emery

I-20 VAUGHN, GRAHAM and GUERIN, BERNARD. "A Neglected Innovator in Sports Psychology: Norman Triplett and the Early History of Competitive Performance." *The International Journal of the History of Sport*, 14, no. 2 (August 1997), 82-99.

Norman Triplett, often incorrectly linked with social facilitation, was actually a pioneer in sports psychology. A cyclist himself, Triplett studied the causes of time differences in paced and unpaced cycling trials. He explored the social

consequences of competition, encouragement, and other “dymanogenic” factors. The incorrect association with a social facilitation paradigm was likely due to his mentor. His work of 1898 on social and performance effects on competition awaits contemporary reproduction and advancement. Based on primary and secondary sources, 38 notes.

—*Samuel J. Katz*

I-21 WAMSLEY, KEVIN B. “Nineteenth Century Sports Tours, State Formation, and Canadian Foreign Policy,” *Sporting Traditions*, 13, no. 2 (May 1997), 73-89.

Article examines how various sports in nineteenth century Canada were utilized as a cultural signifier in the process of creating the idea of the “national” in Canada. Sporting relations are viewed as having played an important part in the development of Canadian foreign policy in the immediate post-Confederation period. Based on primary and secondary sources, 48 notes.

—*Brabam Dabsbeck*

I-22 WATERMAN, Guy. “Isolated Amnesia,” *The Baseball Research Journal*, no. 26 (1997), 6-7.

“Isolated amnesia” is Sabremetric that takes singles plus walks only and divides them by at-bats plus walks. Ground rules: twentieth century careers only and a minimum of 1,000 games played. The result, also called the table-setting index, identifies baseball players who could not loft a ball on the fly past second base very often but who got on base consistently to give the strong hitters some RBI-bait. The top five are Roy Thomas (.382), Ted Williams (.366), Max Bishop (.364), Ferris Fain (.362), and Eddie Collins (.362). No notes.

—*Larry S. Bonura*