

Journal Surveys

I. North America

I-1 MASON, DANIEL. "Professional Sports Facilities and Developing Urban Communities: Vancouver's Recreation Park, 1905-1912." *Urban History Review*, 26, No. 1 (October 1997), 43-51.

In the first decade of the twentieth century, Vancouver was booming. In 1905 several Vancouver businessmen leased some downtown land from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and built Recreation Park. Professional baseball and lacrosse clubs were the major tenants, although other sports organizations also used the facility. In 1912 the CPR decided not to renew the lease because downtown land was becoming too valuable. New facilities had to be found by the tenants. Ironically, land values crashed in 1913 and the old Recreation Park site was still a vacant lot in the late 1930s. Based on primary and secondary sources, 131 notes.

—*Morris Mott*

I-2 FUCHS, ALFRED H. "Psychology and 'The Babe.'" *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, 34, no. 2 (Spring 1998), 153-165.

An early example of the convergence of sport and the science of psychology occurred in 1921 when baseball legend Babe Ruth performed a series of laboratory tests at Columbia University. The analysis included an evaluation of reaction time, memory and learning, coordination, steadiness, and tapping speed. Two Columbia University psychologists administered the tests. The results, however, were written and published by sportswriter Hugh Fullerton in *Popular Science Monthly*, which calls into question the test's scientific merit. 69 notes.

—*Alison M. Wrynn*

I-3 BEVIS, CHARLIE. "Family Baseball Teams." *The Baseball Research Journal*, no. 26 (1997), 8-11.

The Madden brothers team of 1876 was one of the first documented family baseball teams, that is teams composed only of siblings. In 1890, the Lennon Brothers Nine of Joliet, Ill., gained fame as a family baseball team. A team of Thompson brothers from Winchester, N.H., played from 1896 to 1899. Other family units included the Birkenmeyer Baseball team from Wappinger Falls, N.Y. In the 1920s there were the Skillicorns, Flanagans, Fredericksons, and Simons.

In the 1930s, there were the Haas brothers, Coombs, Curleys, the Bevis brothers, and the May brothers. The Acerra brothers were one of the last family baseball groups starting in 1938 and ending in 1947. Includes a bibliography.

—Larry S. Bonura

I-4 ASHWORTH, MARY; COSTA, GABRIEL; EDMISTON, DALE; FOX, WILLIAM; HUBER, MICHAEL; ROGINSKI, JONATHON; AND WHITE, EMETT. "Percentage of Extra-Base Hits." *The Baseball Research Journal*, no. 26 (1997), 12-16.

The authors use the percentage of extra-base hits (PXBH) to describe a player's power. The PXBH is a player's number of base hits divided by his total number of hits. This statistic shows the hitter's potential to influence the game offensively. The top five career extra-base hits leaders are Hank Greenberg (.4797), Babe Ruth (.4720), Mike Schmidt (.4543), Dave Kingman (.4489), and Lou Gehrig (.4373). There are three tables: career extra-base hits leaders, PXBH leaders for individual seasons, and PXBH leaders.

—Larry S. Bonura

I-5 BJARKMAN, PETER C. "The Real World Series." *The Baseball Research Journal*, no. 26 (1997), 28-29.

The real World Series is the Olympics, the author claims, because it's global in more than name alone. Several lessons emerge from the 1996 Olympics: (a) Cuba's diamond dynasty is alive and very well indeed—defections and all, (b) the United States no longer measures up in international competitions, (c) the spectacle of big-league-level baseball played with aluminum bats in major league parks is not at all the sham that traditionalists have long decried, and (d) the Olympic baseball games generate plenty of excitement and joy without noisome trappings and promotions. Includes photo of Omar Ajete.

—Larry S. Bonura

I-6 SALGANIK, MATTHEW. "RBI Efficiency." *The Baseball Research Journal*, no. 26 (1997), 34-36.

RBI efficiency is the ratio of a player's actual RBI total to his expected RBI total, where expected RBI total is defined as the number of RBIs the average player in the league would have earned batting in the same situations. The difficulty comes when calculating a player's expected RBI total. This is resolved by using a method that takes a set of plate appearances and yields the number of RBIs that the average player would have produced in those plate appearances. This method takes three factors into account: the number and location of base runners, the number of outs, and the stadium. Includes 13 tables.

—Larry S. Bonura

I-7 BOYNTON, BOB. "Are 'One-Run' Games Special." *The Baseball Research Journal*, no. 26 (1997), 38-43.

Games decided by a single run constituted about 25 percent of those played in the American League in 1995. The author concludes that an analysis of the distribution of runs scored during the 1995 American League season fails to reveal any evidence to support the idea that one-run games have a special significance. Rather, the scores of these closest games appear to result from a random process that applies to baseball scores in general. Includes a bibliography, four figures, and six tables.

—Larry S. Bonura