

held that baseball was a game for elite gentlemen (47), and that American Jockey Club members were all high-ranking gentlemen (48). Adelman (*A Sporting Time*, 80) was actually citing a contemporary source that was referring to the Saratoga Association. Mayo also neglects the role of the English gentry and their country life as providing a model for American elite sportsmen, though he does point out the interest in country living, spas, and wilderness camps, which seems a stretch.

Mayo should have devoted more attention to the social history of country clubs. He does not give much consideration to their social functions, and gives insufficient coverage to issues like racism and discrimination. There is no mention at all of the Augusta National GC. Mayo makes good use of contemporary magazine articles, but otherwise relies too heavily on secondary sources.

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Becker, Carl M. *Home and Away: The Rise and Fall of Professional Football on the Banks of the Ohio, 1919-1934*. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1998. Pp. xvii + 367. Illustrated. Notes, bibliography, appendix, index. \$36.95 cb; \$19.95 pb.

Carl Becker chronicles the origins, development, and demise of three professional football teams located in Ohio River communities during the years 1919 to 1934. The most famous of these teams was the Portsmouth, Ohio Spartans, which in 1934 became the Detroit Lions. All three teams were located in small industrial cities—Ironton, Ashland, and Portsmouth—that reflected the small town values and boosterism satirized so ably by Sinclair Lewis in his novel *Babbitt* (1922).

Becker reports that the Ironton Tanks were initially organized by local football players following World War I, and became a source of pride to the town's working-class people, businessmen, and professionals. While the Ironton Tanks became the focus of local boosterism, they resisted the temptation to join the National Football League, although they built a stadium, recruited college all-stars, hired a well-known coach, and played NFL teams. The Ashland [Kentucky] Armcos were sponsored by the American Rolling Mill Company, which operated a steel mill in that city. Like so many early professional and semiprofessional football and basketball teams, the Ashland Armcos were underwritten by a large employer for advertising, bragging rights, and the benefit of employee relations. While industrial teams such as the Decatur Staleys, the Philips Sixty-Sixers, and the Green Bay Packers became "big league" teams, it was much more common for industrial teams to rise and fall with the generation that started them. This was the case with the Ashland Armcos. But the businessmen who sponsored and promoted their community through the Portsmouth Spartans risked and lost everything, except the glory of nearly being champions of the National Football League.

The post-World War I period was a renaissance for small cities in America. It was a time when the residents of small towns and cities felt social isolation was disappearing due to the automobile and improving roads. Moreover, it was also a time when most business-

men felt that their fortunes would rise through community growth. There was a feeling that every city could be a bigger city, to the profit of all. Stable, intimate personal relationships were still cultivated and maintained as the lifeblood of business and social life. While friendships and family networks still were the hallmark of small town life, “get rich” dreams were being fueled by speculation in stocks and real estate. *Home and Away* explores the link between community boosterism and professional football during the 1920s and the early depression years.

The rise of professional football came late to backwaters of the Ohio River. Teams in other Ohio Valley communities, such as Cincinnati, Dayton, Lebanon, Wellston, and West Carrollton, had been playing football for pay fully ten years before the Ironton Tanks and the Portsmouth Smoke House teams were formed. Untempered optimism pushed Ironton and Portsmouth to seek glory where more experienced community leadership, in other parts of the state, had already looked without much success. Professional sport is a business whose expenses are limited by their potential income. When a booster mentality overrides calm business calculations regarding limits on potential income and expense, the enterprise is doomed to failure. No amount of advertising and ballyhoo can save the day.

Home and Away seeks to be more than a history of three nearly forgotten small market professional football teams during the formative years of the National Football League. It seeks to tell how three communities unsuccessfully sought to use professional sports to promote community pride and regional economic growth. By and large, Becker achieves his goal. *Home and Away* reflects credible primary research, and is generally easy reading. His study of semiprofessional and professional football during the Roaring Twenties also is more than just a collection of anecdotes from aging athletes. While anecdotal retrospectives are often colorful and fun to read, they are frequently inaccurate and misleading. Because Professor Becker avoids this false trail and correctly pursues a more fruitful path, his book is a useful contribution to the history of professional football. His book even has a contemporary message for communities bent on building stadiums at public expense to promote downtown business revivals.

Where the book falters is in how it relates to the broader trends in professional and semiprofessional football, and to the overall cultural milieu of the era. There was an apparent willingness on the part of teams like the Chicago Bears and the Green Bay Packers to encourage small market teams, such as Portsmouth, to join the league, even when NFL promoters knew (or should have known) that communities of that size could not sustain success. In addition, existing NFL teams forced small market franchises to accept schedules that were certain to doom them. The book would have benefitted by pursuing of this line of inquiry, as it could shed important new light on the precarious rise of the NFL.

The book also would have benefitted from establishing a more complete picture of the status of professional and semiprofessional football during the 1920s and early 1930s. For example, how many professional and semiprofessional teams flourished in Ohio and across the nation? On average, how costly were they to operate! How stable were these teams? To what extent did semipro teams recruit players beyond their home community? What was the effect of radio on semipro football? Answers to these questions would help judge the relative importance of what was happening into the three target teams in the Ohio River Valley.

Although there were some additional areas of inquiry I would like to have seen explored, *Home and Away* is a solid football history. Its contribution to our understanding of professional football in the 1920s and early depression years is significant. I urge football fans, sports historians, local history buffs, and cultural historians to read this book.

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Carroll, John M., *Red Grange and the Rise of Modern Football*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1999. Pp. ix + 265. Illustrated. Notes, index. \$25.95 cb.

Who is the most remembered college football player of the twentieth century? A strong case could be made for Harold “Red” Grange, whose story is ably constructed by John M. Carroll in *Red Grange and the Rise of Modern Football*. This volume by Carroll, a Lamar University history professor, is his second and the twenty-ninth in the University of Illinois Press “Sport and Society” series. It begins with probably the most dramatic personal performance in college football history: Grange’s scoring four touchdowns in the first 12 minutes against Michigan’s 1924 team that had a 20-game undefeated streak. That game made Grange a national figure, catapulting him into mythological status on a level with Notre Dame coach Knute Rockne, whose backfield of the “Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse” had been created by sportswriter Grantland Rice the same day Grange starred against Michigan.

Carroll tells an engaging story that is both readable and scholarly. He chronicles, with well-chosen photos, Grange’s life from his birth in Pennsylvania to his boyhood in Wheaton, Illinois, to his football career at Illinois and with the Chicago Bears, and to his film career in Hollywood and his radio and TV sport announcing. More than this, Carroll places Grange’s career in historical context, explaining why, for example, Grange could make such an athletic impact in the 1920s and financially exploit his success following his achievements at Illinois. We learn of Grange’s strong-willed chief-of-police father, of tough Illinois coach Robert Zuppke, and of sport promoter “Cash and Carry” Pyle (who would bring French tennis star, Suzanne Lenglen to tour America and who would sponsor a Los Angeles to New York City footrace, the Bunion Derby). We acquire an understanding of stadium-

building in the 1920s, of conflicts intensified by Grange between professional and college football, of the place of Grange and professional football before television, and of how Grange played and scored the only touchdown in the NFL’s first playoff game. We also see Grange, like today’s football elites, loving fast and expensive cars, and—when given the opportunity—starring in Hollywood movies such as *One Minute to Play* and *Racing Romeo*. In Hollywood, Grange would meet such luminaries as Joseph P. Kennedy, father of the Kennedy clan, and Adolphe Menjou, the actor. The reader also learns about his late career in the insurance business and his expansive radio and TV football announcing that began in the mid-30s and lasted until the late 60s.

Carroll may be at his best when he discusses the myths that have developed around