

struck out Johnny Mize with the bases loaded under the intense pressure of a World Series. Mantle argues through these stories that courage is the ability to handle adversity with grace. The most courageous man Mantle had ever known was his own father, facing death with dignity, never complaining, while thinking of others more than he did himself. He quotes Hemingway, arguing that “guts is grace under pressure” (28). The truly heroic will rise to the challenge under the most adverse circumstances.

Both of these books are autobiographical, but not in a contemporary sense. The writing style is clearly that of the 1950s and 1960s. The literary quality is similar to those written by other sport stars of the era. In *Fear Strikes Out* there are numerous shifts from first to third person, making it sometimes difficult to understand who was the speaker. It is apparent that the book has two writers, and these shifts occur when the voice changes back and forth from Piersall to Hirshberg. The publishers have duplicated the original works, errors and all. These are not scholarly works, but they certainly inform the sport historian. Our heroes take many forms, as shown by the diversity of stories in *The Quality of Courage*. Neither Piersall nor Mantle was trying to embellish his own heroism. Both men reflect in their writing a great deal of humility, owing their success to the friends and family that embraced them.

It is clearly sport literature that distinguishes itself in time. It is for this reason that an examination of these works may be of benefit to the sport scholar. Baseball was going through a significant change in the 1950s. It was only beginning to reinvent itself. The process of integration was slow. The reader must examine these works for their silences. For these men, the 1950s were a time of opportunity and apparent equality. The society rife with political conflict was just coming to the surface, but had seemingly not touched baseball. Baseball was still an unchallenged bastion of American white middle-class values. From these stories it is easy to conclude that baseball taught character, courage and democratic values. These both are non-critical, warm and fuzzy advertisements for baseball and Americana. The student of American social history will recognize a culture of optimism reflected in both of these stories, but one must guard against being sucked into believing that these opportunities were equally accessible to all Americans.

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KEIM, JOHN. *Legends by the Lake: The Cleveland Browns at Municipal*. Akron: University of Akron Press, 1999. Pp. xii + 298. Illustrated. Notes, bibliography, appendix. \$35.95 cb, \$17.95 pb.

When I moved to Cleveland on Labor Day 1973, a ticket to a Cleveland Browns football game was a precious item of inheritance. When I attended my first Browns' game a week or so later, it was only because a season ticket holder had been sent out-of-town on business and trusted his seats to me and my wife for one game. It is nearly impossible to convey the pride and avid loyalty of Cleveland to its Browns during that dark period of the city's history. City Hall was struggling to avoid bankruptcy. Race relations were strained to the breaking point. The downtown business district along Euclid and Prospect Avenues had

more boarded up storefronts than functioning businesses and looked like a ghost town after six PM and on weekends. The River had caught on fire, and Mayor Perk had burned his hair in an attempt to promote a project that involved welding. The Cleveland Indians were perennial cellar dwellers in the American League, and the Cleveland Cavaliers basketball team was even worse (if that was possible). Even late-night television talk show hosts were calling Cleveland “the mistake on the lake.”

In this context, Cleveland could still take pride in its beloved Browns, winners of all four All-America Football Conference Championships from 1946-50 and National Football League Champions in 1950, 1954 and 1955 under Paul Brown. They were also in the NFL championship game in 1951-53 and 1957. Except in 1956, Cleveland was a contender every year Paul Brown coached in the city. Nevertheless, soon after Art Modell purchased the Cleveland Browns in 1961, he fired Paul Brown, who moved to Cincinnati to re-establish professional football in the Queen City, Cleveland’s intrastate rival.

Under Coach Blanton Collier, Cleveland placed second in their conference in 1963 and 1966, won the conference in 1965, and won the NFL Championship in 1964. They won the Century Division in 1967, 1968, and 1969, under the direction of Coach Collier. When Nick Skorich replaced Collier, the Browns also won the Central Division of the American Football Conference in 1971. After making the play-offs in 1972, Cleveland played the role of “also rans” from 1972-79 under Nick Skorich (1971-74), Forrest Gregg (1975-77) and Sam Rutigliano (1978-84), until the “Kardiac Kids” came on the scene in 1980 to win the Central Division again. Finally, under Marty Schottenheimer the Browns were again contenders from 1985-88.

The Legends by the Lake recounts the story of the Cleveland Browns from 1946 to 1995, when owner Art Modell stole one of Cleveland’s most valuable possessions and moved the franchise to Baltimore (for his personal gain). It tells the story through the experiences of the players selected to the team’s all-time offensive and defensive teams, with special attention to the ten most memorable Browns games at Cleveland Municipal Stadium. While a bit disjointed, the history of the team is well told and fun to read. John Keim is an excellent wordsmith. He weaves a tale that will warm the heart of every Cleveland Brown fan, and brings back wonderful memories. For these reasons, I highly recommend this book. But, the history of the franchise is not served as well by this format. It is a shame that the equally important and fascinating story of the franchise was not included.

The Gries family, who had deep roots in Cleveland stretching back to the 1880s joined with Arthur B. “Mickey” McBride to establish the Brown’s franchise in 1946. In 1960, Art Modell, a New York City advertising salesman who associated with organized crime figures, purchased a controlling interest in the Browns with less than \$100,000 in assets, plus \$2.75 million in loans secured only after the Gries family intervened with bankers. In 1965, the Browns underwent a corporate reorganization, and in 1973 Modell, with the help of George Steinbrenner III, took control of Cleveland Stadium without risking a cent of his own money.

Between 1965 and 1980 Modell became a multi-millionaire, often at the expense of the Cleveland taxpayers and Browns fans, by exploiting his ties to the Cleveland Browns. However, greed, mismanagement, and overextension of his resources placed his newly

acquired fortune in jeopardy. By 1981 Modell was in danger of losing everything. At that time, he attempted to cheat the Gries family out of millions of dollars through shady business dealings within the Brown's corporate structure. Bob D. Gries prevented him from doing so by taking legal action. In the end, Modell was left with his debts plus significant legal expenses. Modell remained mired in personal debt until 1995, when the City of Baltimore bailed him out by subsidizing the franchise's move east.

While the story of the most memorable Cleveland Browns games at Cleveland Municipal Stadium and the recollections of the players who created the Brown's legend as told by Keim is interesting and worth reading, it masks the reality of professional football in Cleveland. It documents the emotional attachment of Cleveland football fans to the Cleveland Browns, but it also masks attention from Art Modell's greed and the complicity of the National Football League in the rape of Cleveland's identity. Despite protestations to the contrary, communities—like Cleveland—have a major financial, as well as emotional, investment in the professional sport franchises that bear their community's name. Unfortunately, these investments are generally ignored by sports writers and NFL franchise owners.

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ZIEMBA, JOE. *When Football Was Football. The Chicago Cardinals and the Birth of the NFL*. Chicago: Triumph Books, 1999. Pp. v + 408. Illustrated. Appendices. \$24.95 cb.

When Football Was Football is not the quickie pictorial history of a professional team that we see all too frequently that clearcut a lot of valuable Canadian forests. Bather, it is a meticulously and prodigiously researched narrative history that not only tells the story of one of the oldest franchises in pro football history, the Chicago Cardinals, but also provides a stunning portrait of "prairie football" in its early decades. Prairie football is named after the Illinois prairie, as the city's empty lots were commonly called "prairies." On these "prairies" such neighborhood club teams as the Logan Squares, Pullman Thorns, East Chicago Gophers, and Racine Cardinals (named for their location on Racine Avenue) would compete on Sunday afternoons in the first two decades of the twentieth century.

The Arizona Cardinals today are recognized as the same franchise as the original Chicago Cardinals from the city's south side that entered the National Football League in 1921. The team traces its history back to 1899, thus making it the oldest franchise in pro football. For argument's sake, this reviewer will accept that notion, but believes that when a franchise changes cities it should forfeit any previous franchise arrangement that gives them the name and colors. The Cardinals' name and colors should have died when the team moved to St. Louis in 1960, as did the Cleveland Browns team when it moved to Baltimore a few years ago.

Ziemba, the son of a former Cardinals football player, in his fastidious research has done much to clear away the mists of legend and rumor that have engulfed the franchise to provide a well-documented and factually accurate portrait of the Cardinals in their early days, as well as to explain the actual origins of the team. Ziemba has established that