TYGIEL, JULES. *Past Time: Baseball As History.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2000. Pp. xii + 258. Illustrated. Notes, index. $25.00 cb.

*In Past Time: Baseball as History,* historian Jules Tygiel returns to the topic of baseball. Tygiel's *Baseball's Great Experiment* remains a landmark study of Jackie Robinson and the civil rights movement in baseball. However, in his introduction to *Past Time,* Tygiel makes it clear that this volume, rather than being a book about baseball, is a "collection of essays about history" (ix). Tygiel seeks to use baseball as a subject through which to examine changes in American society since the 1850s. While not subscribing to the tenet that baseball is the heart and soul of America, he concludes, "Since its origins in the 1850s it has reflected broader changes in society and maintained a special place in American culture" (xi).

While arranged chronologically, Tygiel asserts that each of his nine essays stands alone. Nevertheless, when read as a narrative whole, this collection of pieces reveals much about the flow of American history over the last 150 years. Following the Civil War, Tygiel argues that baseball reflected an increasingly national culture and served as a much needed symbol of unification. In his examination of Henry Chadwick, who introduced such statistical devices as the batting average and box score, Tygiel portrays the sportswriter as symbolic of middle class efforts to impose order upon the chaos of industrial life in the late nineteenth century. Charles Comiskey, Connie Mack, and Clark Griffith are described as Horatio-Alger-type self-made men, who in the twentieth century became bastions of a conservative baseball establishment. Of course, baseball in the 1920s was most identified with the larger than life figure of Babe Ruth, who, Tygiel, observes, emerged as a national figure simultaneously with new technologies and media forms such as radio and public relations.

One of the most insightful pieces in the collection is an analysis of Branch Rickey and Larry MacPhail during the Great Depression. Tygiel maintains that Rickey developed baseball's farm system to address the supply side of the sport's economic problems, while, on the other hand, MacPhail embraced consumer culture in an effort to increase demand. In an astute discussion of African American baseball in Jim Crow America, Tygiel insists that Negro League baseball exemplified elements of Booker T. Washington's belief in the development of separate racial economic spheres. However, in the endeavor of African American athletes to integrate into the larger culture, African American baseball reflected what W.E.B. DuBois termed the "twoness" of the African American experience.

In his pieces on post-World War II society, Tygiel examines Bobby Thompson's "shot heard around the world" as symbolic of American cultural hegemony during the Cold War; simultaneously, the franchise shifts of the 1950s and 1960s which reflected population moves to America's sunbelt, made baseball a more national sport. Those curmudgeons who argue that baseball has lost its way in contemporary culture, like television analyst Bob Costas, will take exception to Tygiel's notion that in many ways baseball in the late twentieth century entered into a new golden age. Although ultimate power in the sport remains in the hands of the owners and players, fans in the 1980s, using personal computers, cable television, and Rotisserie Leagues, began to reshape the game to fit the parameters of the computer and consumer age.

Tygiel's essays reflect the judgment of a trained historian and demonstrate that through the lens of baseball one may ascertain a great deal about American culture. However, as Tygiel would certainly acknowledge, baseball has its problems as an analytical historical tool. For example, Tygiel concludes that during the 1980s many males who embraced countercultural values in the 1960s discovered "a form of reentry into the American mainstream through the healing power of baseball" (219). However, examining major league baseball during the last 150 years offers few such insights into the role played by women in American culture and history. While baseball as history certainly possesses limitations, in the hands of a gifted writer and scholar such as Tygiel it also offers many rich possibilities.

—RON BRILEY
*Sandia Preparatory School*

RICH WESTCOTT. *Phillies '93: An Incredible Season.* Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1994. Pp. x + 212. Illustrated. $21.95 pb.

Only a franchise with a history of futility comparable to that of the Philadelphia Phillies could possibly be the subject of a book devoted to an "incredible season" that ended in defeat. In this case, that defeat was administered by the Toronto Blue Jays in the 1993 World Series. An honorable defeat, no doubt, but a defeat nonetheless. Then again, only once in Philadelphia's long history of National League membership have Phillies fans celebrated a World Series triumph. This occurred at the conclusion of the so far singularly incredible year in Philadelphia Phillies history: 1980. There were other Phillies pennants in 1915, 1950, 1983—and 1993. In fact, as Rich Westcott reminds us, the 1915 and 1993 Phillies entries have something ignominious in common, something shared only by the 1960 Yankees: the World Series quests of all three teams ended in defeat, courtesy of home runs hit by their opponents. Thank you, Harry Hooper of the Red Sox, Bill Mazeroski of the Pirates, and Joe Carter of the Blue Jays.

That would be the Toronto Blue Jays, of course. As Westcott also points out, there was a brief time in the 1940s when the "Blue Jays" was the official nickname of the Philadelphia entry in the National League. It seems that new owner Bob Carpenter ran a contest in which fans were asked to come up with a more imaginative sobriquet for a team whose performance had historically been as lackluster and nondescript as, well, as its nickname. The winning moniker was the Blue Jays, but it never took. Long-suffering Phillies fans apparently preferred what was familiar, even if it was associated with incompetence.

That sense of a long-suffering tradition has extended well beyond the 1940s, occasional accidental successes along the way notwithstanding. The most recent near-miss came courtesy of a living accident-waiting-to-happen known only as the "Wild Thing" (Mitch Williams), whose failures out of the bullpen against the real Blue Jays of 1993 contributed mightily to the Phillies defeat of 1993. Yes, all of the gruesome details are here, including the death threats against Williams following that truly incredible 14-13