

BREADY, JAMES H. *Baseball In Baltimore: The First Hundred Years*. Baltimore, Md.: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998. Pp. 272. 150 Illustrations, index. \$34.95 cb.

Summertime in Maryland, on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, with hot temperatures, the greatest steamed blue crab eating anywhere, a cold drink and baseball games, wow! Please excuse my reminiscing of some of the best moments in life anywhere. Growing up in this region known as the “land of pleasant living on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay” one never forgets the hot humid summer weather, eating crabs, or watching baseball. To forever aid in keeping our memories fresh about baseball, James H. Bready has written *Baseball In Baltimore: The First Hundred Years*.

Bready in *Baseball In Baltimore* has done an exceptional job in bringing forth in one volume the great history of baseball in a city that many only know in modern times as the home of the Baltimore Orioles. In this work, Bready gives the histories of at least six noted baseball teams in Baltimore: the Marylands, the Drydocks, the Terrapins, the Black Sox, the Pastimes, the Elite Giants, and, of course, the Orioles.

While this work is specifically of Baltimore, it should be of interest to a wide variety of people. Researchers in social history as well as sport historians will find this work of interest. Going beyond the intellectual interest, this work is also of the variety that the general public will proudly place it on their coffee tables or bookshelves, where friends can share in its long forgotten facts and the many never known facets of Baltimore’s baseball history over the past 100 years. One of these facts and/or facets is that of the origin of the name “Orioles.” Bready’s explanation, however, will not resolve the debate of when and where the name “Orioles” came from anytime soon for Baltimoreans.

In this work Bready gives an interpretation of the origin of the Oriole name but does not offer this same type of interest for the reader of the other teams in the book. It is very understandable in that the Orioles are by far the longest lasting of any of the professional teams written about in the book. Those teams, however, with histories preceding and those running concurrently with the Orioles could very well have had their team name origins included in this work.

One of the more glaring omissions in this work is the lack of noted sources in the body, footnotes or endnotes. This is so glaring, in spite of all the wonderful work included, because one of the major criticisms continuously leveled at noted African-American sports author Edwin B. Henderson is that his work is not referenced or corroborated by other sources. Henderson lived during most of the era of which he wrote, witnessing and or experiencing most of the people and sporting endeavors he included in his works. Only time will tell whether Bready will be held to the same standard. For this review, I most certainly will hold him to that standard. To give an example of interesting historical information not referenced or cited by Bready, he writes:

As far back as 1926, the postseason at Maryland Park had included games against local, industry-sponsored white nines. Early in 1930, the Black Sox (a local all black team), twice visited Bugle Field in East Baltimore to play a white team representing the Bugle Coat, Apron and Towel Supply Co. (p. 170).

There is no citation for this information, as if it is common knowledge for everyone. It is very well known by sport historians, and many others, that African-American and white baseball organizations participated against and with one another occasionally during the "color-line" period of white professional baseball. What is not readily known are the specifics that Bready supplies. Citations offering corroboration of his findings would make this work even more valuable to scholars. For information on the Baltimore Black Sox, Bready did offer the following explanation:

Without surviving players to interview, without business records to examine, the best hope for recovering box scores and game-by-games highlights is probably the nation's array of African-American periodicals. Good fortune to anyone who takes up the cause (p. 171).

The First 100 Years Of Baseball In Baltimore should bring every Baltimore area baseball fan, as well as sport scholars, to its covers. The highlights of teams, their stars, their characters, and the ballparks where they played all grace this work by Bready. The book closes with the onset of the stadium that many of us knew as the home of Baltimore baseball since 1954, the home on 33rd Street, Memorial Stadium. This park was dedicated to the veterans of World War II. Summer in Baltimore, hot weather, crabs, hot dogs, baseball and a cold one. "Play ball!"

—JAMES R. COATES, JR.

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ROBINSON, FRAZIER WITH PAUL BAUER. With a foreword by John "Buck" O'Neil and an introduction by Gerald Early. *Catching Dreams: My Life in the Negro Baseball Leagues*. Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse University Press, 1999. Pp. 230. 30 Photographs, index. \$27.95 cb.

Talk about revisionist history! You've found the granddaddy of them all with *Catching Dreams*. If you forgot or never knew who taught Satchel Paige how to pitch a baseball, or who taught Josh Gibson how to hit and catch a baseball, or better still, who won the battle of the Pacific during World War II, then you will find this work a must read. On the other hand, if you are seeking factual, well-documented information, this is not your ideal resource material.

Paul Bauer openly tells the reader that he has not changed the language or the grammar of Frazier Robinson's oral remembrances in order that the true essence of Robinson's experiences are related in the homey flavor in which they were stated. This is fine and wonderful for those of us who grew up with the older relatives or community friends who daily related how good or bad it was for African Americans during the legalized segregationist era of this country. We understood that transition from the poorly educated, the noneducated, and the highly educated individuals disseminating these folktales and folklore. In this generation of underachieving, poor reading black youth and those with poor verbal communication skills who might read this book, the language and grammar of Robinson should have been corrected. The work of Bauer and Robinson will not only be