

well-documented biography and the other a personal memoir with no documentation and simplistic structure but with a sense of honesty that captures the reader's attention. Each makes a useful contribution to the literature and sport historians will find much of value in their respective pages.

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RYCZEK, WILLIAM J. *When Johnny Came Sliding Home: The Post-Civil War Baseball Boom, 1865-1870*. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 1998. Pp x + 313. Appendixes, notes, bibliography, index. \$35.00 cb.

William Ryzcek's *When Johnny Came Sliding Home* is a prequel to his *Blackguards and Blue Stockings* (1992), a history of baseball's first professional league in the early 1870s. This book begins with a description of baseball in the year 1860, a landmark year in the history of the sport, when baseball first moved outside of New York in a significant way, when pitcher James Creighton revolutionized his art by developing a much faster pitch by snapping his wrist when he threw the ball, and when the National Association (the organization that passed for a league back then) championship game could not be completed because of rowdiness on the part of the crowd that threatened to erupt into serious violence.

Ryzcek points out that the events of 1860 were precursors to the post-Civil War years, and most of the rest of the book covers the period from 1865 to 1870, when the game changed from a purely amateur, "gentlemen's" game to a largely professional sport, and the gentlemanly behavior often associated with amateur baseball gave way to a more aggressive style of play conditioned by the drive to win, regardless of the cost in social graces. Much of the book's focus is on the 1869 Cincinnati Red Stockings, the hugely successful touring professional team that changed baseball forever. The final eight chapters of the book detail the Red Stockings' conversion after the 1868 season into an openly professional team and its 1869 and 1870 tours. By late 1870, the professionalization of baseball had been accomplished, and while many individual organizations had trouble reinventing themselves as professionals, an attempt to bring back amateur baseball on a national level was a dismal failure.

It is somewhat surprising to note that Ryzcek downplays the impact of the Civil War on baseball, given the evidence that soldiers from both sides played the game and their involvement contributed to its postwar popularity. There is no index entry for the Civil War, and while chapter 1 does present a brief history of the war with some mention of baseball, Ryzcek does not offer a systematic analysis of the role of the war in shaping public perception of and interest in the game. On the other hand, chapters 4, 5, and 11 go beyond the specific theme of the book to offer interesting descriptions of the social nature of baseball. In chapters 4 and 5, Ryzcek tells the reader what the fields and seating arrangements were like, explains the various rule changes, and describes measures taken to attract women as spectators. Chapter 11 treats the status of blacks in the country, their exclusion

from the National Association baseball clubs of the day, and the existence of black clubs that played among themselves and only occasionally played a white team.

Ryczek concludes that amateur baseball was a victim of its own success. The game had become so popular by the late 1860s that it seemed clearly to offer significant economic opportunities for early Gilded Age entrepreneurs, who quickly learned that a strong link existed between winning games and earning a profit. Winning games could best be assured by hiring the services of the best players.

The book is mercilessly detailed and four appendices include every team roster between 1865 and 1870, methods of compensation in 1870, records of the Philadelphia and Brooklyn teams between 1865 and 1870, and “results from noteworthy tours” between 1867 and 1870. Ryczek’s sources include the many newspaper articles in the Henry Chadwick scrapbooks, available through the microfilm lending library of the Society for American Baseball Research, as well as other articles from the New York *Clipper*, the *Spirit of the Times*, and the *New York Times*. In addition, Ryczek consulted a substantial list of secondary sources, both books and articles.

This is an exemplary piece of research with seemingly no fact left unrevealed. That fact, however, makes *When Johnny Came Sliding Home* a slow read, and many sport historians may wish this had been a thirty-page article rather than a three hundred-page book.

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KIRSCH, GEORGE B., OTHELLO HARRIS, AND CLAIRE E. NOLTE, EDS. *Encyclopedia of Ethnicity and Sports in the United States*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2000. Pp. xv + 530. Bibliography, index. \$125.00 cb.

This reference book focuses on the ethnic and racial background of sports and sports figures in American history. The editors make a distinction between “mainstream” sport culture, defined as one that originated with the earliest English settlers, and the games and traditions of those who came “later” or were customarily regarded as “outsiders,” such as African Americans and Native Americans.

The encyclopedia’s entries fall into five categories: 1) the sport history and culture of specific ethnic groups; 2) ethnic games; 3) mainstream sports (those that evolved from English games or were American inventions); 4) ethnic and racial institutions; and 5) prominent individuals. This arrangement allows for very comprehensive coverage but also permits a degree of redundancy. For example, Othello Harris, one of the editors, has contributed an essay on African Americans that includes a biographical sketch of boxer Jack Johnson. Elliott Gorn has written an essay on boxing that also includes biographical information on Johnson. And Harris has written a stand-alone biographical entry on Johnson. Granted that Johnson’s place among African Americans in sport may be somewhat different than his place in boxing history and granted also that the separate biographical sketch may give the editors an opportunity to include additional facts on Johnson’s life, the arrangement still seems somewhat awkward.