

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.

The editors confess that limitations of space often forced them to make difficult choices; for example, biographical entries are usually limited to those individuals who were elected to their sport's Hall of Fame. They note that, as a result, it was particularly problematic to choose from among African American athletes those who deserved to be included. To their credit, however, they have tried to be judicious with their use of space and words. They have included entries on the little known American Tennis Association and the United Golfers' Association, two organizations for African American athletes that paralleled the U.S. Tennis Association and the U.S. Golf Association, neither of which merit an entry in this book. In addition, the reader is treated to some delightfully obscure aspects of sport in America, such as an entry on the "Carpatho-Rusyns," a small group of ethnic Slavs who lived near the Carpathian mountains in what is now Slovakia, southeastern Poland and western Ukraine. Among Carpatho-Rusyn athletes who have distinguished themselves in American sport is baseball player Joe "Ducky" Medwick (who does not rate a biographical entry despite the fact that he is a member of the baseball Hall of Fame).

In a book like this, and especially one for which the editors had to depend on a large stable of contributors, one can always quibble about the choices of subject. One quibbling point that alert readers will notice is that while there are lengthy essays on English and German ethnic contributions to American sport (and a shorter one on Carpatho-Rusyns), there is none for French or Spanish contributions. The Finns and Norwegians are present, but the Swedes do not appear. We can read about the Dutch but not the Belgians. And on it goes. Whether these choices were the result of a lack of suitable contributors, a lack of space, or some other reason, one cannot tell, but it does make one wonder. On the other hand, there are some excellent essays on the more obscure sports in America, such as bocce, curling, fencing, and hurling that provide information seldom seen in other sport reference works. From an analytical standpoint, the editors state that their aim is to examine the "intersection" between ethnicity and sport in American history. There are a number of different approaches one can take. One can consider and analyze ethnically-rooted sport from the standpoint of its "Anglo-conformity," or Americanization, or one can use the model of the "melting pot" versus "structural pluralism," which refers to immigrants' abilities to retain a portion of their ethnic identity while still functioning in the mainstream American culture. In a book written, essentially, by more than one hundred people, the level of analytical discussion is going to vary greatly among the many essays, but in their introduction, the editors do give readers important guidelines with which to do their own analysis. At a pricey \$125.00, this attractive book is not going to find its way on to many sport historians' desks. But libraries that acquire it will be providing their patrons with a valuable research tool.

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