

Baseball On The Prairie

Dora Hand was in a deep sleep. Her bare legs were exposed despite her thick blankets, and a mass of long, auburn hair stretched over her pillow and flowed off the side of her flimsy mattress. A framed, charcoal portrait of an elderly couple hung above her bed on the faded wallpaper and kept company with her slumber.

In fact, not until 1952 was there a rule barring women from being professional players.

Katie Casey, a fictional character, helps start the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, which gave women the opportunity to play professional baseball while America was involved in World War II.

Pirates on the Prairie is a narrative documentary that chronicles the achievements of a remarkable group of athletes, the Pirates, who explode out of tiny Halstad, MN, population 500, in 1952, much to the amazement of the Minnesota media and fans who quickly learn to love them. Author, nurseryman, and American history lover Eric Bergeson, of Fertile, MN, carefully traces the development of Halstad's homegrown Pirates, their classmates, and families, while also bringing vividly to life the environment that nourishes them. Readers become part of the seemingly ordinary day-to-day dynamics in Halstad, from the home lives of the players to the play-by-play reports of their movements on the court and in the field. Gradually Pirates of the Prairie answers its fundamental question: how did this happen? What enabled this particular group of boys, at this time, in this place, to perform the large-than-life feats that earned them third place in the 1952 Minnesota state boys basketball tournament and first in the 1953 state baseball tournament; both against much larger, big-city schools? As excitement builds and hopes grow stronger, readers learn about or recall life in small-town America, when communities worked hands-on together to support and develop their children. At the same time, we detect a foreboding undercurrent; a realization that this will also be a story of loss. For Pirates of the Prairie also documents a profound change in rural American culture that those with small-town roots still feel today.

Dick Bremer's distinctive baritone has served as the soundtrack of Minnesota Twins baseball for over three decades. Millions of fans have enjoyed Bremer's observations, insight, and magical storytelling on television broadcasts. Now, in this striking memoir, the Minnesota native and lifelong Twins fan takes fans behind the mic, into the clubhouse, and beyond as only he can. Told through 108 unique anecdotes—one for each stitch in a baseball—Bremer weaves the tale of a lifetime, from childhood memories of the ballfield in remote Dumont, Minnesota, to his early radio days as the "Duke in the Dark," to champagne soaked clubhouses in 1987 and 1991, and his encounters with Twins legends ranging from Calvin Griffith and Harmon Killebrew, to Kirby Puckett and Kent Hrbek, to Joe Mauer and Justin Morneau. Game Used gives fans a rare seat alongside Bremer and his broadcast partners, including Killebrew, Bert Blyleven, Jack Morris, Jim Kaat, Tom Kelly, and other Twins legends.

Historical research on the Olympic Movement is highly valuable as it displays processes of continuity and transformation by which knowledge building processes on the Olympic Movement, its structure and on Olympic sport can be expanded. The Olympic Movement can be addressed from multidisciplinary perspectives, including management, sociology, education, philosophy and history. This comprehensive collection examines the multifaceted profile of the Olympic and Paralympic Movement and presents new insights drawn from a variety of research projects. Historical and political dimensions of the Olympic and Paralympic Movement are addressed, along with educational,

ethical, commercial and sociological perspectives. This book was originally published as a special issue of The International Journal of the History of Sport.

"One Shot at Forever is powerful, inspirational. . . . This isn't merely a book about baseball. It's a book about heart." --Jeff Pearlman, New York Times bestselling author of *Boys Will Be Boys* and *The Bad Guys Won* In 1971, a small-town high school baseball team from rural Illinois, playing with hand-me-down uniforms and peace signs on their hats, defied convention and the odds. Led by an English teacher with no coaching experience, the Macon Ironmen emerged from a field of 370 teams to represent the smallest school in Illinois history to make the state final, a distinction that still stands. There the Ironmen would play against a Chicago powerhouse in a dramatic game that would change their lives forever. In this gripping, cinematic narrative, Chris Ballard tells the story of the team and its coach, Lynn Sweet: a hippie, dreamer, and intellectual who arrived in Macon in 1966, bringing progressive ideas to a town stuck in the Eisenhower era. Beloved by students but not administration, Sweet reluctantly took over the ragtag team, intent on teaching the boys as much about life as baseball. Together they embarked on an improbable postseason run that buoyed a small town in desperate need of something to celebrate. Engaging and poignant, *One Shot at Forever* is a testament to the power of high school sports to shape the lives of those who play them, and it reminds us that there are few bonds more sacred than that among a coach, a team, and a town. "Macon's run at the title reminds us why sports matter and why sportswriting has such great power to inspire. . . . [It's] one hell of a good story, and Ballard has written one hell of a good book." --Jonathan Eig, *Chicago Tribune*

Major League Baseball came to the Minnesota prairie in the spring of 1961, and in the fifty years since, the Minnesota Twins have held a cherished place in the hearts of sports fans throughout the region. With Hall of Famers like Harmon Killebrew, Rod Carew, and Kirby Puckett and beloved characters from Billy Martin to Kent Hrbek to Joe Mauer, the history of the Twins encompasses highs and lows, heroes and goats, but always nonstop excitement. *Minnesota Twins: The Complete Illustrated History* provides an in-depth and entertaining look at the team, its players, its stadiums, and the memorable moments through the years. Illustrated with photos from the *Star Tribune's* archives, it is the ultimate celebration of a beloved franchise.

Offering the best in original research and analysis, *Base Ball* is an annually published book series that promotes the study of baseball's early history, from its protoball roots to 1920, and its rise to prominence within American popular culture. This volume, number 11, includes a dozen articles on topics ranging from the uses and abuses of mascots and batboys, attempts to revive the major league American Association, and the meaning of early club names to the founding of the National League, the finances of the Union Association, and the early years of future Giants magnate John T. Brush. The volume also includes thoughtful reviews of recently published books on women's baseball, the 1887 Detroit Wolverines, and the American League pennant race in 1908.

Kevin King's debut novel, *All the Stars Came Out That Night*, is a vivid portrait of Depression-era America written in a voice at once humorous and poetic. Set at Boston's Fenway Park on October 20, 1943, *All the Stars Came Out That Night* imagines a late-night baseball game bankrolled by Henry Ford, pitting Dizzy Dean's all-white all-stars against Satchel Paige's black all-stars. Not a contest waged for money or trophies, the outcome of this game carries with it both

the weight of a historic injustice—the barring of blacks from baseball—and the promise of vindication and redemption. Steeped in baseball lore and featuring an array of iconic American figures—from Babe Ruth to Clarence Darrow—All the Stars Came Out That Nightfar transcends the sport of baseball, creating a tale that is mythic, captivating, and above all, quintessentially American.

"The history of professional baseball on the Prairies is fraught with failure, occasionally buffered by small victories. The players have run the gamut from future Hall of Famers to brawling hooligans. The crowds have varied from rogues to royalty. These northern climes have forced teams to take the field in snow, gale-force winds, and even an attack of moths, but somehow the game has preserved". An American and Canadian prairie history of baseball as it was meant to be played, from 1886 to the present! Lewis St. George Stubbs' comprehensive research uncovers the rich history of the prairie provinces and states—the teams and leagues, as well as regional heroes of the games.

It was the golden age of baseball, and all over the country teams gathered on town fields in front of throngs of fans to compete for local glory. In Rawlins, Wyoming, residents lined up for tickets to see slugger Joseph Seng and the rest of the Wyoming Penitentiary Death Row All Stars as they took on all comers in baseball games with considerably more at stake. Teams came from Reno, Nevada; Klamath Falls, Oregon; Bodie, California; and throughout the west to take on the murderers who made up the line-up. This is a fun and wildly dramatic and suspenseful look at the game of baseball and at the thrilling events that unfolded at a prison in the wide-open Wyoming frontier in pursuit of wins on the diamond. Washed up and now former classic rock disc jockey Bill "Cannonball" Cafferty heads out to Western Nebraska to go on an adventure with a group of students from Sand Hills State College. He was the only media credential they could get to bite on a story nobody would believe. A physics major at the school figured out why celebrities die in threes and the gang is trying to stop the greatest Major League Baseball prospect in a hundred years from dying on opening day of Double A baseball season.

You think your team is bad? In this landmark work on one of the most tortured franchises in baseball, one reporter discovers that nine innings can feel like an eternity. In early 1973, gonzo sportswriter Mike Shropshire agreed to cover the Texas Rangers for the Fort-Worth Star-Telegram, not realizing that the Rangers were arguably the worst team in baseball history. Seasons in Hell is a riotous, candid, irreverent behind-the-scenes account in the tradition of The Bronx Zoo and Ball Four, following the Texas Rangers from Whitey Herzog's reign in 1973 through Billy Martin's tumultuous tenure. Offering wonderful perspectives on dozens of unique (and likely never-to-be-seen-again) baseball personalities, Seasons in Hell recounts some of the most extreme characters ever to play the game and brings to life the no-holds-barred culture of major league baseball in the mid-seventies.

"This history and analysis traces the emergence of independent leagues and teams and follows them year by year. It profiles in detail one team from each of the leagues operating in 1999: the Bridgeport (Connecticut) Blue Fish of the Atlantic League, the Kalamazoo (Michigan) Kodiaks of the Frontier League, the Tri-City (Washington) Posse of the Western League, the Ozark (Missouri) Mountain Ducks of the Texas-Louisiana League, and the Duluth-Superior (Minnesota) Dukes of the Northern League West. Also included are profiles of individual players, managers, owners, umpires, and fans."--BOOK JACKET.

An illustrated history of Abilene, Texas paired with histories of the local companies

In his day, perhaps no one in baseball was better known than Irish-born Timothy Paul "Ted" Sullivan. For 50 years, America's sportswriters sang his praises, genuflected to his genius and bought his blarney by the barrel. Damon Runyon dubbed him "The Celebrated Carpetbagger of Baseball." Cunning, fast-talking, witty and sober, Sullivan was the game's first player agent, a groundbreaking scout who pulled future Hall of Famers from the bushes, an author, a playwright and a baseball evangelist who promoted the game across five continents. He coined the term "fan" and was among the first to suggest the designated hitter--because pitchers were "a lot of whippoorwill swingers." But he was also a convert to the Jim Crow attitudes of his day--black ballplayers were unimaginable to him. Unearthing thousands of contemporaneous newspaper accounts, this first exhaustive biography of "Hustlin" Ted Sullivan recounts the life and career of one of the greatest hucksters in the history of the game.

There are various reasons why Little League Baseball has disappeared in many parts of the Chicagoland area as well as the entire nation. What Happened to Little League Baseball in the Inner-City? touches on a variety of provocative issues such as the decline of Black baseball players at all levels of competition or the privatization of Little League Baseball for example. This book is geared toward the true fan of the game of baseball who is interested in seeing positive changes in the Black community. One of these positive changes is the resurrection of Little League Baseball competition in inner-city Chicago. Mark O'Neal feels an increase in Black kids' participation in Little League Baseball will equal more Black players at the collegiate and professional levels.

Joyce Westerman grew up on a farm in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin. As a kid, she cleaned the barn, picked vegetables, and helped her father cut down trees. But what she really loved to do was play baseball. Joyce played ball at recess and with friends whenever she could. She even joined her aunt's adult softball team when she was only twelve. As Joyce got older, she went to work at a factory in Kenosha. But when World War II broke out, she got a chance to try out for the All American Girls Professional Baseball League. Women from all over the country signed up to show off their skills. Only a few were good enough, and Joyce was one of them. For eight years, Joyce travelled around the United States playing ball, winning the league championship in her last season. This addition to the Badger Biographies series for young readers tells the story of a woman who lived her dream of becoming a professional athlete. In a time when women had few opportunities for careers, and next to none in professional sports, Joyce and her teammates showed that women have what it takes.

Geek meets girl. Girl makes him drop and give her twenty...Dr. Wesley Malcom's chronic asthma may have kept him from playing baseball as a child (or even being allowed to participate in gym class for that matter) but he has found a way to blend his love of the sport with his passion for numbers as the senior statistician for the Omaha Prairie Dogs major league baseball team (P-Dawgz to their true fans). When the team

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owner asks him to start doing a live segment on the pre-game show, Wes knows he has to get a make-over in order to be camera ready. That means getting into shape, despite his overprotective mother's protestations that exercise will literally kill him. Who knows, maybe sharpening his image might even help his admittedly lackluster love life! Kai Jordan is a personal trainer with a dark past and an empty checking account. When she's not working as a personal trainer at a small Omaha gym, she spends her days trying to make ends meet and rooting on her favorite baseball team, the Omaha Prairie Dogs. When an old friend mentions that some rich big-wig in the Prairie Dogs front office is looking for a trainer, Kai is ready to do whatever it takes to land the job. Wes is smitten with Kai right away, but what would a blonde bombshell ever see in a hapless geek like him? Kai is starting to fall hard for Wes, but she fears what will happen if he ever finds out about her juvenile delinquent past. Can Wes and Kai find love amongst all of these hurdles and will the official 'Worst Team in Baseball' actually make it to the playoffs this year?

A portrait of spring and the unfolding drama of man versus the environment in the heartland of North America.

When you think of baseball, the state of North Dakota doesn't often come to mind. Some casual fans might remember that Negro League star Satchel Paige pitched there many times, and that one-time major league home run champion Roger Maris called Fargo his home. However, as soon as the first settlers arrived in what was then the Dakota Territory, they began to play the game. Members of George Custer's Seventh Cavalry played baseball near present day Bismarck before their fateful trip to the Little Big Horn in 1876 and baseball has been played for nearly 150 years in small towns all over North Dakota with as much seriousness and enthusiasm as anywhere in the country. Sunday Afternoons on the Prairie traces the growth of baseball in North Dakota from its earliest known origins in the 1870s until around the time of World War I. Cheating, gambling, drinking, and fights among players and with umpires were common, but overshadowed by how much enjoyment the people of North Dakota got from playing and watching baseball on Sunday afternoons.

Describes the brief history of the Dakota Rattlers baseball team of Bismarck, North Dakota and the independent Prairie League. Includes anecdotes about minor league baseball in the northern Great Plains.

In this book, authors H.A. Dorfman and Karl Kuehl present their practical and proven strategy for developing the mental skills needed to achieve peak performance at every level of the game.

"Explore the ways in which seven small-town teams shaped the history of the Texas League"--

The intriguing, inspiring history of one small, impoverished area in the Dominican Republic that has produced a staggering number of Major League Baseball talent, from an award-winning, bestselling author. In the town of San Pedro in the Dominican Republic, baseball is not just a way of life. It's the way of life. By the year 2008, seventy-nine boys and men from San Pedro have gone on to play in the Major Leagues—that means one in six Dominican Republicans who have played in the Majors have come from one tiny, impoverished region. Manny Alexander, Sammy Sosa, Tony Fernandez, and legions of other San Pedro players who came up in the sugar mill teams flocked to the United States, looking for opportunity, wealth, and a better life. Because of the sugar industry, and the influxes of migrant workers from across the Caribbean to work in the cane fields and factories, San Pedro is one of the most ethnically diverse areas of the Dominican Republic. A multitude of languages are spoken there, and a variety of skin colors populate the community; but the one constant is sugar and baseball. The history of players from San Pedro is also a chronicle of racism in baseball, changing social mores in sports and in the Dominican Republic, and the personal stories of the many men who sought freedom from poverty through playing ball. The story of baseball in San Pedro is also that of the Caribbean in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries and on a broader level opens a window into our country's

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history. As with Kurlansky's *Cod and Salt*, this small story, rich with anecdote and detail, becomes much larger than ever imagined. Kurlansky reveals two countries' love affair with a sport and the remarkable journey of San Pedro and its baseball players. In his distinctive style, he follows common threads and discovers wider meanings about place, identity, and, above all, baseball. [Watch a Video](#)

Ari finds himself trying to protect the prairie on his own when Kendra and the Imp king disappear.

For anyone ready to move their life forward, from tragedy, personal failure, unfair circumstances, or just a sense of being stuck, baseball legend and bestselling author Darryl Strawberry offers transformational practices and the tangible hope that you can enjoy a future filled with power, purpose, and freedom. Darryl Strawberry has seen it all--the highs and lows of an intense career as a Major League Baseball all-star, drug addiction, marriage challenges, prison time, and battles with cancer. With honesty and transparency, Strawberry shares the same foundational principles that transformed his life from the inside out--the power of prayer, cultivating healthy friendships, weathering trials without losing heart, refreshing the way you think, and letting God change your life for good. Ultimately, he'll help you discover and trust the redemptive process of making small, daily decisions to follow God into a life of faith, health, and freedom. Strawberry weaves compelling stories from his own life with those of others he met through his speaking and ministry work across the nation. These uplifting testimonies will inspire you with the reminder that God's power can renew any life, no matter what has happened. With scriptural insights and real-life examples, Strawberry celebrates the miracles God works in us for healing, cleansing, and new beginnings. Strawberry's life story is proof that you can overcome life's adversities one decision, one step at a time. It's time to turn your season around.

Nestled on the banks of the Minnesota River, the city of Eden Prairie possesses a vibrant history and a unique heritage. This book showcases over 200 historic photographs, many of which are published for the first time, to document Eden Prairie's rural roots and urban progress, from the 1850s, when immigrants began to settle in the region, through the present day. Author Marie Berger Wittenberg takes readers on a visual tour of Eden Prairie's founding families, its notable historic homes and businesses, and the churches, schools, landmarks, and organizations that have shaped the community as it is known today.

The Big 50: Minnesota Twins is an amazing, full-color look at the 50 men and moments that have made the Twins the Twins. Experienced sportswriter Aaron Gleeman recounts the living history of the Twins, counting down from No. 50 to No. 1. The Big 50: Minnesota Twins brilliantly brings to life the Twins' remarkable story, from Harmon Killebrew and Kirby Puckett to the roller coaster that was the 1991 World Series to the rise of Joe Mauer and up to new stars like Miguel Sano.

Taking readers back in time to 1947, an award-winning journalist chronicles an integrated baseball team in Bismarck, North Dakota that rose above a segregated society to become champions, delving into the history of the players, the town and baseball itself.

Both Maggie Fortini and her brother, Joey-Mick, were named for baseball great Joe DiMaggio. Unlike Joey-Mick, Maggie doesn't play baseball—but at almost ten years old, she is a dyed-in-the-wool fan of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Maggie can recite all the players' statistics and understands the subtleties of the game. Unfortunately, Jim Maine is a Giants fan, but it's Jim who teaches Maggie the fine art of scoring a baseball game. Not only can she revisit every play of every inning, but by keeping score she feels she's more than just a fan: she's helping her team. Jim is drafted into the army and sent to Korea, and although Maggie writes to him often, his silence is just one of a string of disappointments—being a Brooklyn Dodgers fan in the early 1950s meant season after season of near misses and year after year of dashed hopes. But Maggie goes on trying to help the Dodgers, and when she finds out that Jim needs help, too, she's determined to provide it.

Against a background of major league baseball and the Korean War on the home front, Maggie looks for, and finds, a way to make a

difference. Even those readers who think they don't care about baseball will be drawn into the world of the true and ardent fan. Linda Sue Park's captivating story will, of course, delight those who are already keeping score.

"Discover the long and entertaining history of the Minnesota Twins"--

From its first pitch, baseball has reflected national values and promoted the idea of what it means to be American. Beloved narratives tied the national pastime to beliefs as fundamental to our civic life as racial equality, patriotism, heroism, and virtuous capitalism. Mitchell Nathanson calls foul. Rejecting the myths and much-told tales, he examines how power is as much a part of baseball--and America--as pine tar and eye black. Indeed, the struggles for power within the game paralleled those that defined our nation. Nathanson follows the new Americans who sought club ownership to promote their social status in the increasingly closed caste system of nineteenth-century America. He shows how the rise and public rebuke of the Players Association reflects the collective spirit of working and middle-class America in the mid-twentieth century and the countervailing forces that sought to beat back the emerging movement. He lays bare the debilitating effects of a harsh double standard that required African American players to possess an unimpeachable character merely to take the field--a standard no white player had to meet. Told with passion and righteous outrage, *A People's History of Baseball* offers an incisive alternative history of America's much-loved--if misunderstood--national pastime.

After her parents' deaths, seventeen-year-old heiress Lucinda Bishop flees to Barton Creek, Oklahoma in 1896 as the ward of Amelia and Ben Haynes, her mother's sister and brother-in-law. She finds life on a working ranch to be nothing like she had imagined, especially when she encounters Jake Starnes, a drifter now employed by her uncle who holds a dark secret from his past.

The publication of *You Know Me Al* brought instant fame to Ring Lardner (1885-1933), one of the great American humorists of this century. Considered the satirist's greatest work, the book is a collection of letters from one Jack Keefe, a baseball "busher," to his longtime friend, Al Blanchard, in their midwestern hometown. The voice of Jack Keefe perfectly echoes the vernacular of the baseball players Lardner had covered for years as a newspaper reporter following the exploits of Chicago's Cubs and White Sox. Readers instantly recognized in Jack the full range of human foibles. This universality accounts for the enduring appeal of *You Know Me Al*. "Ring Lardner is the idol of professional humorists and of plenty of other people, too." -- E. B. White "His work is a contribution of genuine and permanent value to the national literature." -- H. L. Mencken "Mr. Lardner . . . lets Jack Keefe the baseball player cut out his own outline until the figure of the foolish, boastful, innocent athlete lives with us." -- Virginia Woolf

It is important to note that I have not tried to hide the identities of the characters that happened into my life, but to endear

them to the reader so that they are an important part of to this story, and I in no way will try to make them more or less important than they really were. I have learned to accept and to love each one of the personalities and hope that I never have harmed them in the past or by this account of them in this written dialogue.

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