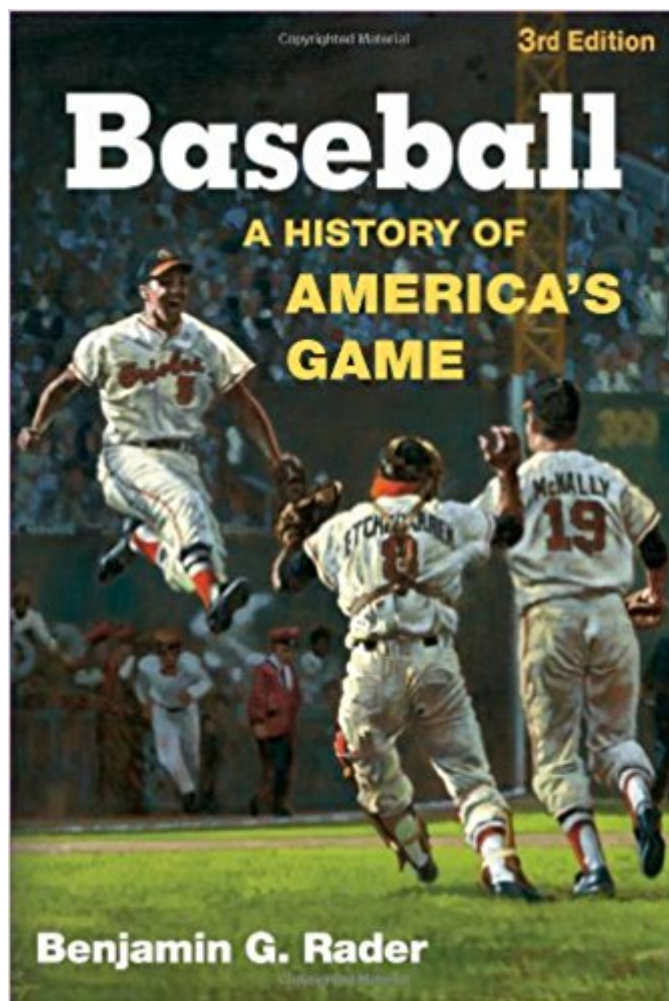




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# Baseball: A History Of America's Game (Illinois History Of Sports)



## Synopsis

In this third edition of his lively history of America's game--widely recognized as the best of its kind--Benjamin G. Rader expands his scope to include commentary on Major League Baseball through the 2006 season: record crowds and record income, construction of new ballparks, a change in the strike zone, a surge in recruiting Japanese players, and an emerging cadre of explosive long-ball hitters.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Although the book does not attempt comprehensiveness, this short survey of the development of America's national pastime has merit. Rader ( *American Sports* ) discusses the origins of the game, separating fact from mythology, then relates the role of the Civil War in spreading baseball from New York to the rest of the nation, the rise of professional teams and leagues, the crushing of the players' revolt of 1890, the "Age of Ruth," the building of dynasties such as the New York Yankees and the St. Louis Cardinals, the racial integration of the sport, the modifications in the reserve clause and the contemporary scene. Rader covers each phase accurately and with elan, as when he writes, "In a world of seething change, baseball continues to offer comfort and reassurance; it remains America's Game." Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

With most of today's baseball books concentrating on very specific aspects of the sport, it is interesting to find one that attempts to relate the complete history of America's game. Beginning before the Civil War, Rader traces the development of rules in the 1890s, the advent of the home

run in the 1920s, the breakdown of the color barrier in the 1940s, and the problems of expansion and free agency in our own era. Along with profiles of well-known personalities like Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth, and familiar events such as the Black Sox scandal of 1919, this thoroughly researched book presents some unusual facts (including information on Harry H. Freeman's barnstorming "buxom beauties," an all-female pro team that played some 60 years before the women of the current film *A League of Their Own* ). This volume is highly recommended for most libraries.-Dan Bogey, Clearfield Cty. P.L. Federation, Curwensville, Pa.Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This was a gift to a baseball fan and collector and he was happy with it.

Concise history of the game. Probably a real enthusiast would know most of what's in here, but both my husband and I (TV watchers, who attend 3-4 games a year in the stadium) enjoyed it very much.

Brilliant book, very quirky, insightful, very informative, and a heck of a lot of fun to read! The author did a lot of research to find some of the things entailed in this book!

Great! This will work well with our school. It will meet the needs of our students and faculty as required.

Have not read it yet; just browsed. Hope my son-in-law shares with me after his read. It looks great with other good reviews.

I was expecting to get the never version and I was sent, what I believe, the original book. Since it is not the newer one, I am missing a few chapters I need to read for class.

As a baseball fanatic, this book is a really good read. It's got some very interesting facts , Like how the Pirates got their name, and it covers a very broad range of topics.

Great book, I actually read this book during the All-Star Break and it conjured up remnants of nostalgia from my own Little League days. Rader examines a "semi-comprehensive" look at Baseball's fluctuating stages, touching economical and social issues, while recounting memorable games. Rader's compelling account of Ruth's "called shot" of the 1932 World Series made me feel

as if I was at Wrigley! He also reminds us that American History and Baseball will forever remain synonymous, remembering the Great Depression and how the game once struggled as well. The "War Years" also serve as a testament to Baseball's effect on American society and how the game diverted many fellow Americans attention. Throughout the book, Rader illustrates graphs and charts, highlighting a club's attendance, realignment issues, and salary-cap/player income. Solid piece of historic literature on the development of the game and American history as well, his objective sold me completely, moreover, rekindled my passion for the game on all levels.

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