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# The 2005 ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia (Review)

Sue Polanka

Wright State University - Main Campus, sue.polanka@wright.edu

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**The 2005 ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia.** Ed. by Pete Palmer and Gary Gillette. 2005. 1,714p. Sterling, paper, \$24.95 (1-4027-2568-X). 796.357.

Numbers, names, facts. What good would a baseball encyclopedia be without them? In his foreword, ESPN baseball correspondent Peter Gammons says, "In baseball, statistics and numbers matter. They really matter." This is why *The 2005 ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia* contains more than 1,700 pages of statistics and numbers covering 16,213 major league baseball players from 134 years of baseball.

There are 16 sections of the encyclopedia covering the batter register, the pitcher register, the managers, team rosters, the historical record from 1871 to 2004, the All-Star games, big league ballparks, and other topics. Most sections are arranged alphabetically by player or team name or chronologically by date, and most begin with a two- to four-page section description complete with the historical significance of the topic, definitions, and any abbreviations used.

New to this edition is the section "Black Baseball and the Negro Leagues," which lists the "top 100 players," Hall of Famers, and players with "Hall of Fame-Caliber Careers" in addition to providing statistics and information on home ballparks for big-league-caliber teams from 1920 to 1954. Other new items include coverage of the days spent on the disabled list; the College World Series, Little League and American Legion champions; and spring-training venues. Biographical information and Hall of Fame voting data have been expanded.

The encyclopedia is not only a lesson in baseball history but also a lesson in math. Many complicated baseball formulas and computations are explained throughout the book. For example, ".2\*(PO - SO + .4\*(A - CS) - E + DP + PB/2)" is a formula used to determine the fielding rates for the catcher position.

A Web site [<http://www.247baseball.com>] provides updated statistics for the encyclopedia, which is recommended for public libraries and baseball enthusiasts. Heck, at \$24.95, buy a copy for the local baseball pub, too; it's cheaper than a round of beer! —*Sue Polanka*

★ **Berkshire Encyclopedia of World Sport.** Ed. by David Levinson and Karen Christensen. 4v. 2005. 2,000p. illus. index. Berkshire, \$475 (0-9743091-1-7). 796.03.

By the same editors as the *Encyclopedia of World Sport: From Ancient Times to the Present* (ABC-CLIO, 1996), this is a completely fresh work and, according to the introduction, of a more cross-disciplinary nature than the earlier one. The 430 entries touch a wide sports spectrum, from sports management to kinesiology; from anthropology and sociology to leisure studies; and from performance enhancement to policy analysis, in addition to individual sports and sporting events. The claim is that every sport, for men or women, in every country is covered. Specifically excluded are statistical information, rules of the games, and biographical sketches. Rather, the encyclopedia tries to illuminate the larger context within which sport takes place. The stated intent of the compilers is to hook students with sports to simultaneously inform them about topics such as history, culture, ethnicity, and international relations.

Many of the contributors are well known in their field and are often athletes themselves. Entries are alphabetical, average about three to five pages in length, and are followed by impressive and detailed lists of further reading (often a dozen or more sources, including scholarly journal articles). More than 1,000 pictures, illustrations, and examples of set-aside text

(often quotations from relevant primary sources) appear throughout the volumes. An extensive index and cross-references are included, as is a "Reader's Guide," or topical table of contents breaking entries down into categories such as "College Sports," "Venues," "National (Country) Profiles," and "Sport in Society."

The entry on *Fan loyalty* is emblematic of the whole. It begins with a reference to the Psychological Continuum Model, an idea articulated in a 2001 journal article in *Sport Management Review* (full citation provided). The entry makes numerous other scholarly references, while including sidebars—one containing a poem by Baseball Hall of Fame sportswriter Grantland Rice about the fan's anticipation of baseball season, and the other a quotation from noted contemporary sports columnist Thomas Boswell. A photograph of Portuguese soccer fans decorates the entry. The question of "Fan Loyalty—Good or Bad?" is entertained, all in four pages followed by 22 complete references.

*Encyclopedia of World Sport: From Ancient Times to the Present* also covers sports as a societal institution, but its 250 entries deal mostly with individual sports and sporting events. *Berkshire Encyclopedia of World Sport*, on the other hand, takes the treatment of the societal aspects of sports to another level, with entries not just for *Baseball*, to take one example, but also for *Baseball nicknames*, *Baseball stadiums*, and *Baseball wives*. Because the Berkshire set is a totally new work, even libraries that own the earlier title will want to consider it. It is a fine addition to any library at the high-school level or above. —*Michael Tosko*

**Sports, Exercise, and Fitness: A Guide to Reference and Information Sources.** By Mary Beth Allen. 2005. 304p. indexes. Libraries Unlimited, \$68 (0-56308-819-3). 016.796.

What is a *Googly*? It's not a knockoff of Google but, rather, the title of Robert Eastaway's book on the mysteries of cricket, and just one of 1,000 sources on sports, exercise, and fitness found in this guide to reference and information sources.

With a focus on North American sports, the author selected sources that appeal to a broad audience of researchers and excluded those with a focus on individual persons or teams. Traditional reference sources such as encyclopedias and dictionaries, instructional sources, and Web sites are included. Most of the books were published between the years 1990–2004. Web sites were chosen for their ability to provide continuous access. As such, they include governing bodies and nonprofit organizations that support a particular sport.

Sixteen chapters deal with type of activity such as "The Olympic Games," "Nautical Sports," "Large-Ball Sports," and "Health and Wellness." Each chapter contains alphabetically arranged sections in individual sports. For example, "Ice and Snow Sports" includes sections on *Biathlon*, *Bobsledding*, *Hockey*, *Luge*, *Skating*, and *Skiing*. The sections list anywhere from 2 (for *Luge*) to more than 50 (for *Basketball*) available reference and instruction sources and Web sites.

Entries are numbered sequentially from beginning to end. Each entry includes the citation, ISBN and price, number of pages, and an annotation. Web sites include the title, URL, date of access, and an annotation. Three indexes—author, title, and subject—refer readers to entry numbers. The author index includes both personal and corporate authors.

No matter what the sport—from cricket, snooker, or golf to karate, kyudo, and curling—a source is waiting to be discovered by librarians in reference and collection development and students in research and investigation. Recommended for research libraries, large public libraries, library schools, and those libraries with a focus on sports and exercise management. —*Sue Polanka*

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