

9-15-2003

The Most Valuable Players in Baseball, 1931-2001 (Review)

Sue Polanka

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

Follow this and additional works at: https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/ul_pub



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Polanka, S. (2003). The Most Valuable Players in Baseball, 1931-2001 (Review). *Booklist*, 100 (2), 266.
https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/ul_pub/35

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the University Libraries at CORE Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in University Libraries' Staff Publications by an authorized administrator of CORE Scholar. For more information, please contact corescholar@www.libraries.wright.edu, library-corescholar@wright.edu.

How It Works: Science and Technology. 20v. 3d ed. 2003. 2,879p. bibliog. glossary. illus. indexes. Marshall Cavendish, \$499.95 (0-7614-7314-9). 603.

This updated edition offers extensive coverage of science and technology. It is intended as a reference for students and others who want to learn more about the technologies that affect modern life but who may not have a scientific background. Volumes 1 to 19, which are each 144 pages in length, include more than 800 articles that are alphabetically arranged. Some of the entries, which vary in length from one to eight pages, include fact boxes that provide supplemental information. The topics covered range from *Abrasive* to *Zoology*. There is a comprehensive index at the beginning of volume 1, and each of the subsequent volumes includes its own table of contents. Entries conclude with an alphabetical listing of their cross-references. This is especially useful, as the first 19 volumes lack individual indexes.

The coverage provided is thorough, the writing style is clear, and explanations are easy to understand. The areas of science covered include astronomy, biology, chemistry, geography, geology, medicine, and physics. Some of the topics in this new edition pertain to recent developments in microelectronics, biotechnology, and computers. The text is complemented by more than 2,800 illustrations, of which 600 are new to this edition. Students will especially appreciate the numerous cutaway drawings showing the inner workings of a variety of objects, including an airplane and an Aqua-Lung.

Volume 20 contains more than 13 different subject indexes in addition to a general index. A sampling of the subject indexes includes "Instrumentation and Analytical Technology" and "Transportation and Leisure." The final volume also includes a section of further reading that suggests titles as well as Web sites, a glossary, a weights and measures conversion chart, a science time line, a geological timescale, and a periodic table of the elements.

The articles are highly informative and would serve students in junior high school and up as well as the browsing lay reader. This would be a useful addition for public and school libraries. For a younger audience, UXL offers the less comprehensive *Technology in Action: Science Applied to Everyday Life* (1998).

The Most Valuable Players in Baseball, 1931–2001. By Timm Boyle. 2003. 340p. appendixes. illus. index. McFarland, \$45 (0-7864-1029-9). 796.357.

Boyle, a baseball historian and author of *Baseball's Best: The MVPs* (Contemporary, 1985) and *Total Fitness the NBA Way* (Harper, 2000), provides a biographical and historical trip through 70-plus years of baseball's greatest players.

Arranged chronologically, the book highlights the American and National League's most valuable players from 1931 to 2001. Boyle encapsulates the season, the league, and each player's lifetime statistics. Each entry includes the MVP's stats for the year, a colorful and personal summation of the season and the MVP's career, and a list of the top five vote getters for that year. Many entries include a photo.

Several appendixes list MVPs by position and team, highlight the career stats for each MVP, and provide the best marks achieved by MVPs during their season. For example, in 1936 Lou Gehrig had 167 runs, the league record. A unique feature in the appendix is "Missing MVPs." Prior to 1931, when the Baseball Writers Association of America took over the MVP awards, the award was irregular if it was given at all. Boyle fills in the gaps of these missing years with 40 MVPs and twice as many runners-up, all his own choices. Season statistics are included for each player selected. Some fictional winners include Ty Cobb in 1907, 1915, and 1918 and Babe Ruth from 1919 to 1921.

The index is extensive and includes names, schools, associations, stadiums, teams, leagues, family members, and general baseball terms. The preface and introduction provide a nice history of the MVP award and a synopsis of how the winners are selected.

Boyle's new book is more extensive and up-to-date than Donald Honig's *American League Most Valuable Players* (Bantam, 1989) and *National League Most Valuable Players* (Bantam, 1989) as well as Boyle's earlier work *Baseball's Best: The MVPs*. This is a must-have reference tool for baseball collections in public or school libraries, and academic libraries with strong ready-reference or sports programs should also consider it. A circulating copy would be useful as well.

Routledge
1/2v