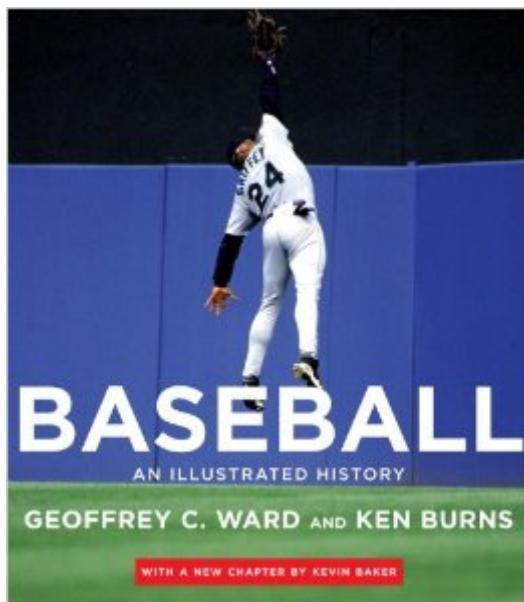


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Baseball: An Illustrated History



Synopsis

The acclaimed nationwide best seller and companion volume to Ken Burns' grand-slam PBS documentary •updated and expanded to coincide with the broadcast of a new, two-part Tenth Inning that looks back on the age of steroids, home-run records, the rise of Latino players, and so much more. With a narrative by Geoffrey C. Ward, a preface to the new edition by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, a new chapter by Kevin Baker, and an introduction by Roger Angell. Essays by Thomas Boswell, Robert W. Creamer, Gerald Early, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Bill James, David Lamb, Daniel Okrent, John Thorn, George F. Will. And featuring an interview with Buck O'Neil.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Baseball is indeed a mirror of American life, and Ward and Burns show how well America's story is told through baseball. Their book is the companion to a nine-part PBS television documentary scheduled to begin on September 18. In format and approach it resembles the authors' previous best seller, *The Civil War* (LJ 9/1/90). Each chapter, or "inning," proceeds chronologically with a dominant theme and *dramatis personae*. The profusion of striking illustrations add an extra dimension to each chapter. Another nice feature is the interlaced essays by such fine writers as Roger Angell, Robert Creamer, and Thomas Boswell on the hold that baseball has on ordinary people. The narrative gains force and momentum in sections examining the injustice of segregation and the forgotten heroes of the Negro leagues. Because the book is based on a documentary filmscript, the narrative sometimes seems a bit episodic, jumping from scene to scene and story to

story. Overall, however, this rich and suggestive history is one of the finest books produced on baseball. Highly recommended.--Paul Kaplan, Lake Villa Dist. Lib., Ill.Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Baseball comes to PBS? Don't worry, all you public-broadcasting snobs. It's not as bad as it sounds. Your local PBS affiliate hasn't outbid the major networks for the Game of the Week. Instead, Ken Burns, whose Civil War documentary won more than 40 film and television awards, has turned from Bull Run to Bull Durham, producing a new, nine-part video on baseball that will air in the fall. Published in conjunction with the PBS program, this lavishly produced, gorgeously illustrated history of the game rises far above the often dreary companion volume genre. Coauthored by Burns and Geoffrey Ward, the book devotes its nine chapters (or innings, as they're called) to a decade-by-decade survey of the evolution of baseball. Complementing the historical material are more than 500 photos, some in color, and several impressionistic essays by various luminaries including Thomas Boswell and George Will. Perhaps surprisingly, the essays are the only weak link. Yes, baseball inspires us all to flights of rhetorical fancy, but isn't it time to call a moratorium on this sort of thing: America is about hope and renewal. And gloriously, so is baseball, pulsing with the mystery of the seasons and life itself. Thanks for sharing that, John Thorn, but the pictures and the unadorned facts presented here say it far more eloquently. Baseball doesn't need purple prose; the game's faces, names, dates, and numbers carry their own poetry, and Ward and Burns, unlike some of the essayists, wisely avoid the temptation to wax lyrical. Fans will find plenty to quibble about in these pages (too much Mantle; not enough Mays), but with the exception of The Baseball Encyclopedia, there is no better one-volume history of the sport. Bill Ott --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This is a wonderful pictorial and narrative on America's favorite pastime. I just love the history, the glorious win, the pathos of defeat, and the adoration of fans. Books by Geoffrey Ward and Ken Burns stay on my book shelf in spite of trying to tidy up after purchasing two books by Marie Kondo. There are books that I love, have been autographed by the authors, and those that I keep because the books captured something in my core. Ward and Burns book fall under the latter category. I am so enamored about the subject, the research, and the resplendent results.

I would like to recommend this book to those who would like to visit Cooperstown, NY, where the Baseball Hall of Fame is. This book is full of fascinating baseball facts and familiar players. Overall,

the book shows readers pix of the greatest events in MLB history, especially in Sept 1995 when Cal Ripken, Jr. broke Lou Gehrig's record.

"Baseball: An Illustrated History" is the companion volume to Ken Burns' PBS documentary. The narrative, written by Geoffrey C. Ward, is based on the documentary filmscript by Ward and Burns. What this means in practical terms is that everything you hear and a lot of what you see in the celebrated series is in this book, plus a lot more. Each chapter/inning ends with an essay, such as Bill James on "Stats," Doris Kearns Goodwin on being a "Fan," George F. Will on "Fifties Baseball" and Gerald Early on "Baseball and African American Life." There is also an interview with Buck O'Neil, who emerged from "Baseball" as the game's greatest living good will ambassador. What you will appreciate the most are the little touches: when talking about the dominance of the Yankees in the 1950's we get a full page of choice quotes presenting "The Wisdom of Casey Stengel...and Yogi Berra." There are ads featuring Babe Ruth, pictures of old tobacco cards, the complete "Casey at the Bat," and dozens of other little gems sprinkled throughout the book. As opening day approaches each year my annual rite of spring is to watch "Baseball," and I always take out this companion volume and leaf through it as I watch a century of baseball history. This volume can stand on its own, which might be the single best testament to how good of a baseball book it happens to be.

Well worth the cost. Deals with baseball up to 1994

GREAT PURCHASE

Full of fun facts about the history of baseball and so many of its colorful characters, both players and owners. This is a fascinating read!

This is a terrific guide to baseball. Rich in history and humorous anecdotes. My son loves it!

Ken Burns survey of baseball is one of the best introductions to the game I've ever seen. Going into the history and development of America's pastime with pictures and stories, it gives fans and anyone just curious about the sport an inside view.I highly recommend this book.

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