astern League, fourteen wins shy of three hundred victories. Yet, he "came home smiling" (p. 246).

Whether malcontent, union organizer, or company man, many players interviewed by Honig spoke favorably of the office of Baseball Commissioner. Accordingly, Yankee outfield great Tommy Henrich praised Commissioner Kenesaw "Mountain" Landis for invalidating his Cleveland contract, freeing him to sign with the Yankees. Landis also gained accolades from players for his efforts to break up the monopolistic practices of Branch Rickey's St. Louis Cardinals farm system. The disgruntled lakefield concluded that the future of baseball "has to be in the hands of a very compassionate, intelligent, and shrewd commissioner who will not show favoritism to anybody but see that there is equal justice in all situations" (p. 85). In light of the firing of Commissioner Fay Vincent and his placement by owner Bud Selig of the Milwaukee Brewers, leading to a protracted labor dispute which has brought major league baseball to a stalemate, perhaps these athletes recorded by Honig offer some insight to the sport's current problems.

In conclusion, the Honig collection of baseball memories does a fine job of placing contemporary baseball, management, and athletes in some historical perspective. The volumes tend to reassure us that baseball survived the Great Depression and World War II. Accordingly, the game is greater than Bud Selig and Donald Fehr. While Honig enlightens and entertains us with memories from the 1920s to 1950s, let us take comfort in the fact that the sport will continue and provide yesterdays for future generations of baseball enthusiasts.


Mary Lou LeCompte's Cowgirls of the Rodeo is a strong addition to the university of Illinois Press's Sport and Society Series and a solid contribution to academic studies of the history of sport. This highly readable and meticulously-researched narrative on female professional athletes from the early 1880's until the present is a "must read" for historians of sport, storians of women, and historians of the North American West. The
strength of this book lays in its case of an oft-overlooked sport rooted in long-thriving regional culture. It focuses on the ways in which women athletes created their own well-defined space in a sporting culture characterized by the glitz and excitement of the Western commercial entertainment industry. LeCompte's readers will doubtless leave the book with a good deal of healthy respect for the physical accomplishments of these female athletes, and a sense of their individual and collective power.

Historians of sport will be particularly interested in Lecompte's treatment of Rodeo since it challenges many assumptions about what sport is, and what professional sport means in our culture. **Cowgirls** shows the legacy of women athletes competing professionally in a "theoretically macho" sport where both male and female athletes competed side by side—an sometimes against each other—in physically-demanding feats of skill such as Bronc Riding, Trick Riding, and Barrel Racing. Straying away from the paradigm of mainstream (male-stream professional urban team) sport LeCompte probes the culture created and shared by cowboys and cowgirls. She does this with a sensitivity to the interconnectedness between male and female athletes, and to the social construction of their roles in Western culture where Victorian middle-class notions of womanhood did not prevail.

This chronologically-arranged book offers much detailed information about the inception, growth, and current status of the Rodeo and the professional organizing of cowgirls. Throughout the six chapters are accounts of Rodeo circuits and the events, athlete salaries and prize purses, and good comparative assessments of cowgirl and cowboy earnings. These figures are presented within the context of North America's economic times, for example, the financial panic of 1893 and the Great Depression. As well, the author shows the effect of the economic times on the rodeo industry, and how professional organized in various periods (i.e. with the creation of the Girls Rodeo Association, 1948, the forerunner of the current Women's Professional Rodeo Association) to better the lot of these women athletes.

This book is thoroughly researched and the author makes good use of Appendices, an Annotated Bibliography, and Research Notes to support her case. Researchers in the area will find these items quite valuable. Lists of cowgirl events, numbers of participants involved, and the names of champions and those inducted into Halls of Fame, while mentioned throughout the text, are neatly presented in nine chronologically-arranged...