Stick Fly A Play

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in the late 1850s organized baseball was a club based fraternal sport sport two decades later it had become an entertainment business run by owners and managers depending on gate receipts and the disciplined labor of skilled player employees goldstein reconstructs the culture and experience of early baseball through examination of the sporting press baseball guides and the correspondence of player manager harry wright emphasizing the game s simultaneous character as work and play goldstein explains the intensity of baseball s labor relations as well as public ambivalence about the commercialization of the annotation copyrighted by book news inc portland or

in the late 1850s organized baseball was a club based fraternal sport thriving in the cultures of respectable artisans clerks and shopkeepers and middle class sportsmen two decades later it had become an entertainment business run by owners and managers depending on gate receipts and the increasingly disciplined labor of skilled player employees playing for keeps is an insightful in depth account of the game that became america s premier spectator sport for nearly a century reconstructing the culture and experience of early baseball through a careful reading of the sporting press baseball guides and the correspondence of the player manager harry wright warren goldstein discovers the origins of many modern controversies during the game s earliest decades the 20th anniversary edition of goldstein s classic includes information about the changes that have occurred in the history of the sport since the 1980s and an account of his experience as a scholarly consultant during the production of ken burns s baseball

this book completes the series of histories of the clubs and players responsible for making baseball the national pastime that began with base ball pioneers 1850 1870 mcfarland 2011 forty clubs and hundreds of pioneer players from the first hotbeds of new york city philadelphia new jersey and massachusetts are profiled by leading experts on baseball s early years the subjects include legendary clubs such as the knickerbockers of new york the eckfords and atlantics of brooklyn the athletics of philadelphia and harvard s first baseball clubs and fabled players like jim creighton dickey pearce and daniel adams but space is also given to less well remembered clubs such as the champion club of jersey city and the cummaquids of barnstable massachusetts what united all of these founders of the game was that their love of baseball during its earliest years helped to make it the national pastime

this history of america s pastime describes the evolution of baseball from early bat and ball games to its growth and acceptance in different regions of the country such new york clubs as the atlantics excelsiors and mutuals are a primary focus serving as examples of how the sport became more sophisticated and popular the author compares theories about many of baseball s inventors exploring the often fascinating stories of several of baseball s oldest founding myths the impact of the civil war on the sport is discussed and baseball s unsteady path to becoming america s national game is analyzed at length

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