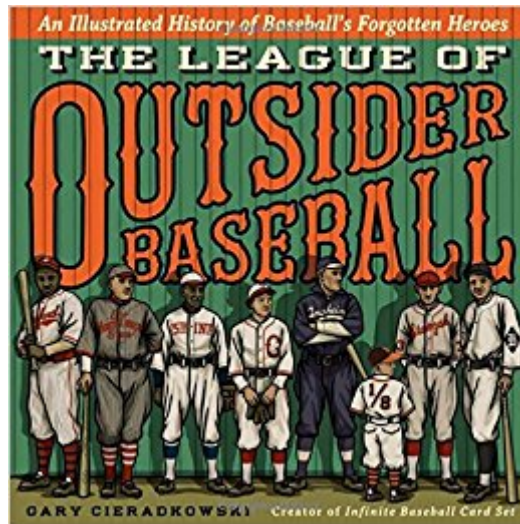


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# The League Of Outsider Baseball: An Illustrated History Of Baseball's Forgotten Heroes



## Synopsis

From an award-winning graphic artist and baseball historian comes a strikingly original illustrated history of baseball's forgotten heroes, including stars of the Negro Leagues, barnstorming teams, semi-pro leagues, foreign leagues, and famous players like Shoeless Joe Jackson, Jackie Robinson, Willie Mays, and Joe DiMaggio before they achieved notoriety. From a young age, Gary Cieradkowski had a passion for baseball's unheralded heroes. Inspired by his father and their shared love of the sport, Cieradkowski began creating "outsider" baseball cards, as a way to tell the little-known stories of baseball's many unsung heroes alongside some of baseball's greatest players before they were famous. The League of Outsider Baseball is a tribute to all of those who've played the game, known and unknown. Shining a light into the dark corners of baseball history from Mickey Mantle's minor league days to Negro League greats like Josh Gibson and Leon Day; to people that most never knew played the game, such as Frank Sinatra, who had his own ball club in 1940s Hollywood; bank robber John Dillinger, who was a promising shortstop and took time out between robberies to attend Cubs games; and even a few US presidents this book is a rich, visual tribute to America's pastime. Meticulously researched, beautifully illustrated using a unique, vintage baseball-card-style, and filled with a colorful and rich cast of characters, this book is a prized collector's item and will be cherished by fans of all ages.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A classic and unique summer adventure whose main reason for existence is fun! This is baseball storytelling at its finest, with unheard tales about the Negro Leagues, semi-pro town teams, foreign

and low minors. The author/artist/historian's one-of-a-kind original poses portray the obscure and legendary. His mastery of color, line, and technique -- but best of all, his sense of humor! -- speak the language of the love of the game. A feast for the eyes, mind and heart. This is a book that feels, looks, and smells like a day at the park of Outsider Baseball. A true labor of love dedicated to his mentor and dad. If I could have given it 6 stars out of 5, I would have!

The League of Outsider Baseball • by Gary Cieradkowski is a creative compilation of interesting stories about baseball players: famous, infamous and unknown. Cieradkowski is an artist, or is he a writer? He does both by using his baseball card paintings to illustrate the short stories of around 100 players spread over 233 pages. I found things I didn't know about famous players like Babe Ruth, Satchel Paige and Joe Medwick. You get glimpses of brief participants like Eddie Gaedel, Moonlight Graham and Pete Gray. However, the meat of the book deals with players who may have played in foreign countries, semi-pro leagues, prisons, or in obscurity in the major leagues. They may be heroic, criminal, poorly-treated, unlucky, mentally challenged or geniuses. They are all interesting and enjoyable reading. George Vrechek, Sports Collectors Digest columnist

As a baseball fan I gravitate towards books that involve the sport. However, I do so grudgingly because I don't want the author to tarnish my love of the game. In The League of Outsider Baseball by Gary Cieradkowski I was not disappointed! The old baseball card style of art work was a great way to tell the stories visually. And since the book was written from a historian's point-of-view it was spot on in accuracy. I found myself wanting to learn more about the people that Cieradkowski mentioned. My young son also enjoyed me reading him stories about Jackie Robinson and Joe DiMaggio that he hadn't heard before.

The League of Outsider Baseball tells the stories of players in the obscure corners of the game--the Negro Leagues, semi-pro teams, low minors and foreign teams. Most of the players are ones who most people have never heard of. You will read about Mose Solomon (the Jewish Babe Ruth), Tom DeWhirst (the Bearded Babe Ruth), George Sackett (the Babe Ruth of the semi-pros), Ford Meadows (the Original Babe Ruth), Hector Espino (Mexico's Babe Ruth), Carlos Torriente (the Babe with kinky hair), Josh Gibson (the Black Babe Ruth) and, of course George Herman "Babe" Ruth. There are, however, also stories about well-known players such as Sandy Koufax, Lefty Grove, Lou Gehrig, Ted Williams and Roberto Clemente. Besides the various versions of Babe Ruth listed above, some of the lesser-known players include Percy Skillin, Russ Van Atta, Paul Gillespie,

Eiji Sawamura, Wu Ming-Chieh, Pancho Coimbre, Harris McGalliard, Alabama Pitts, Blackie Schwamb, Laymon Yokely, Dobie Moore and dozens more. Individual chapters include The Bush Leaguers, The Could Have Beens, The International Game, The Bad Guys, The People's Game, The Race Game and The Odd Balls. Author Gary Cieradkowski has collected dozens of interesting, little-known stories. Additionally, he has created visually striking, colorful artwork that's historically accurate (in regards to the uniforms) and pays homage to the turn-of-the-century tobacco cards. It adds a nice touch to the book. This is an excellent book for anyone, young or old, interested in baseball history and/or little-known stories.

Great choice for baseball fan who thinks he knows everything... Outside Baseball, beautifully illustrated, surprised and delighted my baseball history fan (though I'm not sure he would use the word 'delight') but he liked it a lot. Terrific illustrations too!

Great book full of interesting art (baseball cards) and enlightening stories of famous and not so famous baseball players. Art and stories mesh well. Outstanding choice for anyone interested in baseball history. Hope a second edition is in the works.

This book has been well written and presented many facts and story lines that have are not commonly written about. So many of the failed careers described were due to injuries that today's baseball players would be treated for and continue on their way to success as a baseball player. The importance of baseball as a means of breaking down barriers between cultures and allowing people from different ethnic groups to assimilate in America and other countries is emphasized. Baseball is an important part of our society and a microcosm of us as a whole.

Amazingly fun book. I learned so much about baseball from this book and its a fun, easy read. For anyone 8 to 108. If you know someone who loves reading about baseball and its legendary crazy characters, this is the book for them. Highly recommended.

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