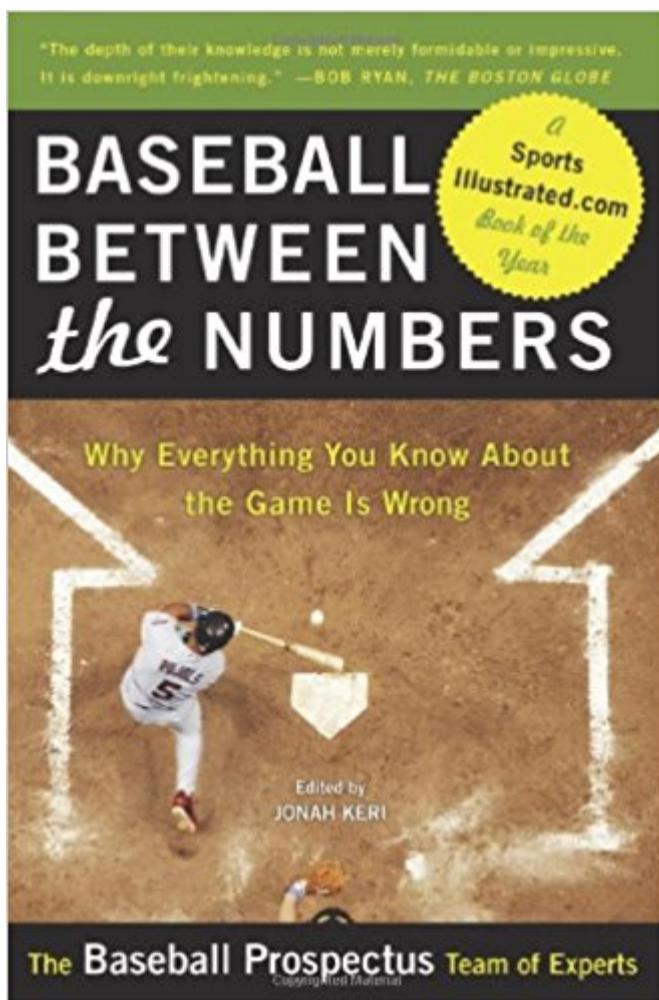


The book was found

Baseball Between The Numbers: Why Everything You Know About The Game Is Wrong



Synopsis

In the numbers-obsessed sport of baseball, statistics don't merely record what players, managers, and owners have done. Properly understood, they can tell us how the teams we root for could employ better strategies, put more effective players on the field, and win more games. The revolution in baseball statistics that began in the 1970s is a controversial subject that professionals and fans alike argue over without end. Despite this fundamental change in the way we watch and understand the sport, no one has written the book that reveals, across every area of strategy and management, how the best practitioners of statistical analysis in baseball—people like Bill James, Billy Beane, and Theo Epstein—think about numbers and the game. *Baseball Between the Numbers* is that book. In separate chapters covering every aspect of the game, from hitting, pitching, and fielding to roster construction and the scouting and drafting of players, the experts at *Baseball Prospectus* examine the subtle, hidden aspects of the game, bring them out into the open, and show us how our favorite teams could win more games. This is a book that every fan, every follower of sports radio, every fantasy player, every coach, and every player, at every level, can learn from and enjoy.

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Customer Reviews

Who deserves recognition as the best baseball player of all time—Barry Bonds or Babe Ruth? The stuff of endless debates among baseball fans, such questions come into sharp focus when the experts of *Baseball Prospectus* start parsing their trove of statistics. Looking, for instance, at the Bonds-versus-Ruth issue, the BP statisticians systematically adjust the two stars' numbers to reflect changes in parks, in level of competition, and in training technology as they establish that although

Ruth still holds the overall edge, Bonds could overtake him with a couple more good seasons. But these baseball mavens look beyond the performance of individual players, as they examine entire teams (the '04 Red Sox and '01 Diamondbacks, for instance) and even whole epochs (the golden era of 1949--57). BP numbers help readers see the world beyond the diamond as well, clarifying the economic pressures that push marginal players to use steroids and are increasingly pushing working-class fans right out of the stadiums their taxes are subsidizing. A valuable reference for baseball fans and cultural critics alike. Bryce Christensen Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Baseball Prospectus is the top statistical web site in baseball and is extensively used, in print and on air, by a wide range of major broadcasters, magazines, and daily newspapers that cover Major League Baseball.

If you are looking for a way to dive even further in to baseball, this is the book to read. Unbelievably detailed analysis that is clearly stated. I really enjoyed how each section addresses a specific contentious question (i.e. Bonds or Ruth?) and uses that question to expand on to more wide-ranging analysis and to introduce core statistical methods that they will mention throughout the rest of the book. If you already like baseball, this book will be perfect. I only give it a 4 star rating because it is a slow read and definitely not for everyone. At times, you can become bogged down in the numbers as well. But overall, unbelievable book that is well-written (many humorous stories and asides along with the data). I will be looking forward to moving on to other baseball books in the future and watching the games more closely this season.

Certainly not a light and easy read, but if you enjoy statistics and baseball this book is incredible. It gives great examples, and keeps the content light enough for a casual reader to enjoy, yet in depth enough for a statistician to be learning

An excellent title for me as a nerd who doesn't understand baseball very well. The interesting collection of articles was fascinating and I learned much about the statistical side of the game. Highly recommend this title.

Superb explanation of the new metrics being used in MLB. The only improvement would be a more detailed analysis of the interplay / conflict between traditional observational scouting and analytics in

decision making by Clubs.

Baseball Between the Numbers is obviously a book for baseball fans and one that will appeal to both those who are and are not into sabermetrics. The top-notch writing and the way the book presents its findings and arguments combine to present a work that I give it the highest rating I possibly can. The group I was in when I first started reading--newer to advanced statistics and looking to get more into how all the numbers work--will eat this book up. The best aspect of BBTN, however, is that it does not ignore what the game has been for so long, and still is to most people. It is not a bunch of cold numbers or saying a player stinks because stat X is under Y, as if each guy is an answer to a third graders' math test--which is too often the impression people get of advanced stats, particularly among the non-sabermetric crowd. It's quite the opposite. Had somebody shown me concepts in math class--a few of which I recognize from school--and explained I could actually apply them to sports, you bet I would've been a heck of a lot more excited to go to math every day and probably actually understood the concepts. Nobody is claiming these findings are gospel either. In many cases, they let the numbers themselves point out why a statistic is or is not repeatable. Or say flat out, that in certain cases it comes down to luck. This may seem to weaken the entire argument of why to use sabermetrics in the first place, but it is actually quite the opposite; understanding the weaknesses of your field will allow you to apply the findings more appropriately. The most eye-opening sections are why the statistics shown with every batter on television are often poor gauges of performance. Many of these figures were developed at a time when the game was very different and while the game has changed, our ways of analyzing it has not (at least in the mainstream). Each chapter seeks to answer a simple question: "Is David Ortiz a Clutch Hitter?" or "Is Joe Torre a Hall of Fame Manager?" While they seem simple, those questions encompass a great deal and each author does a solid job of explaining why they look at the figures they do to answer the questions. A side effect of which is training the readers to not only come up with their own questions, but figure out how to answer them. That is, if they are not too busy reading this book's sequel.

Good read. Good condition.

The guys (and gal) at Baseball Prospectus (they have a premium web site) have been producing brilliant, mind-expanding, funny and analytically-based books for 10 years. If you watch baseball on TV (networks, national and/or local cable channels), you almost certainly pull your hair and shout at

your TV when the announcers talk about any of the following: the importance of chemistry, why being aggressive at the plate is gggrrreeeaattt, how bunting leads to winning, and how pitch counts are ruining the pitchers and slowing down the game (actually, advertising is slowing down the game). A lot of fans are very emotional about baseball and are often not open to new ideas or different ways of looking at things. The people at BP have done exhaustive research and have broken new ground in the area of statistical analysis. In this book, they show the following: why batting order really doesn't matter; how closers are often misused (in low leverage situations rather than when there are 2 men on in the 8th); that most managers do not make any difference; that new stadiums are just a horrific deal for the tax payer; and why steroids really haven't effected the game much at all (I know, very hard to swallow). It's a very well written book. It is a little dry at times because of the reliance on statistics and graphs, but it is a most-own book for baseball fans.

This is one of my favorite go to baseball books. Lots of stats and information you can't find elsewhere.

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