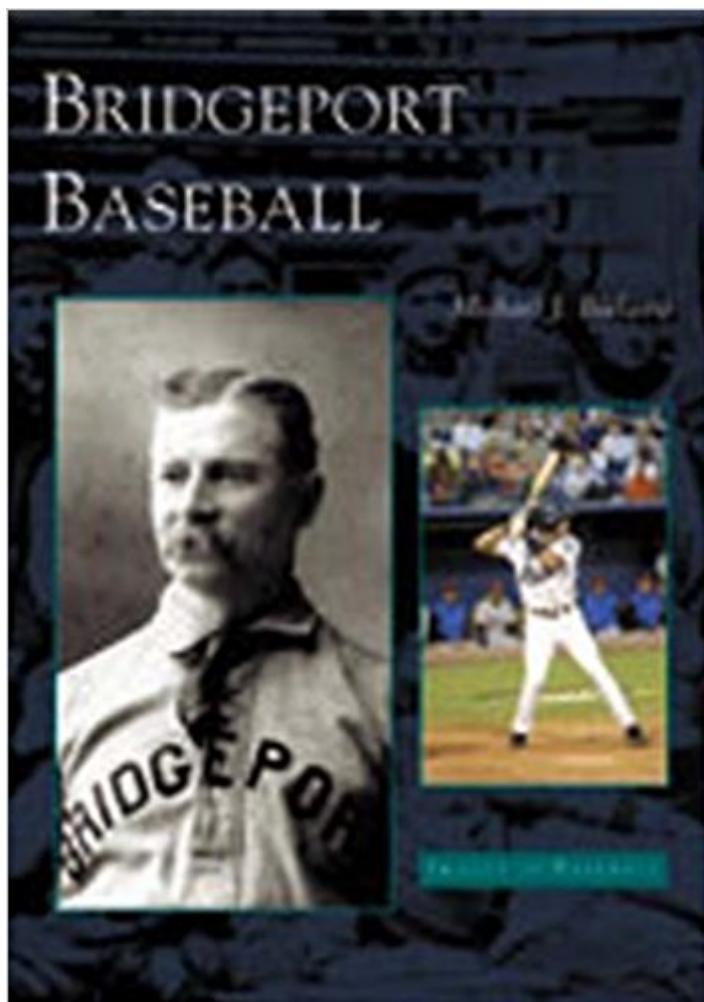


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# Bridgeport Baseball (CT) (Images Of Baseball)



## **Synopsis**

Bridgeport, Connecticut, owns a rich and diverse baseball history. People from varied backgrounds stepped up to the plate in Bridgeport's early years-sons of Irish immigrants, laborers and merchants, Asian and Latino players, and some of the first African Americans to play professional ball. Local baseball truly blossomed with "Orator" Jim O'Rourke, who returned from the big leagues and organized the Connecticut State Baseball League in 1895. Numerous Bridgeport teams evolved, including the Victors, Mechanics, Bolts, Americans, and Bears. Bridgeport Baseball traces the game from the post-Civil War era to today. Baseball beneath the roaring smokestacks of industrial Bridgeport included visits by barnstorming Major League and Negro League teams, future Hall of Famers, and a train wreck that almost killed the St. Louis Cardinals. The smokestacks are silent now, yet the legacy of Bridgeport baseball continues to evolve with the city's first professional club in nearly half a century-the Bridgeport Bluefish. The team, owners, staff, fans, and stadium have all contributed to restoring the living history that is Bridgeport Baseball.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Michael J. Bielawa is the community relations librarian with the Bridgeport Public Library. He is a local baseball historian and member of the Society for American Baseball Research. He also writes and lectures on the history of baseball in Connecticut.

Even more amazing than the exactness of detail researched into conjuring up this book and greater thaning the quality and historic emergence of these photos is the pride and enthusiasm that Michael

Bielawa represents with the creation of this historic book. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Bielawa on a recent "random" encounter and was introduced to him and this book. I am a recently retired professional baseball player (who played against the Bridgeport Bluefish last season 2011) I thoroughly enjoy Mr. Bielawa's passion not just for the game of baseball and history but for life as well. His positive energy rubs off on those he engages with. History is represented through the perspective of the author. In this book you will receive a detailed account of the birth, growth and current status of baseball and it's impact on Bridgeport. From Babe Ruth to Gehrig and many more immortals in Baseball have traveled and played ball through Bridgeport; but also not so famous ballplayers like Buck Lai a Chinese-American who is pictured standing with Babe Ruth. Bridgeport's historic pasted is uncovered and brought to life with the star of the book going to the eccentric Jim O'Rourke. Who is idealized in Bridgeport with a statue representing his great contribution to baseball and Bridgeport. A statue that was only granted because of the enthusiasm and persistence of the author Mr. Bielawa. A book of pride, a book of love, a book about baseball and community. A book to be promoted and read.

This book is really cool, an interesting and informative look at Baseball. I am a Bridgeport fan too, and this book is a fine addition to the "Images of America" / "Images of Baseball" series. It is filled with great historical pictures and stores and I can't imagine anyone being disappointed by this book.

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