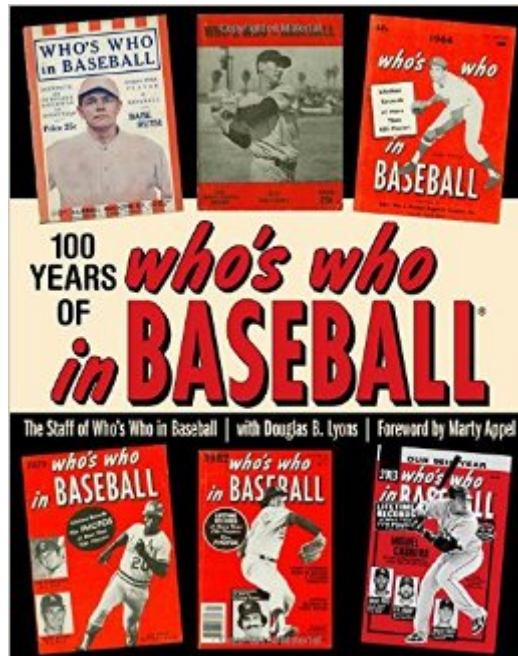


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100 Years Of Who's Who In Baseball



Synopsis

In celebration of the 100th issue of *Who's Who in Baseball* "one of the game's most venerable publications" comes a century's worth of the annual's iconic covers, insightful breakdowns of the players featured on those covers, and informative accounts of the baseball history tied to each year's issue. *100 Years of Who's Who in Baseball* is a colorful, must-have book of baseball nostalgia for fans of the American Pastime. The start of the baseball season brings with it a host of annual traditions and reminders, and one of the most beloved "the annual *Who's Who in Baseball*" arrives on newsstands across the country every Spring Training. The 2015 season marks 100 years of *Who's Who* delivering year-by-year stats to generations of baseball fans to quickly and easily track a player's performance from the minors to the majors. And while *Who's Who* is trusted as an authoritative source of baseball statistics and has been used by generations of club executives, broadcasters, journalists, and fans "it's the publication's cover subject that each year generates as much hot-stove speculation and buzz as off-season rumors of trades, firings, and pitching rotations. In partnership with *Who's Who in Baseball*, this celebratory book features each of the annual's 100 iconic covers in full color along with an account of why the player rated the cover and what was going on in baseball at the time. From baseball's deadball era to the dawn of replay review, this collection offers a gorgeously illustrated history of the game.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What's Good: The book shows the front covers in full size of the 100 years of publication with interesting and striking pictures, especially before the magazine went to the all-red background in the 1950's. It would be very expensive - if not impossible for the reader to accumulate these on his own.

What's Indifferent: In a 200 page book, the pictures of covers noted above take up half the space all by themselves. The other pages are devoted to brief biographical sketches of the players on the cover, and to very brief summaries of what happened in baseball that year. The consumer who buys this book is most likely a baseball nut (like myself), and who likely already has much of this information in his memory, or has it readily available, and in more detail, on thirty other books on his shelves.

What's Not So Good: There's a lot of material that might have been included that was left out - and, sadly, a lot of blank space that might have been put to better use. Back in the 1950's and '60's, many of us would use the *Who's Who* (and *Street & Smith's Annual*) for much of our baseball information. *Street and Smith's* gave a snapshot of the coming year along with a good stat summary of the previous year. But *Who's Who* gave us the player's entire career stats, including minor league stats. Back then, a player could be in the minors for 8-10 years before getting up to the majors; his minor league stats were his whole career, so if you wanted to know about him, you needed those stats. And *Who's Who* gave the player's trade history. Before free agency, many players, especially lesser ones, were traded many times, sometimes more than once in the same year. And the trades were complex; three-way trades involving eight or nine different players were not unheard of. All of this information is readily available today on websites like *Retrosheet* or *Baseball Reference*, but "back in the day" *Who's Who* was the only source for many of us. So *100 Years of Who's Who in Baseball* is nice to have, but I believe it missed its roots. *Who's Who* - the actual magazine - was crammed with information and stats, a stat junkie's dream. This book is a picture book with a lot of empty space and paltry facts. A few examples of a players stats - the players on the cover, or perhaps some obscure player who was always a trade "throw-in" would have put all that dead space to good use.

I have always enjoyed *Who's Who in Baseball*. The annual publication has served as a harbinger of spring and a tremendous way not only to prepare for the season but as a valued resource during the season. As *Who's Who in Baseball* prepares to celebrate it's 100th year, the editors have assembled this wonderful collection featuring pictures of each year's cover, a synopsis of who is featured on the covers and a brief description of what happened "In and Around Baseball" during each season. I am only in the middle stages of the book, but have already learned a great deal about the sport I love. Did you know Tris Speaker was a natural righty that taught himself to throw

left handed when his right arm was broken twice after being thrown by a horse? Just one of the great nuggets I've picked up by reading this book. I'm looking forward the 2015 Who's Who in Baseball and a great baseball season!

I like this book as I've been a big fan of Who's Who since the early 70's. I give it only 3 stars however as they seem to be in desperate need of a proofreader. I only turned to page 201 regarding the 2015 edition, the last page basically. Jose Altuve won the NL batting title with a .302 average? And Clayton Kershaw was the first pitcher since both Bob Gibson & Denny McClain in 1968, to win both the Cy Young & MVP awards in the same season? Do the authors not remember Justin Verlander, Vida Blue, Willie Hernandez, Rollie Fingers, & Roger Clemens? You guys should have called me. I would have proofread this for free.

I've been reading Who's Who in Baseball for over 20 years, buying each issue every season. I love the stats in the magazine. This book is a great addendum, it tells what happened every year in baseball since the start of the game. There was just the right amount of information on every season so you got a good feel for what happened that year. It really helps you understand the evolution of baseball from the Babe Ruth era all the way through to today. I'm a big fan and would highly recommend this to anyone who's into baseball.

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