

Contents

Introduction: Red All Over by <i>Daniel Okrent</i>	xix
Prologue: My Press-Box Memoirs	xxxiii

BASEBALL 1934–1951

Dizzy Dean's Day <i>Cards Trounce Reds for National League Pennant</i>	3
It Wasn't the Hits <i>Whose Color Compares with Resplendent Ruth's?</i>	8
A Toast to Coach Wagner <i>Benswanger Honors the Pirate Who Made Him</i>	11
Winning by Striking Out <i>Owen's Mitt Betrays Dodgers as Yanks Take Game 4</i>	14
Big Man for His Size <i>Shortstop "Bunny" Griffiths Is a Major Minor Leaguer</i>	18
Spit Is a Horrid Word <i>Detroit's Tommy Bridges Eyes 200th Win</i>	21
Plagiarists from the Polo Grounds <i>Giants Steal from Dodgers' Playbook in Ebbets Field Opener</i>	24
It's All Genuine, Although Synthetic <i>Brooklyn's Red Barber Talks a Great Game</i>	27
Silvertooth Mike Is Right Again <i>González Opens Door for Slaughter's Mad Dash</i>	30

The Big Train, Westbound <i>Walter Perry Johnson, 1887–1946</i>	33
Next to Godliness <i>Cookie Swings for Fence, Ruins Bevens' No-Hitter</i>	37
Pitching Takes Brains <i>Al Schacht Picks His All-Screwball Lineup</i>	40
Young Old Master <i>Joe DiMaggio at 34</i>	43
They Let George Do It <i>"Large Jarge" Magerkurth Hangs Up His Blue Serge</i>	46
Jim Crow's Playmates <i>Branch Rickey vs. the Color Line</i>	49
The Babe <i>George Herman Ruth, Jr., 1895–1948</i>	52
They Played It by Radio <i>Red Sox Make Playoffs But DiMaggio Makes Them Work</i>	55
A Nation of Hams <i>America's Pastime Mugs for the Camera</i>	58
One Vote for Will Harridge <i>A.L. President Makes Wise Call</i>	61
The Vacant Chair <i>Casey Stengel Paces</i>	64
Off the High Board <i>Phillies Nab First Pennant in 35 Years</i>	67
New Year's Baby <i>Mickey Mantle, Age 19, Says "Hello, New York!"</i>	70
American Indian Day <i>Yanks' Allie Reynolds Pitches No-Hit Pennant Clincher</i>	73

Miracle of Coogan's Bluff <i>Bobby Thomson's "Shot Heard 'Round the World"</i>	76
The Real Amateur <i>DiMaggio Leaves the Game He Loves</i>	79
SPORTS IN THE FORTIES	
Gaelic Disaster <i>Army Levels Notre Dame, 59 to 0</i>	85
The Lost Cause <i>Army, Navy, Commander in Chief</i>	89
The Most Important Thing <i>Yale's Band Is Two Steps Faster Than Harvard's</i>	92
A Whole Troop of Calverley <i>R.I. State Point Guard Thrills Crowd at Garden</i>	95
Falling Off Mountains <i>Berkshire-Bound New Haven Line Makes First Postwar Ski Run</i>	98
The Strongest Lady in the World <i>Miss Dorcas Lehman, Weightlifter</i>	101
Boxing's Elder Statesman <i>James J. Johnston, 1875-1946</i>	105
The Pure in Heart <i>A Proper British Boxer Gets Nailed American-Style</i>	108
You Get a Funny Feeling <i>Tommy Bell Preps for Sugar Ray Robinson</i>	110
They Trut Him Good <i>Windy City Shoulders Graziano, a Roughneck and a Rowdy</i>	113
So Long, Joe <i>Joe "The Champ" Louis Meets Mr. Ten-to-One</i>	116

Water-Fed Panther	119
<i>Harry Wills Observes the Liquid Diet</i>	
Videots	122
<i>Fusari, Castellani, Dewar's & Philco</i>	
Rendezvous with Danger	125
<i>Duke Nalon Wins the "500"</i>	
The Old Man Earned His Pension	129
<i>No Rewrite Possible for Grandest Story in Horse Racing</i>	
Death of "The Iceman"	132
<i>George Monroe Woolf, 1910–1946</i>	
Love Story	135
<i>First Whirl, Son of Whirlaway, Makes Debut at Keeneland</i>	
Belmont of the Backwoods	138
<i>Sunshine Park, Between Tampa and Clearwater</i>	
A Day of Beauty	141
<i>Jet Pilot Wins Kentucky Derby</i>	
A Horse You Had to Like	144
<i>Remembering Seabiscuit</i>	
Derby Day, Southern Fried	148
<i>The Calumet Capers—Coaltown and Citation</i>	
A Very Pious Story	151
<i>The Christian Bettor: A Tale from the Track</i>	
Super	154
<i>Mr. Frank Keogh, Steward of Aqueduct</i>	
Missouri Mortician	157
<i>Herman Keiser Undertakes the Masters</i>	
Kings Get In Free	160
<i>Olympic Torch Lights Up Wembley Stadium</i>	

FISHING FOR TROUT

Opening Day	167
<i>A Foursome Tackles the Banks of the Beaverkill</i>	
The Rills of Home	170
<i>A Lovely Spring Morning in That Stream Just Out Back</i>	
Young Man with Fly Rod	173
<i>A High-Summer Saturday with Mr. S.G.H. and Son</i>	
Somewhat Like Poetry	176
<i>The Lessons of a Sunday on the Neversink River</i>	
No Orchestral Din	179
<i>Fifty Strikes a Day</i>	
Rainbow in the Dust	182
<i>Catch and Release in a Desert Swimming Pool</i>	
The Brakes Got Drunk	185
<i>A Truckload of Happiness Up in the Andes</i>	
Laughing River	188
<i>The Beaverkill Chuckles at the Greenhorn with a Fly Rod</i>	

SPORTS IN THE FIFTIES

Grimacing Greyhound	193
<i>Five Thousand Meters of Agony with Emil Zátopek</i>	
Airborne Parson	196
<i>The Rev. Bob Richards Vaults for Heaven</i>	
Golf Is a Gentleman's Game	198
<i>But Is Sam Snead a Gentleman?</i>	
Basketball in a Cage	201
<i>Doing Time for Dumping Games</i>	

Biological Urge	204
<i>The Need to Be In on the Action</i>	
Pattern of Violence	207
<i>Sugar Ray Robinson Survives Randy Turpin</i>	
Night for Joe Louis	210
<i>Rocky Marciano Knocks the Old Man Out</i>	
Still Life	213
<i>“End of the Road, for J.J.W.,” by R. F. Marciano</i>	
Cheap at Half the Price	215
<i>A Retirement Package for Jersey Joe Walcott</i>	
The Fight Club Upstairs	218
<i>Beecher’s Gym in Brownsville Is Boxing’s Spawning Place</i>	
Relentless Defender	221
<i>Archie Is One Tough Turtle But Rocky Cracks His Shell</i>	
Two Champs on the Ropes	224
<i>Ray Closes Basilio’s Eye But Can’t Close the Deal</i>	
Patterson’s Man	227
<i>A Confused Cus D’Amato Puts Up His Dukes</i>	
That Old Mary Ann	230
<i>Max Baer, 1909–1959</i>	
Circus on Ice	233
<i>Rangers, Canadiens Face Off at the Garden</i>	
Top Dogs	236
<i>Best in Breeds and Breeders Strut at Westminster Kennel Club</i>	
One Red Rose	239
<i>The Green Kid on Middleground Plucks a Derby Trophy</i>	
A Gold Cup	242
<i>Bringing It Home from Louisville, Courtesy Count Turf</i>	

The Swiftest Halfwit <i>Whirlaway and His World</i>	245
Great, Glittering, Gilded Fleshpot <i>Cutting the Ribbon at the New Aqueduct</i>	248
Sportsmen of the Fifties <i>Singular Acts of Greatness Redeem a Tainted Decade</i>	251
BASEBALL 1952–1961	
The Mother Tongue <i>A Wannabe Sportswriter Makes His Pitch</i>	257
A Chapter Closes <i>But Willie Mays' Story Is Just Begun</i>	260
Dept. of Emotional Reactions <i>Dodgers' Carl Erskine Wrests Game 5 from Yanks</i>	263
A Bus Named Adolphus <i>The Cards' New Prexie Travels in Style</i>	266
A Real Rough, Lovely Guy <i>The Late Bill Cissell and His Bad-Boy Ways</i>	269
Like Rooting for U.S. Steel <i>Martin's Hit in 9th Wins Yanks 5th Series in a Row</i>	272
“And Take d’Batboy Witcha!” <i>Statistics Prove Baseball a Scandalous Dawdle</i>	275
The Color of Money <i>Will Yankees' Elston Howard Make Lineup in Birmingham?</i>	278
Knothole of Memory <i>My Old Home Team, the Green Bay Bays</i>	281
Straws in the Pasture <i>Is the Pastime Passé?</i>	284

All Guys Finish at Last	287
<i>Leo Durocher Leaves the Polo Grounds</i>	
Curtain Call	290
<i>Branch Rickey Was a Baseball Man, and More</i>	
Connie, As Ever Was	293
<i>Cornelius McGillicuddy, Sr., 1862–1956</i>	
The Name Is Averill	296
<i>Earl Sr. Was Bad for Pitchers</i>	
Connoisseur of Bottles	299
<i>The Giants' Whitey Lockman Dodges Glassware in Philly</i>	
Ted Williams Spits	302
<i>The Kid Doesn't Suffer Fools Cheaply</i>	
Perfection	305
<i>Larsen's Feat a First in Any Series</i>	
Wake for a Ball Club	308
<i>The Late, Great New York Giants</i>	
East Goes West and League Goes South	311
<i>N.L. President Makes Disastrous Call</i>	
Man You Listen To	314
<i>Phil Rizzuto Speaks from Experience</i>	
Hutch and The Man	317
<i>Musial Won't Save Record-Book Hit for Hometown Crowd</i>	
Pity the Poor Umpire	320
<i>The Major Leagues vs. the Bean Ball</i>	
A Demigod of Picturesque Grace	323
<i>Napoleon Lajoie, 1874–1959</i>	
His Last Bow?	326
<i>Casey Stengel at 70</i>	

59 Homers and Counting	329
<i>Maris Chases Babe Ruth's Ghost</i>	

SPORTS IN THE SIXTIES

Bike Ride	335
<i>The Mad Pursuit of the Maillot Jaune</i>	
Who Broke the Tape?	338
<i>A Relay as Tangled as a Plate of Spaghetti</i>	
Subway Alumni	341
<i>The Secret Notre Damers of New York</i>	
The Hessians	344
<i>Buck Shaw's Eagles Eye Third NFL Championship</i>	
Skinning the Sacred Bear	347
<i>Packers Roll in the Snow and the Dough</i>	
One Drunk, Unarmed	350
<i>A Nation in Mourning and a Game for Children</i>	
Fight Night New York	352
<i>Fridays at the Garden in the '40s and '50s</i>	
Most Alone	355
<i>Patterson's Year in the Wilderness</i>	
The Road Back to Göteborg	358
<i>The Floyd-Ingo Street Fight, Resumed</i>	
Death of a Welterweight	361
<i>Benny Paret and the Case Against Boxing</i>	
"I'm the Greatest"	364
<i>Cassius Clay Wins Bragging Rights from Sonny Liston</i>	
Greaseniks	367
<i>The Grand Prix of Endurance Racing</i>	

The Patrioteers	370
<i>Nobody's a Winner in Fight over Draft Status</i>	
A Yank at Ascot	373
<i>The King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes</i>	
Dead Sea Downs	376
<i>A Racetrack Where It All Began</i>	
A Not-So-Typical Day at the Races	379
<i>A Horse, a Jockey, Hurdles, Death</i>	
The Daddy of 'Em All	382
<i>Pros Pay Their Own Way at Frontier Days Rodeo</i>	
Biting the Hand of the Masters	385
<i>Straight-Hitting, Straight-Talking Lee Trevino</i>	
The Black Berets	388
<i>Raised Fists on the Victory Stand</i>	
 FISHING FOR BASS	
On Kangaroo Lake	393
<i>The Elusive Smallmouth of Comely Door County</i>	
The Mysteries of Europe	396
<i>Local Shows Stranger "Peace That Passeth Understanding"</i>	
Matted with Bass	399
<i>The Largemouth Are Feeding on Verona Lake</i>	
Island Derby	402
<i>Casting for Prizes at Menemsha Bight</i>	
Right Little, Tight Little Isle	406
<i>The Treasures and Trash Fish of Lake Muckasie</i>	
You Give Up	409
<i>How Typical Can a Fishing Story Get?</i>	

SPORTS IN THE SEVENTIES

Constant Reader	415
<i>Charles L. Liston, 1932–1970</i>	
The Big Fight	418
<i>Joe Frazier Whips Muhammad Ali</i>	
It Takes Two	422
<i>Ali–Frazier: The Thrilla in Manila</i>	
Homecoming in the Slammer	425
<i>Don King Returns to School of Hard Knocks</i>	
Massacre in Munich	428
<i>The Black September Killings</i>	
The Round Jack Nicklaus Forgot	431
<i>World Cup '63 All Over Again</i>	
Pound for Pound, Our Greatest Living Athlete	434
<i>Willie Shoemaker Is America's Jockey</i>	
A Little Greedy, and Exactly Right	437
<i>Secretariat Wins the Triple Crown</i>	
The Frenchman's Rare Day in June	440
<i>A Slew of Happiness for Jean Cruguet</i>	
"I'm Always Ready to Lose"	443
<i>Buddy Delp's Spectacular Bid</i>	
Undefeatable	446
<i>Giants Can't Stop Miami Dolphins</i>	
Ambush at Fort Duquesne	449
<i>It's Frenchy to Franco with Five Seconds to Spare</i>	
Super-Sloppy Football	452
<i>The Cowboys-Broncos Boo-Boo Bowl</i>	

BASEBALL 1962–1981

A Character and a Constant <i>Yogi Catches Game 2,000</i>	457
Vexed Vigilantes <i>Terry Keeps Giants at Bay for Yankees' 20th Series Win</i>	460
Gotham's Urchins <i>These Second-Season Mets Might Actually Be a Ball Club</i>	463
Big Poison <i>Paul Glee Waner, 1903–1965</i>	466
Top of the Mad, Mad World <i>The Mets Amaze the Fates, Not to Mention the Orioles</i>	469
"I Do Not Feel That I Am a Piece of Property" <i>Curt Flood Resists the Reserve Clause</i>	472
Super Stainless Classic <i>The All-Star Game Has That Foamy Feeling</i>	475
The Man Who Signed the Midget <i>Robert O. Fishel, Baseball's Publicity Stuntman</i>	478
Like Old Times, Sort Of <i>Yankees–Red Sox Rivalry Is Life Blood of the Game</i>	481
The Company Way <i>The Players vs. the Commissioner's Office</i>	484
The Game They Invented for Willie <i>Say Hey But Never Say Sorry</i>	487
Henry's Finest Hour—Bowie's, Too <i>Aaron Ties Ruth's H.R. Record; Kuhn Minds the Game's Real Business</i>	490
The Terrible-Tempered Mr. Grove <i>Robert Moses "Lefty" Grove, 1900–1975</i>	493

<i>Contents</i>	xvii
The Men Who Run Baseball <i>Owners, Players, and the Ties That Bind</i>	496
Celluloid Series <i>67 Innings in 30 Flickering Minutes</i>	499
Bowl for Catfish <i>The New Yankee Stadium Welcomes All Worshipers</i>	502
The Game's Greatest Day <i>A Lump in the Throat at the Baseball Hall of Fame</i>	505
The Moving Finger Writes, Etc. <i>One, Two, Three for Reggie Jackson</i>	508
The Ever-Renewing Promise of Spring <i>Season Opener at Yankee Stadium</i>	511
The Grass Turns Brown on Boston Common <i>It's Yaz's Year But Not the Sox'</i>	514
Mr. Yastrzemski, Please Hold for the President <i>Patience, Endurance, and Hit No. 3,000</i>	517
D.H. <i>The Loathsome Ploy to End the Nine-Man Game</i>	520
Stee-rike! <i>The Long, Hot, Empty Summer of No Baseball</i>	523
Envoi: Red Smith's Final Column	527
Afterword by <i>Terence Smith</i>	529
Sources	533
Index	541