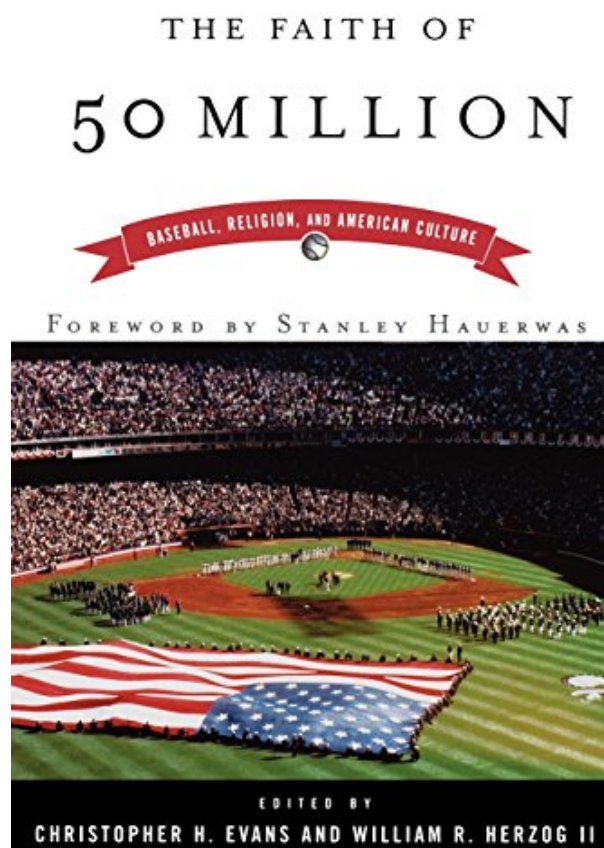


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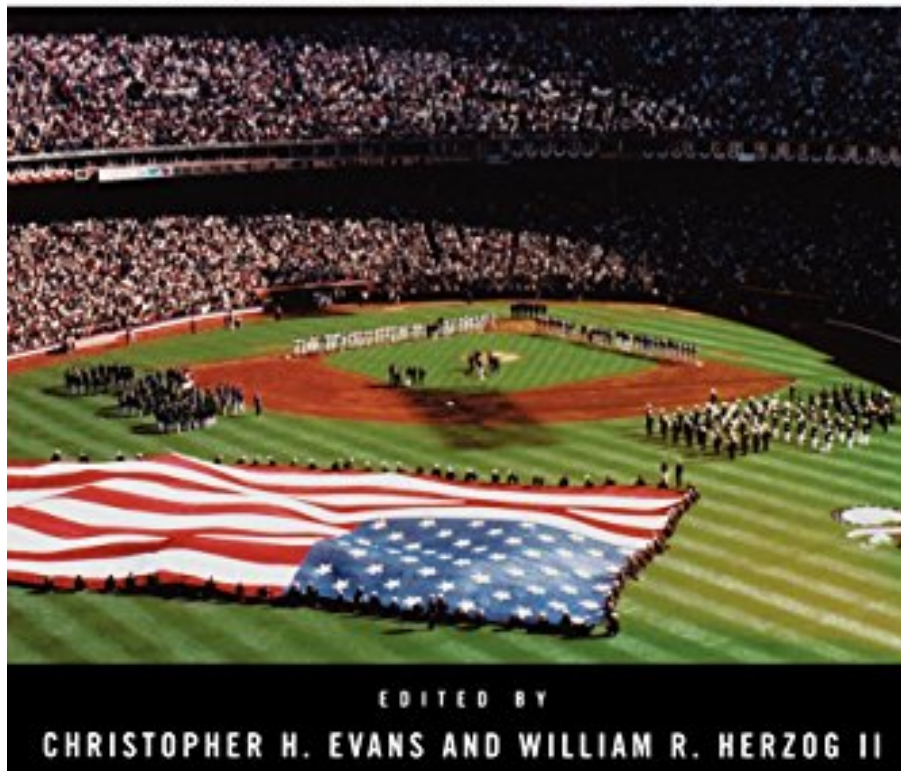
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THE FAITH OF 50 MILLION



FOREWORD BY STANLEY HAUERWAS



EDITED BY
CHRISTOPHER H. EVANS AND WILLIAM R. HERZOG II

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The religion scholars in this intriguing collection view baseball as a civil religion that can tell us much about American character and attitudes. Although more of us probably watch the Superbowl than any baseball event, baseball, with its historic claims and ties, is still regarded by many as the national pastime. Evans and Herzog, both professors at the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester, NY, present ten essays on a wide range of topics, from the racial integration of the sport to the role of women and baseball. The authors, including Stanley Hauerwas (theological ethics, Duke Univ. Divinity Sch.), Christopher H. Evans (church history, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity Sch.), and Tracy J. Trothen (ethics and pastoral theology, Univ. of Winnipeg), are especially adept at examining how baseball has always been susceptible to gambling and corruption. Although written from a Protestant religious background, this unusual anthology will appeal to readers of various faiths and is best suited for libraries with comprehensive religion or sports holdings. Paul Kaplan, Lake Villa Dist. Lib., IL
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The Faith of 50 Million features essays by religion scholars who analyze the relationship between baseball and theology in American culture. Topics include the sense of national identity, baseball and civil religion, "saints and sinners," baseball and the American Dream with regard to racial integration, women and baseball, baseball as metaphor, and baseball as spiritual autobiography. Readers will love this fascinating intersection of baseball, race, American civil religion, and contemporary sports culture.

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4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Thank God for Baseball

By C. B. Park

I expected a review of the phenomenon of baseball in American culture. What I didn't expect was good scholarship and fine theological reflection! Both are there. The essays are wonderful and examine the parallels between Christianity and baseball from the perspectives of history, ethics, and hope. Read it before your next trip to the ball park!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Complicated but compelling

By ilovedogs

I wound up picking and choosing chapters of this book because often got lost in the theological issues. The chapters on Jackie Robinson and Rickey, Christy and Pete, and Shoeless Joe were very interesting. My own father was a young mill league player in 1919 and even though I was a "girl" he loved to share with me the stories of the glory days of the game. This book brought much of him back.

While I have always been a strong supporter of Title IX, I'm not sold on the interest among women to play professional baseball. Likely the WMBA among other pro groups are more compelling interests for our gender. Not really my call, but the ladies really did not convince me of the need for a pro ladies league.

Admittedly I had to make myself stick with the "Old Man and the Sea" along with the other theology based chapters, I just could not wrap my brain around some of the reasoning. No matter, I'm of the opinion that we do need to attempt to understand stuff that appears incomprehensible and challenging.

Now, let's get busy and get Shoeless Joe in the Hall of Fame. The book made a great rational case for righting a wrong.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A good book that did not quite meet all my expectations.

By J. Scanlon

I read this book as I continue to develop my own theology of baseball. I enjoyed reading this book but wish it would have gone a little deeper. The author's main theological issue involves creating an inclusive kingdom which he compares with Jackie Robinson breaking through the color barrier in baseball. For a deeper theological connection, I suggest John Sexton's Baseball as a Road to God.

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