

***The Funniest People in Sports, Volume 2:
250 Anecdotes***

David Bruce

Dedicated with Love to

Josh Murphy

Copyright 2009 by Bruce D. Bruce

All anecdotes have been retold in my own words to avoid plagiarism.

**Anecdotes are usually short humorous stories. Sometimes they are thought-provoking or
informative, not amusing.**

Chapter 1: From Activism to Clothing

Activism

- Jackie Robinson, the African American who integrated modern major-league baseball with the Brooklyn Dodgers, was an activist long before he became famous. As a boy, he and his friends would sometimes go to the movie theater and sit in the white-people-only seats. When that happened, the police would arrive to get them out of those seats. Later, while he was playing with the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro Leagues, his team's tour bus pulled up at a gas station in Oklahoma. African Americans were allowed to buy gas there, but the men's restroom bore this sign: "WHITE MEN ONLY." Mr. Robinson walked to the restroom, and the gas station owner told him that he couldn't use that restroom. Mr. Robinson then said, "Take that hose out of the tank." The gas station owner did not want to lose any business, so he allowed Mr. Robinson to use the restroom. After that, the Kansas City Monarchs never bought gas at a gas station where they weren't allowed to use the restroom. As Mr. Robinson explained, "This is America, man."¹

- Women's sports and women athletes have not always been respected. For example, in the 1960s (well before Title 9) at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, Catherine L. Brown used to teach field hockey on a field that was also used by ROTC cadets. Sometimes, the ROTC cadets would act as if the women athletes were invisible and march onto the field—even during games. On one occasion when this happened, the ROTC cadets were standing at attention—meaning that they could not move—so Ms. Brown ordered the game to continue, and she rewarded each woman athlete who managed to hit the legs of an ROTC cadet with the ball.²

- For a very long time, the Kenilworth Hotel in Miami, Florida, did not allow Jews to stay there. Finally, in 1960, some Jewish sportswriters covering the New York Yankees' spring training trip were allowed to integrate the hotel's guest list. Leonard Shecter, a man with a sharp mind and acid tongue from the *New York Post*, hired a bellman to walk throughout the hotel and yell, "Paging Stanley Isaacs."³

Age

- In 1948, African-American pitcher Satchel Paige joined the Cleveland Indians and became the oldest rookie in the major leagues at age 42. He had made a name for himself in the Negro Leagues, but until Jackie Robinson broke the color line, no black athletes played in the major leagues. Indians shortstop and manager Lou Boudreau strongly supported integrating the major leagues, but he wondered whether Satchel was too old to play major-league baseball. Therefore, Mr. Boudreau put Mr. Paige through a workout to test his skills. First, Mr. Boudreau caught several of Mr. Paige's pitches; nearly all were in the strike zone. Next, Mr. Boudreau, who was almost a .400 hitter at the time, tried to hit Mr. Paige's pitches. Mr. Paige threw 20 pitches, and Mr. Boudreau failed to make solid contact with any of them. Shortly thereafter, the Indians offered Mr. Paige a contract. By the way, Mr. Paige's career as a major-league pitcher was long-lived. In 1965, when Mr. Paige was 59 years old, Charles O. Finley, owner of the Kansas City Athletics, brought Mr. Paige in to pitch three innings as a way to boost attendance. In three innings, Mr. Paige allowed one hit and no runs, leaving the game with a 1-0 lead; unfortunately, the Athletics lost the game, 5-2, to the Boston Red Sox.⁴

- Elwin "Preacher" Roe was one sports star who knew when it was time to quit. He was a good pitcher for the Dodgers in the 1940s and 1950s, and when catcher Roy Campanella knew that

Preacher was pitching, he would say, “They can cut the middle of the plate out and throw it away—ol’ Preach ain’t gonna use it.” Preach had more than control; he also had a good fastball that he called his burner. However, one day he was on the mound facing Stan Musial. Preach says, “I was old, I was tired, and I was facing the best hitter in the National League. I reached back to get the last bit of good stuff I had. My burner got away from me and was heading right for Stan’s head.” Then came the moment when Preach knew it was time to quit: “Fellows, I had time to yell ‘Look out!’ three times before it got there.”⁵

Animals

- Australian scuba diver and underwater photographer Valerie Taylor has an unusual ability to make pets of sea creatures. For example, she once befriended two moray eels that she named Harry and Fang. She fed them, and the moray eel named Harry—who was as big as Ms. Taylor—actually allowed her to carry him to the ocean’s surface to show him to her human friends. This is not recommended—Harry bit two other scuba divers.⁶
- In 1990, after Susan Butcher won the 1,049-mile-long Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in Alaska for the fourth time, she and one of her husky dogs, Granite, went to Washington, D.C., where they met then-President George Bush. Her dog was as much a celebrity as Ms. Butcher. Letters addressed to “Mr. Granite” were delivered to Ms. Butcher, and he drank expensive bottled water from France and ate his ground beef off a silver platter.⁷
- Drag racer Christen Powell can accelerate from 0 to 100 mph faster than perhaps anyone, but when she races, she carries a purple platypus Beanie Baby, which she puts inside the firesuit that is intended to protect her in case of an accident. Ms. Powell is a feminist. Occasionally, someone asks her if she wants to be the fastest woman on the track. She replies, “No, I want to be the fastest *person* on the track.”⁸
- As a competitor in the first All Girl Rodeo, Texas cowgirl Fern Sawyer decided to ride a bull one night when all the cowgirls who would normally ride the bulls were injured—she simply felt that the crowd should have the opportunity to see a cowgirl riding a bull. She rode the bull, but she broke her hand in nine places. No, she wasn’t bucked off—she broke her hand gripping too hard.⁹

Autographs

- When Sarah Hughes won the gold medal in ladies’ figure skating at the 2002 Winter Olympics, she received a few perks. Another gold medalist in ladies’ figure skating, Dorothy Hamill, asked Sarah to sign a copy of *Time* magazine—the one with Sarah’s photograph on the cover. (*Time* was prescient when it put Sarah’s photograph on its pre-Olympics issue—Sarah was a definite underdog in the competition.) She signed it, “Dorothy, thank you for all the inspiration. Love, Sarah.” The State of New York also gave her license plates that read “TRPL TRPL” to honor her two record-breaking triple-triple combinations in the Olympics long program—even though 16-year-old Sarah had not yet learned how to drive.¹⁰
- Nineteenth-century cartoonist Eugene “Zim” Zimmerman once made a special trip to get the autograph of John L. Sullivan at the boxing great’s saloon, but unfortunately, Mr. Sullivan was not there that day. However, Mr. Sullivan’s valet offered to give him a photograph of the great boxer. When Mr. Zimmerman mentioned that he had hoped to get Mr. Sullivan’s autograph, the valet said, “That’s all right. I’ll write his autograph on it. I often do.”¹¹

- When Dorothy Hamill was almost eleven years old, she trained at Lake Placid, New York, where one day a famous skater watched her with great concentration. After the practice was over, young Dorothy recognized the skater and asked him to write in her autograph book. He wrote, “To dear Dorothy / I’m sure you will be great one day. / Toller Cranston.” In 1976, she won an Olympic gold medal in ladies’ figure skating.¹²

Automobiles

- Chuck Klein of the Philadelphia Phillies hit four home runs in one game on July 10, 1936, against the Pittsburgh Pirates. This made him the first National League player in the 20th century to accomplish such an impressive feat. His home-run hitting turned out to be expensive for Phillies owner William Baker. Mr. Klein hit so many baseballs out of the Phillies ballpark that he was a menace to car windshields. Mr. Baker paid for each windshield that Mr. Klein’s home runs smashed. Eventually, Mr. Baker ordered a 15-foot-high screen erected on top of the Phillies’ right-field fence.¹³

- At the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics, Alberto Tomba, aka Tomba la Bomba, of Italy had more than the usual reasons to want to win a gold medal—his wealthy father had promised to buy him a Ferrari if he was victorious. And he was victorious, performing two spectacular runs in the giant slalom to win gold. After his victory, he immediately telephoned his father. After his father picked up the phone, Alberto requested, “Make it a red one.”¹⁴

Children

- Parents can embarrass even future celebrities. As a young boy, Oscar De La Hoya was sent to the grocery store to buy food with food stamps. This horribly embarrassed him, and he waited 45 minutes for the other customers to leave before he would pay for his purchase. When the grocery store cashier asked why he had waited so long to pay, he replied, “Because I have these food stamps.” After he had earned millions of dollars as a boxer, Mr. De La Hoya carried a food stamp in his wallet to remind himself of his origins. In addition, when he was 16, Oscar stayed out past his curfew even after first his mother, then his father, had called him. Suddenly, his father—dressed in a bathrobe—ran out of the house and started screaming at him. Today, Mr. de La Hoya says, “I was never more embarrassed in my life—which was the reason he did it.”¹⁵

- When Gwen Jocson was 15 years old, she wanted to learn to ride horses, so she went to a neighbor’s pasture where two horses were grazing, climbed up on a gentle horse, and hung on as the horse walked around the pasture. A few days later, she climbed up on the other horse—which was not gentle. This horse galloped around the pasture and crashed through a fence. When Gwen was found, she was unconscious. After young Gwen revived, the owner of the horses asked if she was scared. Gwen replied, “Scared of what?” Hearing that, the horses’ owner gave her some jobs to do around the horses—and some riding lessons. (The owner of the horses was Bobbie Brostoff, a well-known and well-respected teacher of riders on the jumper circuit.) During her career as a jockey, she rode 763 winners.¹⁶

- Carol Heiss was a natural at skating—both roller and figure. When she was age three and a half, her parents bought her some roller skates. After putting the skates on, young Carol held on to her father’s hand for a while as she skated, then suddenly let go of his hand and skated away from him, shocking both of her parents. The following winter, when her parents decided to let her have figure-skating lessons, the first instructor they took her to watched young Carol

skate, then gave them back their money, saying that she was already too advanced for him to teach her. She became World Champion in ladies' figure skating from 1956 through 1960, and in 1960 she won an Olympic gold medal.¹⁷

- Growing up during the Great Depression in Morgantown, West Virginia, comedian Don Knotts and his childhood friends used to sneak into West Virginia football games. Before one game, they were having trouble getting in, as the gates seemed to have overly vigilant guards. Fortunately, they noticed the football team, wearing regular clothing since they dressed in the field house for games, going into the stadium. They joined the team and enjoyed themselves while the fans cheered the football team until someone yelled, "Those kids! Grab those godd*mned kids!" They took off running and successfully disappeared into the stands as the crowd now cheered for *them*.¹⁸

- When he was a kid, Hank Aaron, as you would expect, played lots of baseball and softball games. He also practiced on his own. For example, he would practice hitting bottle caps with a broom handle—something very difficult to do. He would also spend hours throwing a ball on a roof and catching it when it fell down. Another game he perfected was throwing a ball high over his house and racing to the other side of the house so he could catch it before it bounced off the ground. Mr. Aaron felt that hitting bottle caps really improved his hitting: "The way one of those things will dip and float, you've got to jump out and get it, and that's the way I always hit a baseball."¹⁹

- Figure skater Tara Lipinski started out as a roller skater, but she changed to skating on ice when she was six years old. Her first time on the ice, she was as awkward as every other first-timer—for a while. Her parents thought that she was ready to quit, so they offered to take her out for hot chocolate, but Tara stayed on the ice. When her parents returned after taking a short break, they discovered that Tara had made the transition to ice skating and was flying around the rink as if she had been ice skating for years. In 1998, Tara won an Olympic gold medal in women's figure skating.²⁰

- In the Old West, babysitters were sometimes hard to come by. Very young children were sometimes put on a gentle, reliable horse, tied to the saddlehorn, and babysat by the horse. Of course, children learned to ride horses quickly. When Fannie Sperry was very young, her mother placed her on a horse and told her to be careful not to fall off. Young Fannie fell off anyway, so her mother picked her up, put her on the horse again, and told her to be more careful. Fanny quickly learned to ride, and eventually she competed at riding bucking stock in rodeos.²¹

- Gymnast Tracee Talavera and her older sister, Coral, attended an elementary school in San Francisco that was attended mostly by African-American children. Sometimes, the black children taunted the Talaveras by yelling at them, "You white honkies!" Coral would run to and hold the hand of a white teacher, but Tracee shouted back, "I am *not!* I'm *brown!*" This was her way of telling the African-American children that her heritage was Chicano. In fact, Talavera de la Reina, which means "Tiara of the Queen," is a town near Madrid, Spain.²²

- As an eight-year-old, future Pittsburgh Penguin hockey player Mario Lemieux had an excellent slap shot—even though most players don't develop one until their teenage years. From the center of the ice, young Mario had the strength and power to send the hockey puck flying through the air and over the high plexiglass at the end of the rink. In one game, he

scared the other team's goalie into leaving the goal undefended simply by getting ready to hit a slap shot, but once the goalie had gone, he simply tapped the puck in for a goal.²³

- While growing up, Gail Devers used to race her older brother in their backyard. He always beat her, and he always made fun of her because he had beat her. This motivated Gail to practice running. She beat her brother the next time they raced, and he stopped racing her. However, he did set up races between Gail and other children in the neighborhood—races that Gail always won. The practice paid off. Ms. Devers won three Olympic gold medals—one (100-meter) in 1992 and two in 1996 (100-meter and 4x100-meter relay).²⁴

- When she was a little girl, figure skater Sasha Cohen was used to causing and getting into trouble, so she experienced a lot of time-outs. Once, before being punished, she tried to get candy from her father. As he carried her to the spot for her time-out, she said, “Dad, before my time-out, I want 10 candies.” He said no, so she lowered her request to five candies, then to three candies, but he answered no each time. Finally, Sasha said, “OK, Dad, my final offer: Give me one candy, and I’ll take a lick and spit it out.” He laughed.²⁵

- Chris Evert came from a family of tennis players. By the time she was seventeen years old, she had won 250 trophies. Her siblings also had earned lots of sports trophies: Jeanne had 150, Drew had 125, and 10-year-old John had 20. Clare didn’t have any, but the four-year-old was busy practicing with a tennis racket that had part of its handle sawn off so she could handle it. Chris and Jeanne shared a packed bedroom—packed because it was filled with their trophies.²⁶

- One of the best days in Wilma Rudolph’s life occurred just before her 10th birthday. As a child, she had been sickly, and polio had damaged one of her legs so badly that she was forced to use a leg brace. Members of her family massaged her leg each day to help her regain use of it. Just before her 10th birthday, Wilma was able to walk into her church without using the leg brace. Ms. Rudolph won three gold medals in track and field at the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome.²⁷

- Kim Zmeskal started training in Houston, Texas, at age six, and the great gymnastics coach Bela Karolyi arrived shortly afterward. As a teenager weighing 71 pounds and standing 4-feet-5 tall, she competed for him. When the 14-year-old Kim won an award for Female Athlete of the Year in 1990, after becoming United States national champion, she amused the crowd by mentioning in her speech “people you’ve been with since you were little.”²⁸

- The most dominant basketball player who ever lived is probably Bill Russell, who led the Boston Celtics to 11 NBA Championships. But even he was not that good when he started out. As a third-string center on the JV team at McClymonds High School in Oakland, CA, he suited up for only half of the games. According to Mr. Russell, “We had 15 uniforms and 16 players, so another guy and I split [the use of] the 15th uniform.”²⁹

- Kristi Yamaguchi won the gold medal in women’s ice skating at the 1992 Winter Olympic Games. She had started ice skating as a little girl for a very good reason. She was born with a clubfoot—her foot turned inward too much—and her parents felt that skating would help to straighten her legs. The skating, in combination with corrective shoes and a brace she wore at night, worked. She did not need surgery to fix the clubfoot.³⁰

- Scott Hamilton, the 1984 Olympic gold medalist in men’s figure skating, was adopted. When as an infant he became a member of Dorothy and Ernie Hamilton’s family, Susan, their

daughter, asked why he was so wrinkled and if they could get a different baby. Soon she learned to love her new brother, and she even had him visit her school so she could use him for her show-and-tell presentation.³¹

- Gymnast Mary Lou Retton has very muscular legs. Of course, that is due to heredity and training, but her family joked that Mary Lou got the muscles in her legs from constantly being sent on errands by her older siblings and parents when she was young. Because she was the youngest of five children, she was constantly hearing, “Run upstairs and do that” or “Go and get me this.”³²

- When he was six years old, Ken Griffey, Jr., watched his father play baseball for the Cincinnati Reds. After his father struck out in a game, young Ken called out in support, “That pitcher’s got nothing.” However, after his father struck out a second time, young Ken got a laugh by calling out, “Dad, *you* got nothing.” (Even his father, who often batted over .300 in a season, laughed.)³³

- Ekaterina Gordeeva, the winner of two Olympic gold medals in pairs skating with Sergei Grinkov, started skating when she was only four years old. Despite being so young, she took skating seriously, and early in the morning, when it was time to get ready to be driven to practice, she would wake her parents and tell them, “I can’t miss it. It’s my job.”³⁴

- When figure skater Sonja Henie was five years old, she won a skating race and was awarded a small silver paper cutter. Thereafter, the paper cutter became a good-luck charm for her, and she kept it always. Ms. Henie died in 1969, but the small silver paper cutter can still be seen in a museum dedicated to her in her native Oslo, Norway.³⁵

- Amy Grossman was half of a figure skating pairs team with Robert Davenport. She has a twin sister named Karen, and the easiest way to tell them apart is by looking at a slight birthmark Amy has on her cheek. When they were youngsters, Karen sometimes drew a fake birthmark on her cheek, and they pretended to be each other.³⁶

- As a young figure skater, Dorothy Hamill was pleasantly surprised to discover that in competitions, she was called a lady, even though she was only 10 years old. Many other young girls have also been pleasantly surprised to discover that in figure-skating competitions, all females are called ladies.³⁷

- Some children have positive mental attitudes. A boy once took a baseball and a ball into his backyard. He threw the baseball into the air, swung the bat, and missed. He tried to hit the baseball a second time, and then a third, but he missed each time—so he marveled, “Gosh, what a pitcher!”³⁸

- Sometimes, people make fun of male figure skaters because they see figure skating as a female sport. This never bothered figure skater Ron Kravette because he enjoyed being the only boy in the midst of many girls. (Besides, he had a beautiful ice dance partner: Amy Webster.)³⁹

- Muriel Grossfeld competed in women’s gymnastics for the United States at the Melbourne, Rome, and Tokyo Olympic Games. As a child, she demonstrated her balancing ability by reading entire comic books while standing on her head.⁴⁰

Clothing

- In 1980, ice dancers Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean won the World Championships for their first time. As a reward for their hard work and success, the Queen of England awarded them both M.B.E.s (short for “Member of the Order of the British Empire”). This, of course, is a major honor for anyone, and Ms. Torvill had to invest in an expensive outfit, including an expensive hat, for the ceremony. Mr. Dean was luckier. He was able to rent his fancy suit and top hat. Actually, he was luckier even than that—when the rental place discovered who Mr. Dean was and why he was renting the fancy suit and top hat, they let him borrow them for free. Of course, hard work got them the M.B.E.s, and they continued to work hard after getting them. The same day they got the M.B.E.s, they were on the ice rink practicing at 11 p.m. The hard work continued to pay off. In 1984, they won gold at the Olympics, earning a string of perfect 6.0s for artistic merit for their dance to *Bolero*. (When a British reporter asked Mr. Dean later how the performance had gone, he modestly replied, “All right.”)⁴¹
- Pat Tillman died fighting in Afghanistan. He was an original who gave up a lucrative career in the NFL to become a U.S. soldier. His funeral was unusual; for example, his youngest brother, Rich, told the mourners, “Pat isn’t with God. He’s f**king dead. He wasn’t religious. So thank you for your thoughts, but he’s f**king dead.” How much of an original was the late Mr. Tillman? He was godfather to the son of Alex Garwood, his friend and brother-in-law, who told this story: Since the son had two godfathers and no godmothers, at one ceremony Mr. Tillman came dressed in women’s clothing just to provide balance.⁴²
- During the 1992 Olympic Games, Hassiba Boulmerka of Jordan won the gold medal in the 1,500-meter race. As an athlete, Ms. Boulmerka received death threats because fundamentalist Muslims felt that she should keep her body covered in public instead of running in shorts and a sleeveless top. Ms. Boulmerka, who is herself Muslim, answered her critics by saying that she is an athlete and she dresses the way middle-distance runners must dress for competitions.⁴³
- During the 1981 Stanley Cup play-offs, Richard Sevigny, the goalie for the Montreal Canadiens, predicted that Montreal star Guy Lafleur would put Edmonton Oilers star Wayne Gretzky “in his back pocket.” In game one of the play-offs, Mr. Gretzky made five assists as the Oilers defeated the Canadiens, 6-3. Mr. Gretzky then skated over to Mr. Sevigny and patted the place where his back pocket would be if hockey uniforms had back pockets.⁴⁴
- Players in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League were supposed to be feminine and wear skirts or dresses when getting off the bus and walking into a hotel. Some veterans found a way to get around the rule. Left fielder Jo Lenard used to wear a raincoat, underneath which she had rolled up the legs of her slacks.⁴⁵
- Many tall women are uncomfortable with their height—but not all. Former WNBA star Rebecca Lobo is over six feet tall, yet she wears high heels. She explains, “I figure six-foot-four, six-foot-six—what does it matter? I might as well have style.”⁴⁶
- Bud Collins, a TV commentator on tennis, is known for his lack of fashion sense. Once, he asked Chris Evert a silly question after a loss at Wimbledon. She replied, “Nice pants, Bud,” then walked away.⁴⁷
- The great jockey Tod Sloan wore shoes that were size one and a half—he used to offer a pair to any woman who was able to wear them.⁴⁸

Chapter 2: From Coaches to Fishing

Coaches

- Many coaches talk about mental toughness. Magnar Solberg, a Norwegian athlete competing in the biathlon, an event that combines cross-country skiing and shooting, had it. Martin Stokken, Mr. Solberg's coach, figured out a way to make Mr. Solberg mentally tough for those times when he needed to aim at and hit a target although his arms were exhausted from skiing cross-country. During the summer, Mr. Stokken set up a target 50 feet from an anthill. Mr. Solberg then lay down on top of the anthill and shot at the target as the ants swarmed over him. He said later, "The ants would crawl up my legs, all over my face, everywhere. It was awful. I did not believe it at the time, but my ability to concentrate under those hot, painful conditions made the actual competition easy for me in the cold." At the 1968 and the 1972 Olympic Games, Mr. Solberg was the only biathlete to have perfect "no miss" shooting scores. He also walked away from the Olympic Games with gold medals in his event.⁴⁹
- During Wayne Gretzky's first season (1979-1980) with the Edmonton Oilers, when the team was still part of the World Hockey Association, he played poor defense, costing his team a goal in a game against the Cincinnati Stingers. Therefore, his coach, Glen Sather, benched him for more than one period. When Mr. Gretzky got back into the game, he scored a hat trick (three points) to lead the Oilers to a 5-2 victory. Mr. Sather was impressed by Mr. Gretzky: "He could have pouted and sulked. But when I put him back in, he scored a hat trick. That, to me, was the turning point of his pro career."⁵⁰
- Casey Stengel coached third base while managing the Dodgers. During a doubleheader against St. Louis, the Cardinal pitchers Dizzy and Daffy Dean were magnificent. In the first game, Dizzy allowed no Dodger past second base, and in the second game, Daffy pitched a no-run, no-hit game. Following this exhibition of impressive pitching in which no Dodger had reached third base, a fan yelled down to Casey, "Nice work. You never did a better job of coaching third base. I didn't see you make one mistake all day."⁵¹
- At halftime, with his team trailing badly, a 140-pound football coach criticized a 235-pound tackle, who had actually played well, if only the coach would admit it. The coach declared, "You're just a bum. You can't take it. If I had your size, I'd be heavyweight champion of the world. Nothing could stop me." The tackle replied, "What's keeping you from being lightweight champion?"⁵²
- Figure-skating coach Brian Foley knew what to say to motivate his athletes to skate better during competitions. During a World Championship, the brother-and-sister pairs team of Val and Sandra Bezic started to lose momentum. Mr. Foley ran as close as he could to them, then yelled, "Come on, Sandra—*Move your *ss.*" The bystanders were startled, but Sandra was motivated.⁵³
- Don Faurot, football coach at Missouri, punished unsportsmanlike behavior. During a game, one of his players hit an opposing player. Referee Cliff Ogden saw the infraction and came running over to throw the player out of the game. However, the player told him, "You can't put me out of the game—Faurot's already beat you to it."⁵⁴

- Paul Brown ran into some trouble before coaching his first game at Ohio State University—because he did not have a ticket, he was refused admittance to the football stadium. Fortunately, he was able to throw some stones at his players’ window. The noise made by the stones attracted his players’ attention, and they let him in.⁵⁵

Comedians

- Many celebrities early in the 20th century grew up poor, then took up golf later in life, after they had become successful. As a result, they were poor golfers. One day George Jessel came running to George Burns, screaming, “I did it! I did it! I came in with a 99!” When Mr. Burns asked him how he had accomplished such an amazing feat, Mr. Jessel replied, “I’ll tell you how I did it—every shot perfect!”⁵⁶

- Back in high school, lesbian comedian Kate Clinton had a crush on Ruby Gill, whom she called “a smart-**ss* cheerleader.” The school’s boys’ basketball team was pathetic, and during a game in which the team was behind 80-40, Ms. Gill started chanting, “Break that tie! Break that tie!”⁵⁷

- British comedian Danny La Rue performs in drag; however, early in his career, performing in drag was not accepted. While he was imitating Mae West in a nightclub, some patrons started throwing ice cubes at him. Mr. La Rue asked, “Hey! Who do you think I am? Sonja Henie?”⁵⁸

Competitiveness

- The 1925 Rose Bowl featured Notre Dame against Stanford. In one play, Stanford fullback Ernie Nevers came close to scoring a touchdown, but when players were pulled off the pileup, Mr. Nevers was discovered to be inches short. This play was controversial, and fans of both sides argued about it for years. At a gathering of football fans and former players, a Stanford booster claimed that Mr. Nevers had scored on the play: “I used high-powered binoculars, and my seat was exactly on the goal line.” Another person, however, said, “I say he didn’t score. I also saw the play.” “Where were you sitting?” asked the Stanford booster. The other person answered, “On Nevers’ head. I’m Harry Stuhldreher, the Notre Dame quarterback that day.” (By the way, Notre Dame won, 27-10.)⁵⁹

- Astronaut Sally Ride was very competitive in tennis. While still attending a small private girls’ high school in California, she often played against the headmaster, who once got past her a particularly difficult shot, then made the mistake of showing off. Sally responded by hitting three drives in a row straight at his head. While competing at Swarthmore College, she was champion of Eastern Intercollegiate Women’s Tennis two years in a row. In fact, Ms. Ride was so good that Billie Jean King thought she could turn professional. However, Ms. Ride evaluated her tennis skills, then decided to stick to science. On June 18, 1983, she became the first American woman in space.⁶⁰

- Called the Last Great Race on Earth, the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race is a race among sled dog teams through 1,049 miles of Alaskan wilderness and villages. After Libby Riddles became the first woman to win the race in 1985, and after Susan Butcher won it in 1986, 1987, and 1988, T-shirts appeared bearing this slogan: “Alaska. Where men are men and women win the Iditarod.” (Ms. Butcher received a lot of encouragement from native Alaskan women as she attempted to win the Iditarod. As she passed their villages, the women told her, “Do this for us.”)⁶¹

- In 1947, golfer Babe Didrikson competed in the British Women's Amateur tournament, where a British woman asked her if she were worried that Americans were jinxed at the tournament—after all, such fine American players as Glenna Collett and Virginia Van Wie had played at the tournament but not won. Babe replied, “I didn't come here to lose.” In fact, she didn't lose. She defeated the Scottish champion, Jean Donald, thus becoming the first American woman to win the British Women's Amateur tournament.⁶²
- At the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, American gymnast Mary Lou Retton won the all-around competition with a vault that scored a perfect 10. Under the rules of the time, she did not need to attempt a second vault, but she did—and earned another perfect 10 score.⁶³

Contracts

- Oakland Athletics scout Camilo Pascual really wanted the team to draft Jose Canseco in 1982. Unfortunately, professional baseball teams, including the Athletics, regarded Mr. Canseco as not being big and muscular enough to play in the major leagues, so for round after round he was undrafted. Finally, Mr. Pascual pulled out his wallet and threw it on a table, saying that he believed so strongly in Mr. Canseco that he would pay his signing bonus himself. Then and only then did the Athletics draft Mr. Canseco and offer him a contract. Later, they were glad they did. Mr. Canseco put on weight and grew muscular, and he drove in many, many game-winning runs for his team. In addition, in 1988, Mr. Canseco became the first major-league player to hit 40 home runs and steal 40 bases in one season. After Mr. Canseco became such a big success, Mr. Pascual, whose own remarkable major-league career as a pitcher included two 20-win seasons in a row, joked that he would be remembered as “the guy who signed Jose Canseco.”⁶⁴
- Yankee pitcher Spurgeon “Spud” Chandler quickly learned that Yankee manager Ed Barrow was a tough negotiator when it came to player contracts. As a very young pitcher, Spud once received a contract that was for the exact same salary that he had earned the year before, although he had been promoted higher in the Yankee farm system. However, he felt that he was due for a raise, so he mailed the contract back with this letter: “I thought that the Yankees were a fair organization and would increase my pay as I moved up in baseball. But, if this is how baseball is run, maybe I should get out of it. Unless I get a raise, don't bother to return the contract. Just write me a letter.” Quickly, the contract and a letter arrived. The contract did NOT include a raise, and Mr. Barrow's letter said, “Unless you affix your signature to this contract, don't bother to return it. Just keep it as a souvenir of your brief career in organized baseball.”⁶⁵
- Red Auerbach started coaching the Boston Celtics in 1950 and almost immediately made a terrible mistake—he didn't want to draft Holy Cross guard Bob Cousy, whom he called “a local yokel.” Fortunately for the Celtics, Mr. Auerbach got him and signed him to a contract anyway. The Chicago Stags owned the rights to Mr. Cousy, and when they folded, Celtics owner Walter Brown pulled Mr. Cousy's name out of a hat and won the rights to him. Mr. Cousy's passing ability made the Celtics a respectable team and, after center and defensive genius Bill Russell joined the team, he played a very important role in winning their early championships.⁶⁶

Couples

- When basketball player Chris Mullen was drafted by a California team, the Golden State Warriors, he had to move far from his home and girlfriend in New York. Fortunately, he was making a lot of money as a professional basketball player, so he and his girlfriend could afford to talk on the telephone for hours. Both of them liked sports, so sometimes they both tuned into the same game on ESPN—she in New York, and he in California—and talked on the telephone as they watched the game together. Eventually, Mr. Mullen and his girlfriend, Liz Connolly, got married.⁶⁷

- Babe Didrikson remained single for a long time. One day, a reporter noticed a diamond ring on her finger and asked her about it. She replied, “Bought it myself. It was a diamond I wanted, not a man.” Later, she married George Zaharias, who was twice as big as she was, and got bigger—he ate sticks of butter the way other people eat bananas. The marriage was mostly happy, although when they quarreled she was not above buying a tiny convertible that her sometimes-400-pound husband could not fit into.⁶⁸

Courage

- As an elite figure skater who competed internationally as an amateur, even winning a gold medal at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, Sarah Hughes had to show strength and determination; however, some things are impossible to do the first time. For example, she thought about getting her hair cut before the 1999 World Championships. She even walked into the hair salon and listened to the snip-snip-snip of scissors—then got cold feet and walked out without getting her hair cut. But for the 2000 World Championships, she decided to go through with it. All the time that the stylist was preparing to go snip-snip-snip, Sarah was thinking, “If I don’t like it, it will grow back. If I don’t like it, it will grow back. If I don’t like it, it will grow back.” Fortunately, she liked the shorter, sassier, more grown-up haircut—and so did the judges and the fans.⁶⁹

- For a while, basketball player Chris Mullen of the Golden State Warriors had a drinking problem. It took courage for him to admit that he had a problem and to do something about it, but Mr. Mullen did. In 1988, he missed some games to go into an alcohol rehabilitation program, and he worried about what the fans would do when he returned to playing. He shouldn’t have worried. The fans gave him a standing ovation when he returned, and he responded with 10 points, six assists, four rebounds, and four steals in 23 minutes to lead the Warriors to a 102-100 home victory over the Utah Jazz.⁷⁰

Crime

- Muhammad Ali signed autographs for a long time one day, and later he discovered that someone had picked his pocket—someone had taken \$5,000 from his coat pocket. His manager lamented the loss, but Mr. Ali was philosophical about it, saying, “I don’t care about that money. The person who stole it probably needed it for their rent or to feed their children. That money will help someone, and that makes me feel good.”⁷¹

- When Oscar De La Hoya was a young boxer with a growing reputation, he was mugged by five men carrying guns. They stole his wallet and his money. However, a few hours later, the wallet and money were returned to Mr. De La Hoya’s house. The toughs had seen his ID, learned whose wallet they had stolen, and out of respect for him had returned his wallet and money.⁷²

- New York Yankee pitcher Lefty Gomez once played with a first baseman who seemed about to be thrown in jail for income tax evasion. When Lefty was asked how he felt playing with someone who might be in jail by the time the next game started, he replied, “Well, it’ll be an awfully long throw for the shortstop.”⁷³

Education

- Larry Romanoff worked as an academic counselor for Ohio State University football coach Woody Hayes, who “fired” (and quickly rehired) him several times. One day, Larry was very happy because he was academic counselor to the football players and he had some really good news for Woody—every football player except one had gotten above a 2.0 gpa that grading period. He expected Woody to be really happy, but instead Woody looked over the grade report, saw that one player had not gotten above a 2.0 gpa, threw the grade report on the floor and stomped on it, then kicked in the side of a file cabinet. Finally, he fired Larry. Later that day, Woody held a meeting and told his assistant coaches, “We had a real good quarter, but don’t tell Larry about it because he’ll get a fat head.” (Of course, Larry wasn’t really fired. He kept on working for Woody.)⁷⁴

- While author Gary Paulsen was a kid, he knew a boy named Emil (pronounced EEE-mull) who was tight with a nickel. He used to buy a candy bar for a nickel, eat half of it, then sell the remaining half to another boy for a nickel. Sometimes he used to do this six times in one day. One of the kids who bought a half-eaten candy bar for the price of a whole candy bar was Gary himself, who used the excuse that he was so bored in one particular class that he would have paid a dollar for a half-eaten candy bar just to have something to keep his mind off his history teacher. The teacher was also the football coach, and he constantly compared history to football by saying such things as “Caesar would have made a good quarterback” or “Cleopatra would have made a good quarterback, if she had been a man.”⁷⁵

- Before becoming a professional baseball pitcher, Truett “Rip” Sewell played sports in college. He was invited to look over the University of Alabama campus and sports teams, and he was watching a scrimmage of the football team when a player was hurt. Alabama coach Wallace Wade yelled, “Drag him off the field and send another one in. He probably wasn’t in shape anyway.” Mr. Sewell decided not to play sports at or attend the University of Alabama.⁷⁶

- As a teenager, Jennifer Capriati played professional tennis, making millions through endorsing products and winning tournaments. Nevertheless, she was also a student and had to turn in homework. Often, at important tennis tournaments, she would fax her homework to her school, Palmer Academy in Wesley Chapel, Florida, then go out and compete. (As a teenager, she also studied on the road with a tutor.)⁷⁷

- Tenley Albright was serious about ice skating. Once, a school principal objected when she left class early to attend an ice-skating competition. Ms. Albright’s parents transferred her to another school—and to another principal. Her ice skating did not interfere with her education. After giving up ice skating competitions, Ms. Tenley went to medical school and became a surgeon.⁷⁸

- At Wimbledon, women tennis players customarily curtsy before the royal box. In 1972, Chris Evert played Australian Evonne Goolagong at Wimbledon. Immediately before they were to walk in front of the royal box, Chris had to ask Evonne, “How do you curtsy?” Evonne

demonstrated, and Chris was able to follow the custom, thus averting a potential international crisis.⁷⁹

- When future NFL player Pat Tillman was attending Arizona State, his coach, Bruce Snyder, planned to redshirt him, thus keeping him eligible to play college football for an additional year. Mr. Tillman told him, “You can do whatever you want with me, but in four years I’m gone. I’ve got things to do with my life.”⁸⁰

Fame

- In the late 1970s, gymnast Leslie Russo was a top contender to represent the United States at the Moscow Olympic Games—which the U.S. ended up boycotting. As such, she was a teenage celebrity and kids from school would sometimes ask her for her autograph. She often replied, “You know me. You don’t need my autograph.” At other times, her schoolmates would ask, “Hey, Les. You going anyplace international this month?” Such fame did have its disadvantages, since some boys at school were too awed to ask her out on dates. She once said, “I’d like to meet somebody who treats me as an average person. Somebody’s who’s nice—and cute.”⁸¹

- When she was a young tennis player, Monica Seles liked celebrities. At her very first Wimbledon, she glimpsed Princess Diana in the stands. This awed her so much that she couldn’t concentrate on tennis and she was quickly defeated.⁸²

Fans

- While playing for the Washington Mystics, professional women’s basketball player Chamique “Meek” Holdsclaw wore the number—23—of her favorite male professional basketball player: Michael Jordan. However, she did not choose that number because of Mr. Jordan—23 is the number of her favorite psalm. Actually, fans treat her much the same way that they treat Mr. Jordan. After she had won an award, a woman fan jumped on the stage, shook her hand, and said, “I think you are the best player ever!” Asked if that kind of thing happened often to her, Ms. Holdsclaw replied, “Yeah, kind of. But it’s OK.” And when Ms. Holdsclaw’s college team—the Tennessee Lady Vols—met Mr. Jordan, he did not need to be introduced to her—he already knew who she was, and he asked her, “What’s up, Meek?”⁸³

- At the 1974 World Championships in Munich, West Germany, Dorothy Hamill was on the ice warming up when the results of another figure skater were announced. The audience members thought that the scores were low, and they booed, making Ms. Hamill cry and skate over to her coach for reassurance because she thought that the boos were meant for her. The audience members realized what had happened and gave her a wondrous ovation when she went back out on the ice, and Ms. Hamill responded by winning a World Championship in ladies figure skating.⁸⁴

- After gymnast Mary Lou Retton won several medals, including the gold medal in the All-Around, at the 1984 Olympic Games, fans descended on the home of her parents in Fairmont, West Virginia, in search of souvenirs. They tore chunks of sod out of her parents’ front lawn and took them home, and someone stole her parents’ mailbox. When fan letters arrived for Mary Lou later, they had to be taken to the front door because her family no longer had a mailbox.⁸⁵

- Dick Stuart never won a Golden Glove award, but he did receive an ovation from the fans when he caught a bat that slipped from a batter's hands and bounced to first base. Afterward, he was asked if that was the greatest ovation he had ever received. He replied, "Heck, no. One night in Pittsburgh 30,000 fans gave me a standing ovation when I caught a hot-dog wrapper on the fly."⁸⁶

- At the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome, Wilma Rudolph became an international celebrity after winning three gold medals in track and field. Returning home, she was besieged by fans. One overeager souvenir hunter even pulled off Ms. Rudolph's shoes and ran away with them.⁸⁷

Fathers

- Andra Douglas' father enjoyed hunting, and he belonged to a hunt club whose members frequently brought their sons along during hunts. When she was eight or nine years old, Andra begged to be taken along. At first, her father explained that girls weren't allowed at the club, but then he said, "What's the harm?" He got her outfitted in hunting gear—including a gun—and took her along on a hunt, which she enjoyed. They hunted together for weeks, but finally some of the other men in the hunt club called a meeting about her and told her father that she wasn't allowed to hunt any more because she was a little girl. Her father stood up for her rights and said that if he couldn't bring his daughter to hunts then he would quit the hunt club. Her father's friend, Howard, backed him up. If the little girl couldn't hunt, then he also would quit the hunt club. A bunch of other friends said the same thing, and early the next morning, Andra and her father were out in the woods of the hunt club, hunting. (By the way, Andra grew up to play quarterback in the Women's Professional Football League.)⁸⁸

- When he was growing up, Hank Aaron both had trouble in school and wanted to be a baseball player. At one point, he was suspended from school but did not tell his parents. Instead, he pretended that he was still going to school. He would enter the school at the front entrance but immediately exit through the rear door. Then he would go to a pool hall and do such things as listen to the radio so he could hear the games that Jackie Robinson played for the Dodgers. One day, his father found out what he was doing and walked into the pool hall and took Hank out for an important talk. His father explained that each morning he gave Hank two quarters so that Hank could get a good lunch and concentrate on getting his education. Meanwhile, his father left home each day with only one quarter in his pocket for his lunch. That is how important Hank's education was for Hank's father—Hank's education was more important than his father's stomach. After the talk, Hank agreed to start attending a new school, and yes, he did graduate from the school.⁸⁹

- Professional boxer Muhammad Ali is a good father. When they were very little, his daughters Laila and Hana would get up early and make him a cup of "coffee." They did this by pouring various edible liquids they found in the kitchen into a cup and taking it to him to drink. Being the good father he is, Mr. Ali drank every drop, kissed them, and praised them for the goodness of their "coffee."⁹⁰

- After Ekaterina Gordeeva won the gold medal in pairs skating (with Sergei Grinkov) at the 1988 Olympic Winter Games in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, her Russian father did what he always did when Ekaterina won an important award. He filled a glass goblet with champagne, put the gold medal in the goblet, and let family and friends take a sip to celebrate her victory.⁹¹

- When Monica Seles was a little girl growing up in Yugoslavia and learning to play tennis, her father, a cartoonist, gave her lessons. He sometimes drew the cartoon characters Tom and Jerry, a cat and mouse, on a tennis ball for her to play with. The cartoon characters reminded her that she must play competitive tennis as if she were a cat hunting a mouse.⁹²
- The Zamboni, which maintains the ice at skating rinks, may be the most favorite sports machine—it definitely has its fans. Just like the top skating stars of the National Hockey League, the Zamboni has had a trading card devoted to it.⁹³

Fights

- Major-league umpire Jocko Conlan saw a bad fight on the diamond in San Francisco—no one was hurt because everyone was fighting so badly. Daryl Spencer slid into Don Hoak at third base, they had words and started fighting, then the other players started fighting. Mr. Conlan looked around, and what he saw was pitiful. Players weren't throwing punches; instead, it looked like they were hugging each other. He told the managers, "You know the rules in this league. Anybody who gets in a fight on the field has to leave the ball game. But if you can get these fellows back to the dugouts immediately, I won't throw anybody out." They did, and the game continued. After the game, reporters wanted to know why Mr. Conan hadn't thrown any players out of the game. He replied, "If it was a good fight, I would have thrown a dozen of them out. But it was a lousy fight. I didn't see one punch thrown. Why throw them out for *not* fighting?"⁹⁴
- On June 22, 1938, heavyweight champion Joe Louis fought a rematch against Max Schmeling, who had defeated him in 1936. One of Joe's trainers asked before the fight how he felt. Mr. Louis replied, "I'm afraid." The trainer asked, "Afraid?" "Yeah," Mr. Louis said, "I'm afraid I might kill Schmeling tonight." Mr. Lewis didn't kill Mr. Schmeling, but he did knock him out two minutes and four seconds into the first round.⁹⁵
- After jockey Julie Krone won a race by 10 lengths, competing jockey Miguel Rujano whipped her across the face. With her ear bleeding, Ms. Krone told the bystanders, "Excuse me, I have to go hit somebody," then she punched her attacker's nose. Ms. Krone's assertiveness paid off when she became the first woman to win a Triple Crown race, the Belmont Stakes, in 1993.⁹⁶

Fishing

- Fishing enthusiast Bill Barich and his friend Paul Deeds were having no luck catching trout at Hot Creek Ranch, although other fishermen were telling them about all the fish they had caught. Bill said, "They must have a secret." Paul agreed, "Sure, they do. It's called lying." Actually, the two discovered the secret. By allowing a dry fly to become water-soaked and sink below the surface of the water, they could make it behave like an underwater lure known as a nymph—something forbidden at Dry Creek Ranch at that time of the season, but which was exactly the right lure needed to catch trout at Dry Creek Ranch at that time of the season. Dry Creek Ranch had no rules about allowing a dry lure to become water-soaked, so Bill and Paul enjoyed some very good fishing, indeed.⁹⁷
- Mark Anthony wanted to impress Cleopatra with his fishing ability, but unfortunately the fish weren't biting, so he secretly ordered some fishermen to dive underwater and attach fish to his hook. With this aid, he was able to catch fish after fish in the presence of Cleopatra. However,

Cleopatra understood what was going on, so she secretly ordered a fisherman to attach a *salted* fish to Mark Anthony's hook.⁹⁸

- The ancient Chinese scholar and teacher Confucius took ethics seriously. He greatly enjoyed fishing, but when he fished, he declined to use a net, reasoning that its use gave him an unfair advantage over the fish.⁹⁹

Chapter 3: From Food to Mishaps

Food

- Bill Veeck, owner of the Milwaukee Brewers, was very good at thinking up promotions and publicity stunts. He once gave a woman fan 10,000 cupcakes and delivered them to her kitchen. Another time, he gave a dignified man six live baby pigeons. The dignified man managed to hold on to only three during the course of the game—one was in each hand, and the other was between his knees. To show appreciation for the man's being a good sport, Mr. Veeck sent him a gift of 12 game birds, all ready for the oven. For one game, he let the fans call the plays. For that game, he held up cards suggesting various plays, and whatever sign the fans clapped loudest for was the play the manager called—the Brewers won the game!¹⁰⁰
- Softball player Dorothy “Dot” Richardson was fiercely competitive. In 1983, as a member of the UCLA softball team, she and the other members of the team hoped to defend their national championship title, but they came down with food poisoning. They lost the title game, but they played hard. Suffering from food poisoning, Dot hit a double, and then she vomited while standing on second base. Her coach, Sue Enquist, said about her, “She would not come out of the game. When you see someone with that kind of courage, it raises the entire team's game.” In 1996 and 2000, Dot won Olympic gold as a member of the United States softball team.¹⁰¹
- While touring the United States following her gold-medal-winning performance in the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, Germany, Soviet gymnast Olga Korbut's favorite food was ketchup. She smothered hamburgers and eggs with entire bottles of ketchup and once ate pancakes and ketchup instead of pancakes and maple syrup.¹⁰²

Football

- Notre Dame football player George Gipp was athletically gifted in more than one sport. In a baseball game, he was ordered to bunt, but instead he hit a home run. Why? He explained that he didn't want to spend much time standing on the bases because it was too hot. When he was a star football player, he talked to a newcomer to the varsity team, Roger Kiley, giving him a thrill because a star was noticing him. Unfortunately, Mr. Kiley dropped the first forward pass that Mr. Gipp threw to him in a game. Mr. Kiley hung his head, but Mr. Gipp told him, “Forget it. On the next play, I'm going to throw you a pass so soft that you couldn't drop it if you tried.” Mr. Kiley caught the next pass and soon became a fine Notre Dame receiver.¹⁰³
- Women do play professional tackle football, although probably no one makes a living—or even a profit—from it. For example, in 2006 the New York Sharks had an annual budget of \$85,000. According to team owner Andra Douglas, about half of the budget “comes from the National Bank of Andra.” Players have to raise money to be on the team, and in 2006 the grand total of \$5,000 went to the team's six coaches. According to Ms. Douglas, this money “probably covered their gas and tolls.” Sponsors of the team tend to be, Ms. Douglas says, “mom-and-pop shops—people we know.” Obviously, everyone on the team is involved because of love of the sport.¹⁰⁴
- In 1940, the Chicago Bears battled the Washington Redskins for the world football championship. Just three weeks earlier, the Redskins had defeated the Bears, 7-3. This time, however, the Bears won in a stunningly lopsided upset, 73-0. The offense of the Bears was so

powerful that late in the game, when the Bears were preparing to kick for yet another point after yet another touchdown, a referee begged them, “Look, fellers! Already, you’ve kicked so many balls into the stands that now we have only one left. How about passing or running with the ball for the extra point? Otherwise, we won’t have a ball to play with to finish the game.”¹⁰⁵

- On October 7, 1916, Georgia Tech defeated Cumberland University 222-0 in a football game. Near the end of the game, the Cumberland quarterback, Ed Edwards, fumbled the ball and yelled at his teammates, “Pick it up! Pick it up!” Seeing the fearsome Georgia Tech players bearing down on the ball, Cumberland fullback Leon McDonald yelled back, “Pick it up yourself—you dropped it.”¹⁰⁶

- Someone once called in to speak to the coach of Louisiana State University football game on a talk show. The caller asked, “Who was that knucklehead who missed the field goal at the end of the game?” The coach was loyal to his players, and he replied, “One of the young men I coach, and we both are going to try to do better next time.”¹⁰⁷

- Although the forward pass in football became legal in 1906, at first it was not much used. However, in 1913, Notre Dame played against Army, a team with much bigger and much stronger players. Rushing was not effective against such a physically superior team, so the Notre Dame team started throwing the forward pass—and won, 35-13.¹⁰⁸

Friends

- Violinist Jacques Thibaud once made a hole in one—or at least he thought he had. After Mr. Thibaud died in an airplane accident in 1953, the truth came out. He had been playing golf with conductor Pierre Monteux, who walked ahead of the other golfers. Seeing that Mr. Thibaud’s ball was very near the hole, and knowing that no one could see him, Mr. Monteux picked the ball up and dropped it in the hole. Mr. Thibaud was so happy at having made a hole in one that Mr. Monteux could not tell him what he had done.¹⁰⁹

- In 2001, Barry Bonds hit 73 home runs to break the single-season home-run record set by Mark McGwire; however, by doing so, he lost a \$100,000 bet. Early in the season, friend and teammate Shawon Dunston suggested that Mr. Bonds might break Mr. McGwire’s record that season. Mr. Bonds did not think that was possible, and Mr. Dunston suggested that if he broke the record then he could buy him a brand-new Mercedes-Benz. Mr. Bonds, of course, broke the record, and he did buy Mr. Dunston a \$100,000 Mercedes Benz.¹¹⁰

Gambling

- As a boy, writer Bill Barich was friends with another boy named Eddie Greco, who worked in a restaurant frequented by people who raced horses for a living. They gave Eddie tips—tips that paid off when gambling. Eddie passed the tips on to Bill, and Bill started gambling. Oddly, he discovered that when he placed a bet, no one at the gambling counter ever checked his ID to make sure that he was old enough to legally gamble; however, when he tried to cash in a winning ticket and pick up his winnings, the person at the gambling counter always checked his ID. This led to Bill looking around for a friendly adult to cash in his ticket—and NOT ask for a cut. (Uniformed sailors were very helpful in this regard.)¹¹¹

- In its early days in the United States, bowling was a gambling game called “ninepins.” Low-lives played ninepins, so a law was passed against the game. Getting around the law, however,

was easy. Bowling fans simply added a 10th pin and played tenpins, which was not against the law.¹¹²

Gifts

- On New Year's Eve of 1974, a press conference was held to announce that Jim "Catfish" Hunter would start pitching as a member of the New York Yankees. Of course, as a star major-league pitcher, Catfish had signed a big contract to play for the Yankees—over the next five years, the Yankees would pay him almost \$4 million. A reporter quickly figured out that Catfish would earn approximately \$19,331.25 for each game he pitched. At the press conference, the Mayor of New York City gave Catfish a gift: a new fishing pole. It cost \$13.21.¹¹³

- Before Kristi Yamaguchi competed with her partner, Rudi (later spelled "Rudy") Galindo, in pairs skating at the 1990 United States National Championships, a former world pairs-skating champion named Tai Babilonia presented her with a special gift—an earring in the shape of a heart. The gift was meant to give young Kristi good luck. It worked, for Kristi and Rudi won their second straight national championship.¹¹⁴

- When Jennifer Capriati was a young tennis player, her father, Stefano, sometimes gave her gifts. For example, he would give her a gift if she *lost* a tennis tournament—after all, he thought, winning is its own reward.¹¹⁵

Good Deeds

- Bill Corum wrote a human-interest story about Babe Ruth in the June 23, 1927, edition of the *New York Evening Journal*. A boy named Billy Kennedy had been very ill, and so his father had written to Babe, asking him to send Billy a baseball autographed, "From Babe to Bill." Babe immediately sent the autographed baseball—and this telegram: "TELL BILLY FOR ME THAT HE MUST GET WELL AND STRONG AND COME TO BOSTON TO SEE ME PLAY." Billy did get well, and he did go to Boston, where he hoped to see Babe hit a home run. Babe failed to hit a homer that day, but he promised Billy, "Come back tomorrow, and I'll hit two to make up for it." The following day, Babe kept his promise.¹¹⁶

- Ohio sportscaster Jimmy Crum once visited Ohio State University football coach Woody Hayes in the coach's office, where he noticed that Woody had a toy: an erector set. Mr. Crum asked Coach Hayes, "Coach, are you going through a second childhood?" Coach Hayes, who spent a lot of time visiting ill children and was planning to give away the toy to an ill child, explained, "There's a boy over at University Hospital who is an Ohio State fan." Coach Hayes then grabbed the lapels of Mr. Crum's jacket and said, "If you say one f**king word about this, I'll kick you in the *ss." (Mr. Crum waited until Coach Hayes had died, then he told other people about this.)¹¹⁷

- The parents of figure skater Scott Hamilton ran out of money and were unable to support his training any further. Fortunately, a wealthy couple who owned the Denver skating rink at which famous coach Carlo Fassi worked volunteered to pay all of Mr. Hamilton's expenses if he moved to Colorado and trained with Mr. Fassi. In return for their generosity, the couple requested that their names never be revealed. In 1984, Mr. Hamilton won an Olympic gold medal in men's figure skating.¹¹⁸

- Babe Ruth often came early to Fenway Park in Boston, where he would spend an hour bagging peanuts to be sold by children during the game. When he left, he would throw \$10 or \$20 on the table and tell peanut vendor Thomas Foley, “Take care of the kids.”¹¹⁹

Hitters

- On October 1, 1932, Babe Ruth and the New York Yankees played the Cubs in Chicago. In the top of the fifth inning of the third game of the World Series, the Babe took a called strike, then raised one finger. Two balls were called, and Babe swung for strike two. The Chicago bench jeered at him, as they had throughout the game. But the Babe lifted two fingers and told the Chicago bench, “It takes only one to hit it.” He then hit the next pitch for a home run—his fifteenth in a World Series. The Yankees went on to win the Series.¹²⁰

- Even the truly great athletes need to retire at last. George Brett, hitting sensation for the Kansas City Royals, once was asked what he wanted to do in his final at-bat. He replied, “I want to hit a routine grounder to second and run all out to first base, then get thrown out by a half-step.” Lots of people would love to hit a home run in their final at-bat, so why did Mr. Brett say he wanted to go out in this way? He explains, “I want to leave an example to the young guys that that’s how you play the game: all out.”¹²¹

- Slugger Josh Gibson hit towering home runs in the Negro Leagues. In Pittsburgh, he once blasted a home run that went over the stadium walls and kept on going. It was such a shot that everyone soon heard about it, including umpires everywhere. The next day, he was batting in Philadelphia when a strong-armed fan hurled a baseball from a high seat onto the field, where an outfielder caught it. The umpire turned to Mr. Gibson and joked, “You’re out yesterday in Pittsburgh.”¹²²

- Just how strong a batter was Oakland Athletics player Jose Canseco? While taking batting practice before a game against the New York Yankees, Mr. Canseco checked his swing, stopping in the middle, but still managed to hit the baseball with such force that it soared over the right-field fence. Mike Pagliarulo, the Yankee third baseman, was amazed, saying, “He checked his swing and hit one of the longest shots I’ve seen.”¹²³

- While in the midst of a hitting slump in Chicago, Pete Rose boarded the Cincinnati Reds team bus only to run into a non-player who was disembarking after finding out that he had boarded the wrong bus. Mr. Rose told him, “If you can hit, stay on the bus.”¹²⁴

- When the great hitter Rogers Hornsby was working as a batting coach, a young player asked him for advice: “What would you do, Mr. Hornsby, if you got in a batting slump?” Mr. Hornsby replied, “When you have a lifetime average of .358, you don’t have any slumps.”¹²⁵

- Aaron Bimler once declined batting help from his father, St. Louis major leaguer Mike Bimler, saying, “That’s okay, dad. I’ll strike out on my own.”¹²⁶

Honesty

- Early in his career, African-American tennis great Arthur Ashe played a friend, Stan Smith, in a match. At an important point in the match, Mr. Smith hit a return that was controversial. The officials were indecisive about whether Mr. Smith had hit the ball before a second bounce, but Mr. Ashe asked Mr. Smith if he had gotten to the ball before the second bounce. Mr. Smith

said, “I think I got it,” and Mr. Ashe told the officials, “Hey, if he thinks he got it, he got it.” Mr. Smith says, “That demonstrated his faith in me as a friend and my being honest.”¹²⁷

- DeeDee Jonrowe has competed as a musher in the Iditarod, a 1,049-mile dog sled race in Alaska. During one competition, she ran out of batteries for her headlamp and had to make a deal with another musher for some batteries. She promised not to pass him, and he gave her the batteries. She kept her word during the race. Ms. Jonrowe says, “When you’re out there for 10 days, you have to depend on each other and trust each other. You have to be as good as your word.”¹²⁸

Horse Racing

- The first woman to get a license to race horses as a jockey was Kathy Kusner. After a long, hard effort, she received a jockey’s license from the Maryland State Racing Commission in early 1969. Following that breakthrough, acquiring licenses for other states came easily. Ironically, Ms. Kusner was not the first woman to race horses as a jockey. While appearing in a horse show, she broke a leg when her horse fell on top of her after a failed jump. This allowed Diane Crump to become the first woman to race as a jockey when she competed on February 7, 1969, at Hialeah.¹²⁹

- After jockey Julie Krone was bucked from a horse and broke her ankle, she was still determined to race although her foot was in a cast. After all, she had won more races than the other jockeys at Monmouth Park in New York with two weeks left in the season, and another rider needed only 10 victories to catch up to her. Therefore, Ms. Krone tore off her cast and had her doctor put on another cast that would fit in a riding boot, and she continued to race and won the riding title at Monmouth.¹³⁰

Husbands and Wives

- The first date of professional boxer Laila Ali (Muhammad Ali’s daughter) and her assistant trainer and manager Johnny “Ya Ya” McClain did not go well. When the waitress took his order, McClain said, “I like my coffee like my women—light and sweet.” The result? Mr. McClain says, “Laila thought I was an obnoxious jerk.” Apparently, Mr. McClain improved as she got to know him better: They were married on August 27, 2000. He proposed in a different restaurant, and a nearby couple who overheard the proposal sent them two glasses of champagne. Because Ms. Ali was in training for a fight, Mr. McClain drank both glasses.¹³¹

- Nineteenth-century cartoonist Eugene “Zim” Zimmerman often took his art supplies along on fishing trips. During one such expedition, a bull appeared and Mr. Zimmerman took off running, leaving behind both art supplies and fishing supplies. Whenever Mr. Zimmerman had to draw a scene such as the one he had endured, he would relive the scene in his mind, then draw it. During one such mental reenactment, his wife asked, “Heavens! Why are you making such faces?” Mr. Zimmerman replied, “Don’t disturb me, please. I’m being chased by a bull.”¹³²

Language

- Father Hennessy attended many practices of the Notre Dame football team, which was coached by his friend Knute Rockne. At some of these practices, Mr. Rockne exercised a remarkable talent for profanity, and at one point he let loose an oath that was so profane that everyone near the good priest looked at him to see what he would do. Father Hennessy merely

raised his eyes heavenward and said “Glory be to God! There goes Rockne saying his prayers again!”¹³³

- Hank Aaron could defuse arguments with humor. During one of his at-bats, a pitch was ruled a ball by the umpire, and Cincinnati Reds catcher Smokey Burgess strenuously disagreed. It looked like a major situation was developing between the catcher and the umpire, but Mr. Aaron told Mr. Burgess, “Kindly do not agitate the arbiter. He can’t be as pluperfect as you.” Both the catcher and the umpire laughed, and the game resumed.¹³⁴

- Kim Zmeskal was among the first group of little girl gymnasts to train at Bela Karolyi’s gym in Houston, Texas. When she became skilled enough to begin training with Mr. Karolyi himself, she found it difficult to understand his heavy Romanian accent. In fact, she says that when he spoke to her, she would be thinking to herself, “I have no idea what you’re saying to me,” but she would smile anyway.¹³⁵

Media

- Jackie Robinson was fiercely competitive, and he kept up to date about what people were saying about him and the Dodgers in the newspapers. For example, in his final season, he read in a newspaper that New York Giant chief scout Tom Sheehan had said, “The Dodgers are over the hill. Jackie’s too old, Campy’s [Roy Campanella] too old, and [Carl] Erskine, he can’t win with the garbage he’s been throwing up there.” Both Mr. Robinson and Mr. Erskine read that quote, and the truth is, Mr. Erskine was feeling old. However, that day he threw against the Giants a no-hit, no-run game, due in part to a magnificent catch that Mr. Robinson made of a baseball that Willie Mays hit to third base. After the game, Mr. Robinson went to the Giants’ dugout, waved the newspaper clipping in Mr. Sheehan’s face and said, “How do you like that garbage?”¹³⁶

- Professional baseball player Reggie Jackson really understood the media. One day, broadcaster Joe Garagiola interviewed him about a disagreement Mr. Jackson had had with George Steinbrenner, and he gave a long answer. Unfortunately, the answer was too long. However, Mr. Jackson felt that he couldn’t tell the complete story in a shorter time, so he arranged to stretch out his second at-bat in the game so his complete answer could be played on the air. During Mr. Jackson’s second at-bat, Mr. Garagiola stood up to let Mr. Jackson know the answer was being broadcast, and Mr. Jackson did such things as calling time and getting another bat. When the answer had been completely broadcast, Mr. Garagiola sat down, and Mr. Jackson hit a double.¹³⁷

- Golfer Payne Stewart earned a one-stroke lead at Spyglass Hill, and he knew that rain was forecast for the next day: Sunday. If it rained and golfers could not play, then he would be declared winner of the tournament. A TV reporter asked Mr. Stewart his thoughts on the situation, and Mr. Stewart said all the right things, such as that he was hoping for good weather and that he wanted to win the tournament by playing all the holes, not through a rainout. After the TV cameras were gone, fellow golfer Peter Jacobsen asked Mr. Stewart what he really thought about the weather. Mr. Stewart grinned and exclaimed, “Rain, baby, rain!”¹³⁸

- For many years, Jack Brickhouse was the broadcaster of Chicago Cubs and White Sox games. Of course, this meant that he watched many, many games of bad baseball in his life. Mr. Brickhouse said shortly before his death, “If every bad game I watched reduced the time I spent in purgatory, I would spend no time there at all.”¹³⁹

- Charlie Dressen, who used to be manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, once said, “The Giants is dead.” Later, when Mr. Dressen was fired as manager, a New York newspaper headline proclaimed, “Dressen are dead.”¹⁴⁰

Managers

- Babe Herman of the Brooklyn Dodgers was a favorite of manager Wilbert Robinson because he was a terrific hitter despite being a terrible fielder. Once, Chicago Cubs pitcher Kiki Cuyler hit a baseball down the right-field base line. Babe should have easily caught the fly, but he didn’t move until it landed—just in fair territory. Kiki ended up hitting a triple instead of making an easy out. Dodgers Hollis Thurston, a pitcher, and Paul Richards, a back-up catcher, witnessed the entire thing from the bullpen, and they thought that manager Robinson would finally bawl out his favorite player. No such luck. Instead, Robinson bawled *them* out: “Hey, you two! What were you doing in the bullpen—sleeping? Why didn’t you yell to Babe that Cuyler’s hit was going to be fair?”¹⁴¹

- In 1931, Casey Stengel managed the Toledo Mudhens, a minor-league team that was stuck in last place. Because of their losing season, the players had little interest in baseball, so they dozed in the dugout during games. During one game, Casey asked an umpire if he had an alarm clock. Surprised, the umpire asked why he needed one. Casey pointed to his dozing players in the dugout and said, “The boys left a five o’clock wake-up call. I want to be sure they get woke up.”¹⁴²

Mishaps

- The greatest jockey ever was Willie Shoemaker, and the jockey who made the biggest blooper ever was also Willie Shoemaker. In 1957, Mr. Shoemaker rode a horse named Gallant Man in the Kentucky Derby, and he had the race won—all he had to do was to cling to his lead. Instead, he mistook the location of the finish line, raised himself up in the stirrups, and allowed his horse to slow down. A horse named Iron Liege raced by him and won by a nose. This was a major error, and Churchill Downs officials suspended Mr. Shoemaker for fifteen days because of “gross carelessness.” Nevertheless, Mr. Shoemaker bounced back, winning the Belmont Stakes five weeks later while riding Gallant Man. In fact, Mr. Shoemaker behaved so well after his remarkable blooper that his sportsmanship won him the Ralph Lowe trophy. This is all the more remarkable because Mr. Lowe owned Gallant Man.¹⁴³

- Truett “Rip” Sewell once played minor-league baseball in Beaumont, Texas. He arrived when it was raining so hard that he couldn’t see the street from his hotel window, and so he didn’t even go to the ballpark. The next day, the manager, Del Baker, asked him, “Where the h*ll were you?” Mr. Sewell says, “I didn’t know it could rain on one side of the street in Texas and not on the other. It never even got cloudy at the ballpark.”¹⁴⁴

- Baseball manager Casey Stengel’s team was behind when an umpire wanted to call the game on account of darkness. Casey protested vigorously, saying, “Look, I’m sixty years old, and I can still see the ball!” To prove his point, he threw the baseball high into the air and attempted to catch it. The baseball smashed Casey’s nose, and the umpire ruled that it was too dark to play baseball.¹⁴⁵

- When Amy Grossman and Robert Davenport first started working together in pairs figure skating, it took time for them to get used to working together as a team. For a while, Robert’s

chest was black and blue from frequent accidental contact with Amy's blades. After a particularly bruising practice session, Robert told Amy, "I think I just lost my appendix or maybe it was a kidney."¹⁴⁶

- During the Vietnam War, Arthur Ashe played some tennis in Saigon for the American troops. He was plenty nervous about being in a war zone, and when he heard some artillery, he dropped to the ground. However, the soldiers simply laughed and told him, "That's outgoing artillery. You've got to learn to distinguish between the outgoing and the incoming."¹⁴⁷

- When a batter popped up down the third-base line, both catcher Yogi Berra and third baseman Clete Boyer of the New York Yankees ran to catch it, but collided together, letting the ball fall safely to the ground. Clete asked Yogi, "What's the matter, Yogi? Couldn't you yell for it?" Yogi replied, "Sure, but I thought you could hear me waving at you."¹⁴⁸

- In 1952, Notre Dame player Johnny Lattner played badly in a game against Purdue, fumbling five times. His coach, Frank Leahy, was not pleased. As punishment, he ordered that a special football—one with a handle for easy holding on to—be manufactured, and he ordered Mr. Lattner to carry it around campus.¹⁴⁹

- Yankee Joe Pepitone once hit what should have been a game-winning home run. Unfortunately, a referee called him out for not touching second base. Manager Ralph Houk ran out to protest the call, but the Yankee first-base coach told him, "Don't argue too long, Ralph—he missed first, too."¹⁵⁰

- Max Nicholas, the public relations head of the New York Yankees, once telephoned the great catcher Yogi Berra, waking him. Mr. Nicholas apologized, saying, "Sorry, Yogi. I hope I didn't wake you." Yogi replied, "Nah, I had to get up to answer the phone anyway."¹⁵¹

Chapter 4: From Money to People with Handicaps

Money

- Before comedian Don Knotts became famous, he and a friend went to New York to try—unsuccessfully—to make it big. While living in the YMCA, they met a guy and hung around with him. The guy said he needed \$10 for bus fare to get home to Boston, and despite their very meager financial resources, Mr. Knotts and his friend lent the money to the guy, who promised that he would wire them the money when he got home. The guy did send a wire—it said, “SO LONG, SUCKERS!” Both Mr. Knotts and his friend did a fair amount of cursing, but they found out that the guy was only joking, as shortly afterward a wire with the money he owed them arrived. Years later, Mr. Knotts was playing in a golf tournament when a doctor watching him said, “Hey, Don. Can you lend me another ten dollars? I’ve got to get back to Boston.”¹⁵²
- Babe Ruth occasionally got in trouble for breaking training and staying out too late. For example, in 1925, he was fined \$5,000 late in the season for just those reasons. He also hit only .290—a low average for him. However, in 1926, he had a great season and hit .372. His manager, “Hug” Huggins, told him, “Babe, I admire a man who can win over a lot of tough opponents, but I admire even more a man who can win over himself.” Mr. Ruth replied, “That’s fine, Hug—do I get the fine back?” Mr. Huggins, who seldom wasted words, answered, “No.”¹⁵³
- If you pay for a ticket, you are entitled to express your opinion. After the Notre Dame football team was held to a tie by a much weaker team, a man accosted coach Knute Rockne and told him, “What’s the matter with your team? It stinks!” Mr. Rockne asked the man if he had paid to see the game. The man dug in his pocket and pulled out a ticket. Mr. Rockne looked at the ticket, then replied to the man, “You’re right. We stink.”¹⁵⁴
- Heavyweight champion Joe Louis lost very few fights, either as an amateur or as a pro fighter, but when he was an amateur, he lost a decision to Max Marek. No fool, Mr. Marek cashed in on his victory after Mr. Louis became a champion. Mr. Marek opened a bar and grill in Chicago, and he put a big sign out front inviting people to come in, enjoy themselves, and shake hands with Mr. Marek—“The Man Who Beat Joe Louis.”¹⁵⁵
- Famous racehorse Man o’ War was worth a fortune, and Texas oilman W.T. Waggoner wanted to buy the stallion from Sam Riddle and even offered a blank check as payment. Mr. Waggoner told him, “You go to France and bring back the sepulcher of Napoleon. Then go to England and buy the jewels from the crown. Then go to India and buy the Taj Mahal. Then, Mr. Waggoner, I’ll put the price on Man o’ War.”¹⁵⁶
- On June 3, 1932, New York Yankee Lou Gehrig hit four home runs in one game against the Philadelphia Athletics. This made him the first major-league player in the 20th century to accomplish such an impressive feat. Afterward, the other Yankees teased Mr. Gehrig, saying that he was costing the American League too much money due to replacing the baseballs he hit for home runs.¹⁵⁷
- One day, Muhammad Ali was speeding on a Los Angeles highway. A police officer stopped him and gave him a \$100 speeding ticket. Mr. Ali immediately wrote a check and gave it to the

police officer, who looked at it and said, “Mr. Ali, there’s been a mistake. The ticket is for only one hundred dollars. You made this out for two hundred dollars.” Mr. Ali replied, “I still have to come back.”¹⁵⁸

- Dodger co-owner Branch Rickey was tight with team money. Joe Medwick says that he once dominated the league in hitting, leading in 12 out of 13 hitting departments. Of course, he wanted a big raise. How did Mr. Rickey respond? By cutting Mr. Medwick’s salary by \$5,000. Mr. Medwick asked, “How can you do this?” Mr. Rickey replied, “I expected you to hit .374 again.”¹⁵⁹

- Rube Foster was a tough manager in the Negro Leagues. He carried a pipe (for smoking) that he used to make signals, and when a player ignored his signal to bunt and instead hit a triple in a game, Mr. Foster was not happy. As soon as he could, he hit the player in the head with his pipe, and then told him, “As long as I’m paying you, you’ll do what I tell you.”¹⁶⁰

Mothers

- Martina Hingis’ mother (and coach), Melanie Molitor, raised her to be a tennis star. Not only did Ms. Molitor name Martina after her favorite tennis star, Martina Navratilova, but she also did everything she could to make her daughter interested in tennis. For example, when Martina was only two years old, her mother gave her a special tennis racket—a light one that was for adults but with a specially shaved-down handle that allowed Martina to grasp it. Ms. Molitor would throw tennis balls toward her daughter, and her daughter would try to hit them back. By age 10, Martina was embarrassed because she was beginning to beat her mother in tennis games and so she wanted to play left handed against her so her mother would win.¹⁶¹

- The mother of Sarah Hughes, the gold-winning medalist in women’s figure skating at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, overcame breast cancer. When she told Sarah and her other children about the breast cancer, Sarah was confident that her mother could overcome the disease. After all, Olympic gold medalist Scott Hamilton had overcome testicular cancer with chemotherapy. Sarah’s mother said, “I wanted to call up Scott Hamilton and just kiss him. Someone my daughter knew of and admired so much had been through cancer and beat it.”¹⁶²

- Pittsburgh Penguin hockey player Mario Lemieux claimed that he learned to skate in his living room after his mother, Pierrette, allowed her sons to create an ice surface at home. She turned off the heat in their home, opened the doors and windows, and let her sons bring in snow and pack it on the living room floor—the snow quickly turned to ice. True or not, this is a good story. (But don’t try this in your home!)¹⁶³

- When she was a very young gymnast, Tracee Talavera’s worst-scoring event was the vault; however, she did receive five perfect scores of 10 from the judges of this event at the final trials for a United States World Championship team. When Tracee called home with the good news, her astonished mother asked, “Tracee, did the vaulting judges have seeing-eye dogs?”¹⁶⁴

- When Julie Krone was young, she told her mother that she wanted to be a jockey. When her mother told the family veterinarian what young Julie wanted to do when she grew up, he advised her to knock Julie in the head. Her mother didn’t follow that advice; instead, she took Julie to the racetrack. Of course, Julie grew up to become a famous jockey.¹⁶⁵

- The mother of Boston Celtic Bill Russell was a strong woman. When Bill was a child, she saw another kid slap him. Bill didn’t fight back, so she made him fight the other kid. While

Bill was fighting that kid, another child insulted Bill, so after Bill had finished fighting the first kid, she made him fight the other child, too.¹⁶⁶

Motivation

- Walter Payton knew how to motivate the linesmen who blocked for him. When he earned his first 1,000-yard rushing season—the first Chicago back to earn that many yards in a single season since Gale Sayers—he gave each linesman a gold watch that bore this message: “Thanks for the 1,000 yards.” In addition, he gave praise to linesmen even when the linesmen felt that the praise was not due. For example, in college Jackie Slater felt sometimes that his block could have been a whole lot better, and that only Mr. Payton’s incredible athletic ability had enabled him to get free and get big yardage. However, in talking to the media, Mr. Payton would give the credit to Mr. Slater and say that the block had gotten him loose to go for big yardage. Things like that motivate linesmen to work hard to protect the runner.¹⁶⁷
- A good athlete makes other athletes better. Evidence for this can be seen in the high-school career of major-league player Alex Rodriguez. Baseball scouts often came to his games, and they used radar guns to see how fast pitchers were throwing to him. The radar guns showed pitchers throwing an average of five miles per hour faster when facing Mr. Rodriguez. Simply by being a good athlete, Mr. Rodriguez had motivated the opposing pitchers to throw harder.¹⁶⁸

Music

- In 1956, American Tenley Albright won the gold medal in ladies’ singles figure skating (the first American to do so) at the Winter Olympics held in Cortina d’Ampezzo, Italy. She won despite an injury suffered during a practice in which she fell and her skate cut through her right boot and reached the bone. Fortunately, her father, a surgeon, flew to Cortina and fixed her up, although for a few days she couldn’t do any real practicing of the hard jumps and spins. Fortunately, on the day the competition was to begin, her ankle felt normal and she could do the hard stuff. In the final part of the skating competition, she started skating to her music, and suddenly she heard what sounded like singing, although her music was instrumental only. She says, “What happened was the thousands watching were humming and singing along with the music. It was wonderful. It made me forget my injury.” Interestingly, Ms. Albright shares the same birthday (month and day) as the first American man to win the gold medal in men’s singles figure skating: Dick Button, who won gold in 1948 and 1952. Each year, they call each other up on July 18 to wish each other a happy birthday.¹⁶⁹
- In 1908, Jack Norworth wrote what is probably his greatest hit: “Take Me Out to the Ball Game.” He wrote the song after seeing in a subway an advertisement for a New York Giants baseball game. Surprisingly, he had never seen a baseball game before—and he didn’t see his first baseball game until 1942. According to Mr. Norworth, not seeing a baseball game wasn’t important: “So what? I’m a songwriter. That’s what I like to do. Going to baseball games doesn’t interest me a bit.” He was refreshingly candid about his abilities as a songwriter, estimating that he had written “more than 3,000 songs, seven of them good.” Two of the good ones were “Shine on, Harvest Moon” and “Meet Me in Apple Blossom Time.”¹⁷⁰
- Edward “Duke” Ellington learned how to play the piano as a result of a baseball accident. While he was playing baseball with a group of kids from the neighborhood, a player threw the bat after making a hit. The bat hit Duke in the head, and his mother decided that he would be

safer inside the house, taking piano lessons, than outside, playing baseball. As an adult, Mr. Ellington became a giant in the jazz world.¹⁷¹

Names

- Nate Archibald was six-foot-one, so as a player in the NBA, he was called “Tiny.” When coach Bob Cousy drafted Tiny to play for the Cincinnati Royals, he had never seen Tiny play, although he had heard much about his impressive basketball abilities. When Tiny met Mr. Cousy for the first time at the coach’s hotel room, Mr. Cousy was shocked by how small he was. Mr. Cousy said, “I knew he was little, but I didn’t know he was that little. Or that skinny. Or that baby-faced. I thought he was the bellhop.” When Tiny showed up by himself at the Madison Square Garden, at first the guard at the players’ gate wouldn’t let him through. Tiny told the guard that he played for the Royals, but the guard replied, “Sure, kid. And I’m the shortstop for the Yankees.” Mr. Cousy ended up telling the guard, “He’s one of my guys, but I don’t blame you for wondering about it. We haven’t even got a uniform that fits him yet. His number’s stuffed halfway down his pants.”¹⁷²

- Whitbread and America’s Cup sailor Dawn Riley sometimes ran into problems early in her career. She would show up on a boat, then discover the other sailors were expecting to sail with “Don” Riley. However, she was a good person to have along in an emergency. While she was sailing in an around-the-world Whitbread Race with an all-female crew, their boat developed rudder problems. Ms. Riley ended up using a hacksaw to create a temporary replacement rudder from a spinnaker pole. Despite the rudder problems, Ms. Riley and her teammates finished second in the race.¹⁷³

- Athletes can be honored in many different ways. Some athletes are honored by entire towns. For example, Ismay, Montana, is a small town that changed its name to Joe, Montana. In addition, Jim Thorpe was honored when the town where he is buried in Pennsylvania changed its name from Mauch Chunk to Jim Thorpe. Many players are honored when the team they played for retires their number, but Jackie Robinson was honored in 1997 (50 years after he broke the color barrier in modern major-league baseball) when EVERY major-league team retired his number: 42.¹⁷⁴

- Buck O’Neil, a third baseman in the Negro Leagues, acquired the rather strange nickname of “Nancy” from the great pitcher Satchel Paige. This is how it happened: Mr. Paige was entertaining two women in different rooms of the same hotel, and he mixed up the women’s names. Knocking on one woman’s door, he whispered, “Nancy? Nancy?” The door opened, and standing in the doorway was a woman whose name was *not* Nancy. She demanded, “Who is this Nancy?” Just then, Mr. O’Neil walked into the hallway. From then on, Mr. O’Neil was called Nancy.¹⁷⁵

- Jigoro Kano adapted the martial art of jujitsu into the sport of judo. In Russia, he demonstrated judo by facing a much bigger Russian fighter. He quickly threw the man, but he put his hand under the man’s head to cushion his fall and make sure the man was not hurt. For good reason, the 5-foot-4-inch-tall Mr. Kano was known as the Gentle Giant.¹⁷⁶

- Several major-league baseball players, including Florida Marlin Alex Fernandez, Toronto Blue Jay Alex Gonzalez, New York Met Alex Ochoa, and Seattle Mariner Alex Rodriguez, once attended a Boys and Girls Club fund-raising event all at the same time. Mr. Gonzalez says, “Every time a kid said, ‘Hey, Alex,’ all four of us looked around.”¹⁷⁷

- Cincinnati's Big Red Machine of the 1970s consisted of such great players as Johnny Bench, Dave Concepcion, Ken Griffey, Tony Perez, and Pete Rose. Many of these players had young sons who played catch together. These sons—including Ken Griffey, Jr., and Pete Rose, Jr.—were known as the Little Red Machine.¹⁷⁸
- In 1967, Kathy Switzer decided to run in the Boston Marathon, although it was not open to women. She sent in her application using the name “K. Switzer,” but when she arrived at the race site and officials discovered that she was a woman, they ripped her number off her back. She ran and finished the marathon anyway.¹⁷⁹
- Figure skater JoJo Starbuck got her nickname as a baby. Her real name is Alicia Jo, but when her mother tried to teach her to say her name, she couldn't say “Alicia,” so she called herself JoJo Buckle instead. The JoJo part stuck.¹⁸⁰
- Yogi Berra once did a radio show with a friend of his, Jack Buck. After the show, Yogi was handed a check made out to “Bearer.” Yogi complained to Jack, “You've known me all this time and you still can't spell my name!”¹⁸¹
- Babe Ruth was such an American sports hero that during World War II, Japanese soldiers used to shout at American soldiers, “To h*ll with Babe Ruth!”¹⁸²

Olympics

- In 1904, Cuban Felix Carvajal decided to run in the Olympics marathon race that would be held in St. Louis—even though he was not a distance runner and had never run 26 miles and 385 yards before. The Cuban government would not pay his way to St. Louis, and he had no money, so he started to run around Havana's great public square each day to attract the attention of people whom he asked for money to pay his way to the Olympics. He did get enough money, and he sailed to America. Unfortunately, he landed in New Orleans where some friendly people persuaded him to play a friendly game of chance, and all his money ended up in the pockets of the friendly people. Still, Mr. Carvajal was determined to compete in the Olympics. He ran all 700 miles to St. Louis, relying on the kindness of farmers and their wives to feed him and give him a place to sleep during his journey. When he arrived at the Olympics to compete in the marathon, people laughed. He was wearing long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, and shoes too heavy for a marathon. Still, an Olympian used scissors to cut off the bottoms of Mr. Carvajal's long pants so they would be more suitable to run in. On August 20, the marathon began, and many runners wilted in the hot sun and dropped out of the race, but Mr. Carvajal ran on and on. Eventually, he finished the marathon—fourth. Mr. Carvajal did not become an Olympic marathon champion, but Felix the Fourth did become one of the Olympics' most memorable athletes.¹⁸³
- When Tara Lipinski was two years old, she played in front of a TV that was tuned to the Olympics. Because she was so little, she didn't pay much attention—until some athletes were awarded medals. Young Tara also wanted a medal. Like the athletes standing on a platform, she stood on a plastic tub in which she stored her toys. Her mother put a ribbon around her neck, similar to the ribbons that were put around the necks of the athletes, and she handed her some flowers similar to the flowers that were handed to the athletes. In 1998, Ms. Lipinski went through the awards ceremony for real after winning the gold medal in the women's figure skating competition.¹⁸⁴

- When Sarah Hughes won the gold medal in ladies' figure skating at the 2002 Winter Olympics, she accomplished a major upset. She skated early in the long program, and she skated excellently. The crowd roared, and her coach, Robin Wagner, wanted her to wait a few extra moments before leaving the ice. She told Sarah, "Turn around. Close your eyes. Soak it in." After winning the gold medal, Sarah slept with it, and when she met her family next, although she had not seen them for a while, they asked, "Where's the medal? Where's the medal?" She joked, "Hey, guys, what about me?"¹⁸⁵

- As a little girl, figure skater Sasha Cohen sometimes watched a videotape of Kristi Yamaguchi winning a gold medal at the 1992 Olympics; however, she was so young that she didn't realize that she was watching a tape. She thought that she was seeing a new competition each time, and she was impressed that Ms. Yamaguchi kept winning gold medal after gold medal. Even as a little girl, Sasha had won a few medals at kids' competitions. These were displayed on her bedroom wall, and she thought that Ms. Yamaguchi's wall had to be covered with gold medals.¹⁸⁶

- In 1968, the Soviet Union invaded Czechoslovakia. Czech gymnast Vera Caslavka did not want the Soviets in her country, so she was not permitted to train in a proper facility. She ended up practicing her floor exercise in a field, and tree limbs substituted for bars during her training. Nevertheless, despite the lack of proper training facilities, she triumphed at the 1968 Olympic Games, winning four gold medals, including one in the all-around competition, and two silver medals, including one in the team competition.¹⁸⁷

- At the 1896 Olympic Games in Greece, James Connolly competed in the hop, skip, and jump, an event that is now known as the triple jump. The French competitor made a very good effort, so Mr. Connolly threw his hat a little further than the French competitor had gone, then he proceeded to better the French competitor's effort. When Mr. Connolly threw out his hat, the crowd was shocked, but when he tripled-jumped past his hat, they cheered.¹⁸⁸

- Watching TV with someone who has a lesbian sensibility can be interesting. Lesbian comedian Kate Clinton and her significant other were watching the Salt Lake Winter Olympics when the women's luge event came on the screen. Her significant other said, "The luge is a very gay event." Almost immediately, as they watched the luge sled hurtling down a chute, the TV announcer said, "She's controlling the whole thing with her inner thighs."¹⁸⁹

- During autumn of 1975, David Leonardi took several photographs of figure skater Dorothy Hamill outside. During the photo session, a single leaf fell on top of Ms. Hamill's head. When Mr. Leonardi snapped her photograph, the leaf looked exactly like a small crown. The leaf was prophetic—Ms. Hamill became queen of the 1976 Winter Olympic Games in Innsbruck, Austria, when she won the gold medal in women's figure skating.¹⁹⁰

- American Al Oerter became a discus thrower by accident. In high school, he had been running the mile, but when an errant discus fell near him during practice he picked it up. Rather than walk it back, he threw it back—and it landed 50 feet *past* the discus throwers. His coach ran up to him and said, "You're now my discus thrower." Good choice. Mr. Oerter won the gold medal in discus at the 1956, 1960, 1964, and 1968 Olympic Games.¹⁹¹

- At the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, Germany, Soviet Olga Korbut captured the hearts of sports fans everywhere with her open personality that reflected happiness or sadness and with her incredible flexibility and gymnastics skills. Fans were so taken with her that at one point

when the television coverage broke away for a commercial, the announcer said, “We’ll be back with the Olga Korbut show in just a minute.”¹⁹²

- To get ready for the 1996 Olympic Games, softball shortstop Dot Richardson installed a batting cage in her apartment, and she practiced whenever she felt like it. One day, she discovered this note on the door to her apartment: “Please train for the Olympics a little earlier in the evening. Thanks.”¹⁹³

Opera

- Lots of people enjoy opera when it is broadcast on the radio. A football fan had an unusual problem when the Metropolitan Opera was broadcast on the radio at the same time his favorite football team was playing a game on TV. He solved the problem by listening to the opera on the radio while watching the football game on TV with the sound turned off.¹⁹⁴

- In 1946, opera singer Helen Traubel met the widow of a famous baseball player. The widow told her, “My husband was always such a fan of yours. He would go and hear you whenever he could. He never told any of the fellows on the team because he was afraid they would think he was a sissy.” The baseball player was Lou Gehrig.¹⁹⁵

Overconfidence

- Overconfidence cost Dan O’Brien a shot at an Olympic gold medal in 1992. As a world-class decathlete, Mr. O’Brien appeared to be a cinch to win a medal at the Olympics in 1992; however, first he had to qualify at the United States Olympic Trials. There he made a crucial error. In the pole vault competition, athletes need not compete at lower heights. They can start competing at a higher height, but of course they must clear the first height at which they begin to compete. Mr. O’Brien did not compete at 14 feet, 5 1/2 inches, or at 14 feet, 9 inches, or at 15 feet, 1 inch, or at 15 feet, 5 inches. Instead, he waited to start competing until the bar was set at 15 feet, 9 inches. Unfortunately, on his two first attempts, he slammed into the bar. Only three attempts are allowed, and Mr. O’Brien was so rattled by his first two misses that on his third attempt he went *under* the bar! This gave him zero points for the pole vault and kept him from making the Olympic team. However, Mr. O’Brien is made of tough stuff. He trained for four more years, made the 1996 U.S. Olympic team, and won the gold medal in the decathlon.¹⁹⁶

- In 1969, the Boston Celtics were coached by center Bill Russell, whose knees were so worn out that he could not practice. Nevertheless, the Celtics made it to the NBA Finals, where they faced the Los Angeles Lakers. The series went to seven games, and the seventh game was held in Los Angeles. The Lakers were immensely confident that they would win, and nets suspended from the ceiling held 5,000 balloons in anticipation of a big victory celebration after the Lakers won. The balloons were never released as the Celtics held on for a 2-point victory and their eleventh NBA championship in thirteen seasons.¹⁹⁷

People with Handicaps

- Jean Little, the author of *Little by Little*, had major problems with her eyesight. She was cross-eyed with weak eyes, and to read a book—one of her favorite activities—she had to have her face so close to the page that her nose touched it. One day, she planned to attend a basketball game at which some of her friends would play. Unfortunately, some of their players were either away or ill, so they were short-handed for the game, meaning that they would lose

by default despite being a superior team with superior players. However, Ms. Little volunteered to go on the court as a player since all she had to do was to stand there while the other women actually played the game. When Ms. Little arrived in uniform, the referee actually looked through the rulebook to see if there was a rule against allowing a “blind” player on the court. She couldn’t find any such rule, so Ms. Little was allowed to play. At halftime, her team was ahead, but near the end of the game the score was tied because no one had to guard Ms. Little, who simply stood on the court. However, the ball came directly toward Ms. Little, who managed to grab it. Of course, everyone stopped playing because they were wondering what the “blind” woman would do with the ball. One of the players on Ms. Little’s team yelled, “Jean, throw it here.” Ms. Little threw the ball in the direction the voice was coming from, the player on her team grabbed the ball, and shot a last-second shot that went through the hoop. Because of Ms. Little’s assist, her team won the game.¹⁹⁸

- Aimee Mullins was born without fibula bones in her legs, and her parents decided to have her legs amputated rather than have her use a wheelchair the rest of her life. She learned to use prosthetic legs and became a track sprinter at Georgetown University—despite being disabled, she competed against able-bodied athletes. During the Big East Championships, she ran into a problem. The weather was hot, and her perspiration lubricated the silicon sleeves that held on her sprinting legs. In fact, during the 100-meter race, one of her legs almost fell off. She begged her coach, Frank Gagliano, to take her out of the 200-meter race, but he told her, “So what if your leg falls off? Ya pick it up, ya put it on, ya finish the godd*mned race! Now get out there and run!” Ms. Mullins was stunned then, but she says today, “I had proposed to him the worst-case scenario—my leg coming off, me falling in front of thousands of people—and he made it seem so simple. You pick up and you still go on—advice you can use pretty much anywhere in life.”¹⁹⁹

- Diana Golden enjoyed skiing, but her leg collapsed under her when she was 12 years old. Doctors investigated, discovered that she had cancer, and told her that her leg would have to be amputated. Diana didn’t believe them at first because most 12-year-olds don’t get cancer. She asked the doctors, “Did you ask my grandfather?” (Her grandfather was also a doctor.) The doctors replied, “He knows. He agrees with us. We’re sorry.” She cried at first, but she was able to laugh when her roommate said, “When you have a fake leg, maybe you’ll be able to turn your foot around backward.” Despite being one-legged, Diana continued her hobby of skiing. One day, a skier with two legs lost control and knocked her over. She shouted at the skier, “Look what you’ve done to my leg!” Ms. Golden was very talented as a skier—she won many gold medals as a member of the United States Disabled Ski Team.²⁰⁰

Chapter 5: From Pitchers to Work

Pitchers

- Satchel Paige won many games as a pitcher, but he also boasted about winning many games as a pitcher. In one game, he had a 1-0 lead in the ninth inning, and he quickly got the first two batters out. However, three straight errors by his teammates led to loaded bases. Mr. Paige was angry because he thought that his teammates had committed the errors on purpose. At first he was going to leave the ballpark, but he thought better of it and returned to the pitcher's mound. He even made his outfielders sit in back of the pitcher's mound—then he struck the batter out for the win. In a years-later game in which he did NOT make his outfielders sit in back of the pitcher's mound, he didn't get the win. Angry at his boasting, his teammates let an easy-to-catch fly ball fall to the game for a home run that won the game for the other team.²⁰¹
- Babe Ruth had trouble remembering names, so he called other people, including baseball players, such names as “Pal,” “Kid,” and “Doc.” While Babe was pitching for the Boston Red Sox, manager Ed Barrow warned about a Chicago Cub hitter named Les Mann, saying, “The man is tough against lefthanders, Babe. Any time he comes up in a pinch, I want you to be careful. In fact, it won't do any harm to dust him off a bit, for he takes a heavy toehold on the plate.” During the game, Babe dusted off not Les Mann, but a player named Max Flack. Back in the dugout, he told Mr. Barrow, “I guess I took care of that Mann guy for you.” Mr. Barrow shouted, “Babe, you wouldn't know General Grant if he walked up with a bat.”²⁰²
- Sometimes a major-league pitcher will get a little of his own back by throwing a knock-down pitch at a lesser hitter after the big bats have roughed him up. In one 1947 game, the New York Giants—a club with some heavy hitters—got three home runs in a row by Sid Gordon, Johnny Mize, and Walker Cooper. The next batter was Buddy Blattner—not one of the heavy hitters on his team. Mr. Blattner bit the dust twice on knock-down pitches, made an out, then returned to the dugout. Mr. Cooper said to him, “I'll say one thing, Blattner—they really respect you.”²⁰³
- Politeness often pays, and lack of politeness often does not pay. Lew Burdette, a pitcher for Atlanta, got into trouble with two runners on base and no outs, so catcher Bob Uecker went out to the mound to give him a few minutes to get settled and then pitch his best. However, Mr. Burdette was in a foul mood, and he told Mr. Uecker, “The only thing you know about pitching is that you can't hit it.” Big mistake. Mr. Uecker went back to his position as catcher—and told the batter which pitch Mr. Burdette was going to throw.²⁰⁴
- A doubleheader in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League of the 1940s and 1950s consisted of a regular game of nine innings followed by a shorter game of seven innings. For one doubleheader, Doris “Sammy” Sams was assigned to pitch the short game, and she had thought that she had been given the easy game. However, that game turned into a mammoth struggle that she did not win until the 22nd inning. After the game, Sammy told her manager, “I don't want to pitch any more seven-inning games—they're too long!”²⁰⁵
- In the 1920s, the New York Yankees had several power hitters, including Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, and Tony Lazzeri, who were called “Murderers' Row” because they figuratively murdered pitchers by frequently hitting home runs. Waite Hoyt, a right-handed pitcher for the Yankees, once joked, “A Yankee pitcher never should hold out (not sign a contract in hopes of

getting more money) because he might be traded, and then he would have to pitch against them.”²⁰⁶

- Gaylord Perry was well aware that he had a reputation for throwing spitballs—he titled his autobiography *Me and the Spitter* and after winning 300 games he wore a T-shirt bearing the slogan “300 Wins is Nothing to Spit At.” Baseball manager Gene Mauch was also well aware of Mr. Perry’s reputation and once said, “He should be in the Hall of Fame, with a tube of K-Y Jelly attached to his plaque.”²⁰⁷

- Gaylord Perry was a great pitcher but not a great hitter. In fact, Alvin Dark (manager for the San Francisco Giants) once predicted that an astronaut would land on the moon before Mr. Perry hit a home run. On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong stepped onto the surface of the moon—and 17 minutes later Mr. Perry hit his very first major-league home run.²⁰⁸

Practical Jokes

- Jay Johnstone played major-league baseball from 1966 to 1984 and made his mark as a clown. After a Dodger shortstop made a couple of fielding errors in one game, Mr. Johnstone put Band-Aids on his glove. While sitting in the dugout, Mr. Johnston often wore giant sunglasses, a space helmet, or a beanie. During one game, he and Dodger pitcher Jerry Reuss left the dugout, changed clothes, and joined the groundskeeping crew in manicuring the field at the end of the fifth inning. They were recognized, a TV cameraman broadcast their antics, and the fans gave them a standing ovation. However, Dodger manager Tommy Lasorda gave both men \$200 fines for being out of uniform and sent Mr. Johnstone in to pinch-hit—Mr. Johnstone hit a home run. Returning to the dugout, he told Mr. Lasorda, “Next time you need me, I’ll be in the groundskeepers’ room.”²⁰⁹

- When Chamique Holdsclaw played as a first-year athlete for the Tennessee Lady Vols, her first road trip was to Hawaii, where they would play in the Kona Classic. Before they left for the airport, her teammates handed her a yellow broomstick and told her that it was a tradition for a first-year player to carry the “freshman pole” during their first road trip of the season. Not wanting to break tradition, Ms. Holdsclaw carried the broomstick through the airport and onto the airplane, where finally a coach told her that she was the victim of a practical joke. Actually, the practical joke started a new tradition. The Lady Vols won the Kona Classic (and Ms. Holdsclaw was named Most Valuable Player of the tournament), and in years afterward the freshman pole was carried on the first road trip of the season to bring the team good luck.²¹⁰

- Referee Dan Tehan of Cincinnati witnessed a practical joke pulled on a timekeeper at a University of Michigan basketball game in the first half of the 20th century. The timekeeper always made a grand show of getting his pistol out, pointing it toward the rafters, and pulling the trigger to announce that time had run out and the game had ended. This time, when the timekeeper pulled the trigger, a huge, dead bird fell within three feet of him. Before the game had started, a couple of Michigan football coaches had hidden the bird and a student in the rafters.²¹¹

- Major-league umpire Eric Gregg was a heavy man, sometimes weighing 360 pounds, and of course he heard a lot of fat jokes while working. Once, he was told that in the fifth inning, his girlfriend would appear. This had him wondering because he didn’t have a girlfriend—he was very happily married. The mystery was indeed revealed in the fifth inning—when the

Goodyear blimp arrived. On another occasion, he couldn't find the baseball, so the Phillies' Greg Gross told him, "Eric, if it was two scoops you'd find it in a second."²¹²

- At the 2004 football game between Harvard and Yale, pranksters gave colored pieces of paper to selected Harvard fans and told them that when they all held up the pieces of paper at the same time, the pieces of paper would spell "GO HARVARD." In fact, when held up at the same time the pieces of paper spelled "WE SUCK."²¹³

- Rabbit Maranville once was tagged out when he fell victim to the hidden baseball trick. Later that day, some of his friends treated him to supper. Rabbit's dessert was a huge bowl of ice cream, and when he started to eat it, he found a hidden baseball.²¹⁴

Prejudice

- Bill Russell experienced prejudice while starring for the Boston Celtics. After a three-day weekend, he and his family returned to their home only to discover that it had been broken into and vandalized. Many of his trophies had been smashed, and the vandals had spray-painted "NIGGA" on some walls. In addition, whenever Mr. Russell was out of Boston playing away games, someone upset his trashcans. When Mr. Russell complained to the police about the trashcans, the police told him that raccoons had created the mess. Therefore, Mr. Russell asked about getting a gun permit so he could shoot the raccoons. Apparently, the "raccoons" heard about the gun permit because they stopped upsetting Mr. Russell's trashcans. Nevertheless, progress in civil rights was being made. Mr. Russell's grandfather, whom Mr. Russell called the "Old Man," lived in the Jim Crow South. When he finally attended his first professional basketball game, he was accompanied by his son, Mr. Russell's father. The Old Man was astonished at seeing the respect Mr. Russell received as player-coach. The Old Man asked Mr. Russell's father, "Do them white boys really have to do what William tells them to do?" He was even more astonished when he saw John Havlicek, a white man, and Sam Jones, a black man, showering and talking together. The Old Man marveled, "I never thought I'd live to see the day when the water would run off a white man onto a black man, and the water would run off a black man onto a white man."²¹⁵

- When Jackie Robinson integrated modern major-league baseball with the Brooklyn Dodgers, not all the players were happy about it, especially the players from the South. In fact, some players signed a petition saying that they didn't want to play baseball with him. One player who refused to sign the petition was Pee Wee Reese, who grew up in Louisville, Kentucky. Manager Leo Durocher heard about the petition, and he called a team meeting at which he told the players that he, not them, would decide who played: "I'm the manager and I'm paid to win and I'd play an elephant if he could win for me and this fellow Robinson is no elephant. ... And here's something else. He's only the first, boys—only the first." Mr. Durocher made it also clear that he didn't want to see the petition, and he never did. Later, at least some of the players who had signed the petition supported Mr. Robinson. In a series against Philadelphia, the Phillies were shouting abuse against Mr. Robinson, who would not respond to the abuse because of fear of setting back African-American progress. Eventually, petition-signer Ed Stanky grew tired of the name-calling, so he shouted to the Philadelphia ballplayers, "Listen, you yellow-bellied cowards. Why don't you shout at somebody who can answer back."²¹⁶

- John Amaechi became the first player to come out of the closet in the National Basketball Association. Being black, and gay, and intelligent, and outspoken (he has spoken out against the National Rifle Association and George W. Bush's war in Iraq), he is a target for prejudice.

Tariq Abdul-Wahid, one of his teammates, told him even before he came out of the closet, “Meech, you are the only person I have ever met who is an expert at not fitting in no matter where you are.” In his native Great Britain, Mr. Amaechi says that he fits in more readily than he does in the United States, but even in Britain he runs into problems. He points out about people walking towards him on the sidewalk, “At 400 feet they see a big black man and they cross the road to avoid me. At 200 feet they cross back because they realize that I’m a professional basketball player and they want a closer look. At 50 feet they recognize me as the gay bloke who just came out and then they cross back across the road again.” While he was still in the NBA, a teammate asked him, “You gay, dude?” Mr. Amaechi replied, “You have nothing to worry about.”²¹⁷

- Ty Cobb may have been a great baseball player, but he was a mean baseball player—he even sharpened the spikes of his cleats so he could hurt opposing basemen when he slid into them. His Detroit Tigers once played a 7-game series against a team composed of black and Cuban baseball players—and Ty especially hated blacks. Attempting to steal, he raised his spikes high as he slid, all the better to hurt second baseman John Henry Lloyd. However, Mr. Lloyd was prepared for Ty. Underneath his baseball stockings, Mr. Lloyd wore cast-iron shin guards, and he tagged Ty out. Ty tried twice more to steal, but he made an out each time. After the third time he made an out trying to steal, he swore that that was the last time he would play against black players.²¹⁸

- Two African-American athletes were recruited to play basketball at Indiana University—but they each received a letter with this message: “Our quota of Negroes has been filled.” Oh! Bad decision, and not just because of the bad morality. The two athletes were Bob Gibson, an excellent all-around athlete who is now a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame, and Oscar Robertson, who is now a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame.²¹⁹

- Ellen Cornish wasn’t allowed to run distance events in high-school track meets because she was a girl. In 1972, she was finally told that she could run in one track meet, but that any points she scored would not be counted. However, at the end of the seventh lap she was pulled off the track and not allowed to finish the race because the officials were afraid that she would win and embarrass the boy competitors.²²⁰

Problem-Solving

- In 1923, an unconscious player won a football game. Texas Christian University defeated Terrell Prep 63-0, but for a while it looked as if it would have to forfeit the game because of a lack of players on the field. Texas Christian had only 20 players, and many of them had been injured and were sitting on the bench. Late in the game, only 10 healthy players remained, and a referee informed the Texas Christian coach that unless he could put 11 players on the field, his team would be forced to forfeit the game. One injured player, Ernest Lowry, volunteered to go in the game, but due to his injuries, he fainted when he stood up. Thinking quickly, the coach placed Mr. Lowry’s body on the football field, barely inbounds and far from the action, but still behind the line of scrimmage. The closing seconds ticked away, and Texas Christian won the game.²²¹

- At the 2000 Summer Olympic Games, the United States women’s softball team was favored to win the gold medal, but a drought of hits despite excellent pitching led to losses against Japan, China, and Australia. Suddenly, it was possible for the United States team to go home without a medal of any color. Therefore, the team members performed an “exorcism” of their

bad luck. They showered in their uniforms with the water going full blast to wash the bad luck away. They flushed the toilets repeatedly to flush away the bad luck. And they passed around a softball. Whoever held the softball had to say something good and uplifting. The “exorcism” worked. The team won all of its remaining games, defeating all of the teams that had previously defeated them, and won the gold medal.²²²

- At times, professional golfers need a few moments to be alone, and getting time to be alone can be difficult. To solve this problem, Peter Jacobsen will sometimes go into a bathroom stall and shut the door. Most media and other people will leave him alone at a time like that; however, in cases where someone is especially persistent in trying to talk to him, Mr. Jacobsen will sometimes make use of a toy that produces the sound of passing gas. He says, “Even sportswriters are bright enough to understand that if a guy’s eaten a bad burrito or some extra-strength chili, he needs to be left alone for a few minutes.”²²³

- Milwaukee pitcher Bill Zuber complained often that his arm got sore after games. Aware that the soreness probably came from Mr. Zuber’s frequent use of his blazing fastball, a friend told him that if he were cunning in his choice of pitches and did not rely so much on his fastball, then his arm would not be so sore after games. Mr. Zuber took the advice, and in part because the batters kept looking for his fastball, which he did not throw nearly as often as he usually did, he pitched a shutout. But unfortunately he had a new complaint: “My arm’s all right, but I’ve got a headache. I pitched with my head today.”²²⁴

- When Cammi Granato, a gold-medal winner as a member of the United States women’s hockey team at the 1998 Nagano Olympic Games, was growing up, she was the only girl player on a boys’ team. During one game, her coach learned that the opposing players had been ordered to “get number 21”—Cammi’s number. The coach solved the problem by having Cammi switch jerseys with a six-foot-tall teammate.²²⁵

- The 1952 Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team was terrible, losing 112 of 154 games. After a series against the Giants in which the Pirate center fielder had made three throwing errors and had let the ball go between his legs twice, manager Billy Meyer called a meeting to see if anyone could come up with an idea that would make them win. First baseman George “Catfish” Metkovich suggested, “On any ball hit to center field, let’s just let it roll to see if it goes foul.”²²⁶

Scouting

- As a child, Donna Lopiano wanted to play Little League baseball. However, when she showed up at the beginning of the season, someone else’s father showed her a rulebook, which stated that girls could not play in the Little League. She attended all the games, became convinced that she was a better player than any kid on the field, and kept playing sandlot baseball. She also bugged her parents about finding a team that she could play on. Sal Caginello, an old Army buddy of her father, scouted for the Pittsburgh Pirates and was friends with the coach of the World Champion Raybestos Brakettes Softball Team, located in Stamford, Connecticut. Her father got his old Army buddy drunk, and without ever seeing Donna play, he agreed to drive her to Stamford for a tryout with the World Champions. Sober, he kept his word, but he stayed in the car for the first part of her tryout, afraid that it was going to be a complete disaster. But he watched her play, and he got out of the car and watched. Then he walked closer, by third base, and watched. At the end of the tryout, he was in the dugout, sitting by the coach, who told him that he was the Raybestos Brakettes’ best scout ever.

(Donna Lopiano played for the Raybestos Brakettes for three years, from age 16 to 19. She also became a nine-time Amateur Softball Association All-American player as a pitcher, shortstop, first baseman, and second baseman.)²²⁷

- Coach George Halas of the Chicago Bears was one of the first coaches to scout teams. After losing a game by a score of 7-3 to the Washington Redskins following a controversial call by an official, the Bears complained and in turn the Redskins called them “crybabies.” Mr. Halas responded by scouting the Redskins and creating plays to exploit the Redskins’ weaknesses. The scouting paid off. The next time the Bears met the Redskins, Chicago won, 73-0.²²⁸

Signs

- In 2001, Barry Bonds broke the single-season home-run record set by Mark McGwire; however, hitting 73 home runs in one season was difficult for Mr. Bonds in part because pitchers preferred to walk him rather than pitch to him and risk having him hit a home run. Late in the season, whenever Mr. Bonds’ young daughters went to the ballpark to watch their father play, they carried a sign that said, “Please pitch to our daddy.”²²⁹

- In the early 1980s, the Northwestern University football team was mainly known for its losing seasons; after all, it lost 30 games in a row. In fact, when Doug Single interviewed for the job of Northwestern University athletic director, he saw a highway sign. Underneath INTERSTATE 94, someone had written NORTHWESTERN 0.²³⁰

- In a race to Bermuda, Sherman Hoyt was sailing a tiny yacht when he met the huge ocean liner *Monarch of Bermuda*, which was making a few minor repairs. Mr. Hoyt immediately ran up some signal flags that asked, “Can I be of any assistance?”²³¹

Training

- Sports can toughen a girl—or woman. When Kristine Denise Ferrer first began to study Thailand’s national sport, *Muay Thai* kickboxing, in Los Angeles, she didn’t do so well. When her coach hit her, she saw stars, then she recovered enough to think, “Wait a minute, I’m a girl—you’re not supposed to do that to me.” Her legs also became very bruised from all of her workouts—she wore sweatpants to hide the bruises from other people, such as her mother. Her hard work paid off; she trained her abdominal muscles until her coach was able to drop a 20-pound medicine ball on her stomach multiple times, and she trained against other *Muay Thai* kickboxers, including guys. They punched and kicked her, and she punched and kicked them—and she welcomed the training as an important part of her workout.²³²

- Chicago Bear Walter Payton developed his running ability in part through a training program that he and his brother devised that included running up and down the sandy banks of the Pearl River—when the sun was hottest. This training program forced him to adjust to the shifting sand beneath his feet and developed his balance and ability to cut. Of course, it also built up his endurance—other athletes who tried the same training program sometimes had to be carried away—after they finished vomiting.²³³

- At the 1896 Olympic Games in Greece, American discus thrower Robert Garrett was an underdog—he hadn’t even trained with the proper equipment. In fact, he had someone make a discus for him using as a model a drawing of an ancient athlete throwing a discus. But when he handled his first real discus at the Olympic Games, he discovered that it was lighter than the discus he had been using. His training with a heavier discus paid off—he won first place.²³⁴

- Triathlete Heather Hedrick often trains on cold, windy Illinois roads during the winter. When she first started training seriously, the guys she trained with saw her shivering, so they told her, “Heather, the wind is your friend. The wind will make you strong.” After a while, whenever she trained on a cold, windy Illinois road, she would tell herself, “The wind is my friend. The wind will make me strong.”²³⁵

- In the late 1980s, after going 10 years without competitive boxing, George Foreman made a comeback. To get into shape, Mr. Foreman lost over 50 pounds. In addition, he attached a heavy punching bag to the back of his truck and every day he ran behind the truck for 10 miles, punching the bag the entire distance. The difficult training paid off. In 1994, he regained the world heavyweight title.²³⁶

- In modern times, an Okinawan schoolteacher named Gichin Funakoshi revived the art of karate. During typhoons, he used to climb to the top of his roof, assume the horseback stance, and attempt to keep his footing during the wind and the rain. Often, he was blown off the roof, so he used to carry a mat with him so he could land on it. All night, he would fight the typhoon.²³⁷

- As a professional beach volleyball player, Gabrielle Reece works hard. At Gold’s Gym in Venice, California, her trainer, T.R. Goodman, designed a two-hour workout for her that made her vomit the first time she tried it. Nevertheless, she stuck with the training program he had designed.²³⁸

Umpires

- John Tener, the President of the National League, was great friends with umpire Charlie Rigler. One day, Mr. Rigler got into a ferocious argument with a player for the New York Giants—an argument so ferocious he punched the player. Giants manager John McGraw wanted Mr. Tener to fire Mr. Rigler. At the meeting of National League president and umpire, Mr. Tener asked Mr. Rigler why he had thrown the punch. Mr. Rigler explained, “I want you to know that I kept my temper when he called me an ugly, stupid this-and-that, and I controlled myself when he said I was a blind, no-good so-and-so and every other name you can think of. That was all right. I’m an umpire. I can take that. But when he said, ‘you’re just as bad as that blankety-blank Tener that you work for,’ I couldn’t hold back any longer. I let him have it.” After hearing this explanation, Mr. Tener shouted, “YOU SHOULD HAVE *KILLED* HIM!”²³⁹

- Baseball players have tricks to fool the umpires. Some umpires at first base will look at the feet of the runner and listen for the sound of the baseball hitting the first baseman’s glove. Therefore, some first basemen will try to fool the umpire by pounding their fist in the glove to imitate the sound of a baseball hitting their glove. Once, Larry Goertz was umpiring and watching the feet of runner Johnny Moore. Umpire Goertz heard what he thought was the sound of a baseball hitting the glove of first baseman Sam Leslie while Mr. Moore was two steps from first base, so he called Mr. Moore out—and was surprised when Mr. Moore, who was not known to be a complainer, became very upset. Mr. Moore said to Umpire Goertz, “Larry, I feel I have a right to argue. Leslie doesn’t have the ball. They made the play at third base instead.”²⁴⁰

- Umpire Tim Hurst was a very intelligent man. When John McGraw was a baseball player, he liked to bet on the horses and a racetrack was conveniently located just outside the St. Louis ballpark. Therefore, Mr. McGraw decided to get on Umpire Hurst so he could be thrown out of

the game and could leave and go to the racetrack. After Umpire Hurst called a play, Mr. McGraw ran over to argue the decision. Unfortunately for Mr. McGraw, Umpire Hurst knew what he was doing, so Umpire Hurst told him, “You’re not going to be thrown out of this game, so get back and play third base. And if you expect to place anything on the horses, you’d better send a boy over to do it for you. You’re playing ball.” Mr. McGraw played third base and sent a boy over to place a bet for him.²⁴¹

- St. Louis Cardinal manager Frankie Frisch used to insult umpires, but he was careful not to say anything so insulting that he would be thrown out of the game. However, once he slipped up. He shouted something that the umpire didn’t hear, and when the umpire asked what he had said, Frankie said, “You guessed at everything else today. See if you can guess what I just said.” The umpire replied, “OK, I will, and for saying it, you’re out of the game, Frisch.”²⁴²

- Detroit Tiger Donnie Bush did not care for the way that umpire Silk O’Loughlin was officiating, so he let him know how he felt—loudly and angrily. Umpire O’Loughlin simply walked away, and Mr. Bush kept following him and continuing to let him know how he felt. Eventually, umpire O’Loughlin walked out the gate near first base. Mr. Bush followed him. Then umpire O’Loughlin turned around and told Mr. Bush, “Keep walking. You’re through for today.”²⁴³

- Jackie Robinson broke the color line in modern major-league baseball. For a long time, he was treated differently because of his race. In 1948, he heckled an umpire who threw him out of the game. This actually made Jackie happy—the umpire would have done exactly the same thing to a white player who had done what Jackie did. Jackie treasured the next day’s newspaper headline: “Jackie Just Another Guy.”²⁴⁴

- Frankie Frisch was manager of the Gas House Gang in St. Louis. One day, Mr. Frisch got into an argument with umpire Bill Klem, and after shouting a while, he pretended to faint in an attempt to avoid being thrown out of the game. The Pump House Gang started shouting, “Heart attack!”—but Mr. Klem leaned over Mr. Frisch and said, “Frisch, dead or alive, you’re out of the game.”²⁴⁵

- As an African-American major-league umpire, Eric Gregg used to dance with the Philadelphia mascot, the Phillies Phanatic. When people asked why he was the only umpire who did that, he used to reply, “That’s easy. I’m the only umpire who can dance.”²⁴⁶

- Charlie Moran used to be an umpire in the National League. Once, he was very slow in making a call about a hit ball, so some ballplayers surrounded him, asking, “Is it safe, or is it out?” Mr. Moran snarled, “It ain’t nothing until I call it.”²⁴⁷

Work

- Walt Disney was uncoordinated but fiercely competitive, and during the Great Depression (when jobs were very, very scarce), his employees did not want to throw or tag him out when he played in one of their lunchtime softball games. Disney employee Jack Kinney once witnessed a game in which Walt Disney hit a grounder to second base. Although the second baseman could have fielded the softball easily, he booted the softball instead into right field. Because the softball had stopped rolling, the right fielder was forced to pick it up, and he immediately threw it to the third baseman instead of the first baseman. The third baseman threw it to the second baseman. The second baseman had no choice but to throw it to the first

baseman. The first baseman deliberately bobbled the ball, and when uncoordinated Walt finally made it to first base, the first baseman dropped the ball. Result: Walt was credited with a single. Moral: If you are uncoordinated but want to be a great athlete, just be the guy who does the hiring and firing in the midst of a depression.²⁴⁸

- As a child, Tod Sloan (who was later a famous jockey) worked in a carnival with “Professor” Talbot, who among other activities rode in a hot air balloon. One day, the Professor, who had never seen a parachute, made one by looking at a picture and using it as a model. He then announced to the crowd that he would go up in the balloon and his little boy would jump from the balloon and float down to earth with the parachute. Tod asked, “Who’s your little boy?” The professor said, “You are.” Tod exclaimed, “Like h*ll I am!”²⁴⁹

- In 1916, pitcher Jack Nabors was in a game that was tied 1-1 in the ninth inning, and he let the other team walk in the winning run—on purpose. Why? He explained, “If they think I’d stand there in that sun and pitch another nine innings waiting for our bums to make another run, they’re crazy.”²⁵⁰

Appendix A: Bibliography

- Aaseng, Nathan. *Football's Cunning Coaches*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1981.
- Aaseng, Nathan. *Jose Canseco: Baseball's 40-40 Man*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1989.
- Adler, Bill. *Baseball Wit*. New York: Crown Publishers, Inc., 1986.
- Ali, Hana. *More Than a Hero: Muhammad Ali's Life Lessons Presented Through His Daughter's Eyes*. New York: Pocket Books, 2000.
- Ashby, R.S. *Sarah Hughes: America's Sweetheart*. New York: Avon Books, 2002.
- Barich, Bill. *The Sporting Life: Horses, Boxers, Rivers, and a Soviet Ballclub*. New York: The Lyons Press, 1999.
- Berke, Art. *Babe Ruth*. New York: Franklin Watts, 1988.
- Bernstein, Ross. *Barry Bonds*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 2004.
- Berra, Yogi. "I Really Didn't Say Everything I Said." New York: Workman Publishing Company, Inc., 1998.
- Billings, Henry and Melissa. *Eccentrics: 21 Stories of Unusual and Remarkable People*. Providence, RI: Jamestown Publishers, 1987.
- Boo, Michael. *The Story of Figure Skating*. New York: William Morrow and Company, 1998.
- Brasch, Walter M., editor. *ZIM: The Autobiography of Eugene Zimmerman*. Selinsgrove, PA: Susquehanna University Press; London and Toronto: Associated University Presses, 1988.
- Burakoff, Alexis. *On the Ice: Kids' Views and Interviews with Famous (and Not So Famous) Skaters*. Newton, MA: Hare and Hatter Books, 1994.
- Burchard, S.H. *Chris Evert*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1976.
- Burchard, S.H. *Jim "Catfish" Hunter*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1976.
- Burns, George. *Wisdom of the 90s*. Written with Hal Goldman. New York: Putnam, 1991.
- Camp, Carole Ann. *Sally Ride: First American Woman in Space*. Springfield, NJ: Enslow Publications, Inc., 1997.
- Carlson, Stan W. *Baseball Banter: Gems of the Baseball Diamond*. Minneapolis, MN: The Author, 1940.
- Clinton, Kate. *Don't Get Me Started*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1998.
- Clinton, Kate. *What the L?* New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers, 2005.
- Clower, Jerry. *Life Everlaughter: The Heart and Humor of Jerry Clower*. Nashville, TN: Rutledge Hill Press, 1987.
- Coffey, Wayne. *Wilma Rudolph*. Woodbridge, CT: Blackbirch Press, Inc., 1993.
- Cohen, Joel. *Odd Moments in Baseball*. New York: Scholastic, Inc., 2000.
- Cohen, Sasha. *Fire on Ice: Autobiography of a Champion Figure Skater*. With Amanda Maciel. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2005.
- Conlan, Jocko, and Robert W. Creamer. *Jocko*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1997.
- Cornelius, Kay. *Chamique Holdsclaw*. Philadelphia, PA: Chelsea House Publishers, 2001.
- Daley, Arthur. *Knute Rockne: Football Wizard of Notre Dame*. New York: P.J. Kenedy & Sons, 1960.

Davidson, Scooter Toby, and Valerie Anthony. *Great Women in the Sport of Kings: America's Top Women Jockeys Tell Their Stories*. New York: Syracuse University Press, 1999.

Davis, Mac. *100 Greatest Sports Feats*. New York: Grosset and Dunlap, Publishers, 1964.

Ditchfield, Christin. *Martina Hingis*. Philadelphia, PA: Chelsea House Publishers, 2001.

Donohue, Shiobhan. *Kristi Yamaguchi: Artist on Ice*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1994.

Dyson, Cindy. *Laila Ali*. Philadelphia, PA: Chelsea House Publishers, 2001.

Erskine, Carl. *Carl Erskine's Tales from the Dodger Dugout*. Champaign, IL: Sports Publishing, Inc., 2000.

Fehr, Kristin Smith. *Monica Seles: Returning Champion*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1997.

Ford, Carin T. *Jackie Robinson: "All I Ask is That You Respect Me as a Human Being."* Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishers, Inc., 2005.

Forkos, Heather. *Dorothy "Dot" Richardson*. Philadelphia, PA: Chelsea House Publishers, 2001.

Garagiola, Joe. *Baseball is a Funny Game*. New York: Bantam Books, 1960.

Garagiola, Joe. *It's Anybody's Ballgame*. New York: Jove Books, 1988.

Gleasner, Diana C. *Track and Field*. New York: Harvey House, Publishers, 1977.

Goldstein, Margaret J. *Jennifer Capriati: Tennis Sensation*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1993.

Gottesman, Jane. *Game Face: What Does A Female Athlete Look Like?* New York: Random House, 2001.

Green, Septima. *Top 10 Women Gymnasts*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publications, Inc., 1999.

Greenberg, Steve, and Dale Ratermann. *I Remember Woody: Recollections of the Man They Called Coach Hayes*. Indianapolis, IN: Masters Press, 1997.

Greenspan, Bud. *100 Greatest Moments in Olympic History*. Los Angeles, CA: General Publishing Group, Inc., 1995.

Greenspan, Bud. *Frozen in Time: The Greatest Moments at the Winter Olympics*. Santa Monica, CA: General Publishing Group, Inc., 1997.

Gregg, Eric, and Marty Appel. *Working the Plate: The Eric Gregg Story*. New York: William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1990.

Gutman, Bill. *Ken Griffey, Jr.: Baseball's Best*. Brookfield, CT: The Millbrook Press, 1998.

Gutman, Bill. *Modern Women Superstars*. New York: Dodd, Mead, & Company, 1977.

Hamill, Dorothy. *On and Off the Ice*. With Elva Clairmont. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1983.

Haney, Lynn. *Perfect Balance: The Story of an Elite Gymnast*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1979.

Haney, Lynn. *Skaters: Profile of a Pair*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1983.

Haskins, James. *Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron: The Home Run Kings*. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Company, 1974.

Hauser, Hillary. *Scuba Diving*. New York: Harvey House, Publishers, 1976.

Herzog, Brad. *The 20 Greatest Athletes of the 20th Century*. New York: Sports Illustrated for Kids Books, 2005.

Heuman, William. *Famous Coaches*. New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1968.

Hill, Anne E. *Ekaterina Gordeeva*. Philadelphia, PA: Chelsea House Publishers, 1999.

Hughes, Morgan E. *Mario Lemieux: Beating the Odds*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1996.

Hunter, Shaun. *Great African Americans in the Olympics*. New York: Crabtree Publishing Company, 1997.

Jacobs, Helen Hull. *Famous American Women Athletes*. New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1964.

Jacobs, Karen Folger. *The Story of a Young Gymnast: Tracee Talavera*. New York: Bantam Books, Inc., 1980.

Jacobs, Linda. *Olga Korbut: Tears and Triumph*. St. Paul, MN: EMI Corporation, 1974.

Jacobsen, Peter. *Embedded Balls*. With Jack Sheehan. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2005.

Jacobson, Steve. *Carrying Jackie's Torch: The Players Who Integrated Baseball—and America*. Chicago, IL: Lawrence Hill Books, 2007.

Jakoubek, Robert. *Joe Louis*. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1990.

Kindred, Dave. *Heroes, Fools, and Other Dreamers: A Sportswriter's Gallery of Extraordinary People*. Atlanta, GA: Longstreet Press, 1988.

Kinney, Jack. *Walt Disney and Other Assorted Characters: An Unauthorized Account of the Early Years at Disney's*. New York: Harmony Books, 1988.

Knotts, Don. *Barney Fife and Other Characters I Have Known*. With Robert Metz. New York: Berkley Boulevard Books, 1999.

Kristy, Davida. *Coubertin's Olympics: How the Games Began*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1995.

Krull, Kathleen. *Lives of the Athletes: Thrills, Spills (And What the Neighbors Thought)*. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace and Company, 1997.

Leder, Jane Mersky. *Wayne Gretzky*. Mankato, MN: Crestwood House, Inc., 1985.

Lessa, Christina. *Women Who Win: Stories of Triumph in Sport and in Life*. New York: Universe Publishing, 1998.

Lipsyte, Robert. *Assignment: Sports*. New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1984.

Little, Jean. *Little by Little: A Writer's Education*. Ontario, Canada: Viking Kestrel, 1987.

Littlefield, Bill. *Champions: Stories of Ten Remarkable Athletes*. Boston, MA: Little, Brown and Company, 1993.

Macy, Sue. *A Whole New Ball Game: The Story of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1993.

Margolies, Jacob. *The Negro Leagues: The Story of Black Baseball*. New York: Franklin Watts, 1993.

Masin, Herman L. *For Laughing Out Loud: Football's Funniest Stories*. New York: Scholastic Book Services, 1954.

Masin, Herman L. *The Funniest Moments in Sports*. New York: M. Evans and Company, 1974.

Metil, Luana, and Jace Townsend. *The Story of Karate: From Buddhism to Bruce Lee*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1995.

Miller, Ernestine Gichner. *The Babe Book*. Kansas City, MO: Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2000.

Miller, John and Kirsten. *Legends 2: Women Who Have Changed the World, Through the Eyes of Great Women Writers*. Novato, CA: New World Library, 2004.

Molen, Sam. *Take 2 and Hit to Right*. Philadelphia, PA: Dorrance and Company, 1959.

Molen, Sam. *They Make Me Laugh*. Philadelphia, PA: Dorrance and Company, 1947.

Monteux, Fifi. *Everyone is Someone*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, 1962.

Morgan, Terri, and Shmuel Thaler. *Chris Mullen: Sure Shot*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1994.

Morgan, Terri. *Gabrielle Reece: Volleyball's Model Athlete*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1999.

Ohio University Emeriti Association, compilers. *Ohio University Recollections for the Bicentennial Anniversary: 1804-2004*. Athens, OH: Ohio University, 2004.

Old, Wendie C. *Duke Ellington: Giant of Jazz*. Springfield, NJ: Enslow Publications, Inc., 1996.

Olsen, Marilyn. *Women Who Risk: Profiles of Women in Extreme Sports*. New York: Hatherleigh Press, 2001.

Paulsen, Gary. *How Angel Peterson Got His Name and Other Outrageous Tales About Extreme Sports*. New York: Wendy Lamb Books, 2003.

Pellowski, Michael J. *Baseball's Funniest People*. New York: Sterling Publishing Co., 1997.

Pietrusza, David. *The Boston Celtics Basketball Team*. Springfield, NJ: Enslow Publications, Inc., 1998.

Pietrusza, David. *The New York Yankees*. Springfield, NJ: Enslow Publications, Inc., 1998.

Poynter, Margaret. *Top 10 American Women's Figure Skaters*. Springfield, NJ: Enslow Publications, Inc., 1998.

Quiner, Krista. *Kim Zmeskal: Determination to Win*. East Hanover, NJ: The Bradford Book Company, 1995.

Quinn, Rob. *Oscar De La Hoya*. Philadelphia, PA: Chelsea House Publishers, 2001.

Rappoport, Ken, and Barry Wilner. *Girls Rule! The Glory and Spirit of Women in Sports*. Kansas City, MO: Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2000.

Rennert, Richard Scott. *Henry Aaron*. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1993.

Riley, James A. *The Negro Leagues*. Philadelphia, PA: Chelsea House Publishers, 1997.

Rockwell, Bart. *World's Strangest Baseball Stories*. Mahwah, NJ: Watermill Press, 1993.

Rockwell, Bart. *World's Strangest Football Stories*. Mahwah, NJ: Watermill Press, 1993.

Rubin, Stephen E. *The New Met in Profile*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1974.

Russell, Fred. *I'll Go Quietly*. Nashville, TN: The McQuiddy Press, 1944.

Russell, Fred. *I'll Try Anything Twice*. Nashville, TN: The McQuiddy Press, 1945.

Samra, Cal and Rose, editors. *More Holy Hilarity*. Colorado Springs, CO: WaterBrook Press, 1999.

Savage, Candace. *Born to Be a Cowgirl: A Spirited Ride Through the Old West*. Berkeley, CA: Tricycle Press, 2001.

Savage, Jeff. *Julie Krone: Unstoppable Jockey*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1996.

Savage, Jeff. *Millionaire by 40*. Northwood, OH: Buckeye Publishing, 2005.

Savage, Jeff. *Top 10 Sports Bloopers and Who Made Them*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publications, Inc., 2000.

Schwager, Tina, and Michele Schuerger. *Gutsy Girls: Young Women Who Dare*. New York: Scholastic, Inc., 1999.

Shapiro, Miles. *Bill Russell*. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1991.

Shirley, David. *Satchel Paige*. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1993.

Shuker-Haines, Franny. *Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean: Ice Dancing's Perfect Pair*. Woodbridge, CT: Blackbirch Press, Inc., 1995.

Sivorinovsky, Alina. *Sarah Hughes: Skating to the Stars*. New York: Berkley Books, 2001.

Smith, Elson. *The Blooper Man: The Rip Sewell Story*. Bellevue, PA: J. Pohl Associates, 1981.

Smith, H. Allen. *Buskin' With H. Allen Smith*. New York: Trident Press, 1968.

Smith, H. Allen. *How to Write Without Knowing Nothing*. Boston, MA: Little, Brown and Company, 1961.

Strudwick, Leslie. *Athletes*. New York: Crabtree Publishing Company, 1999.

Sufrin, Mark. *Payton*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1988.

Sullivan, George. *Mary Lou Retton*. New York: Julian Messner, 1985.

Thornley, Stew. *Alex Rodriguez: Slugging Shortstop*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1998.

Torres, John A. *Home-Run Hitters: Heroes of the Four Home-Run Game*. New York: Macmillan Books for Young Readers, 1995.

Towle, Mike. *I Remember Arthur Ashe*. Nashville, TN: Cumberland House, 2001.

Tracy, Kathleen. *The Life and Times of Confucius*. Hockessin, DE: Mitchell Lane Publishers, Inc., 2005.

Traubel, Helen. *St. Louis Woman*. New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1959.

Tully, Jim. *A Dozen and One*. Hollywood, CA: Murray & Gee, Inc., Publishers, 1943.

Van Steenwyk, Elizabeth. *Dorothy Hamill: Olympic Champion*. New York: Harvey House, Publishers, 1976.

Underwood, Peter. *Danny La Rue: Life's a Drag!* London: W.H. Allen & Co., Ltd., 1974.

Wadsworth, Ginger. *Susan Butcher: Sled Dog Racer*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1994.

Washington, Rosemary G. *Mary Lou Retton: Power Gymnast*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1985.

Wilner, Barry. *Scott Hamilton: Star Figure Skater*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publications, Inc., 1999.

Wilner, Barry. *Tara Lipinski: Star Figure Skater*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publications, Inc., 2001.

Wulffson, Don L. *Amazing True Stories*. New York: Cobblehill Books, 1991.

Wulffson, Don L. *When Human Heads Were Footballs*. New York: Aladdin Books, 1998.

Appendix B: About the Author

It was a dark and stormy night. Suddenly a cry rang out, and on a hot summer night in 1954, Josephine, wife of Carl Bruce, gave birth to a boy—me. Unfortunately, this young married couple allowed Reuben Saturday, Josephine’s brother, to name their first-born. Reuben, aka “The Joker,” decided that Bruce was a nice name, so he decided to name me Bruce Bruce. I have gone by my middle name—David—ever since.

Being named Bruce David Bruce hasn’t been all bad. Bank tellers remember me very quickly, so I don’t often have to show an ID. It can be fun in charades, also. When I was a counselor as a teenager at Camp Echoing Hills in Warsaw, Ohio, a fellow counselor gave the signs for “sounds like” and “two words,” then she pointed to a bruise on her leg twice. Bruise Bruise? Oh yeah, Bruce Bruce is the answer!

Uncle Reuben, by the way, gave me a haircut when I was in kindergarten. He cut my hair short and shaved a small bald spot on the back of my head. My mother wouldn’t let me go to school until the bald spot grew out again.

Of all my brothers and sisters (six in all), I am the only transplant to Athens, Ohio. I was born in Newark, Ohio, and have lived all around Southeastern Ohio. However, I moved to Athens to go to Ohio University and have never left.

At Ohio U, I never could make up my mind whether to major in English or Philosophy, so I got a bachelor’s degree with a double major in both areas, then I added a Master of Arts degree in English and a Master of Arts degree in Philosophy. Yes, I have my MAMA degree.

Currently, and for a long time to come (I eat fruits and veggies), I am spending my retirement writing books such as *Nadia Comaneci: Perfect 10*, *The Funniest People in Comedy*, *Homer’s Iliad: A Retelling in Prose*, and *William Shakespeare’s Hamlet: A Retelling in Prose*.

If all goes well, I will publish one or two books a year for the rest of my life. (On the other hand, a good way to make God laugh is to tell Her your plans.)

By the way, my sister Brenda Kennedy writes romances such as *A New Beginning* and *Shattered Dreams*.

Appendix C: Some Books by David Bruce

Anecdote Collections

250 Anecdotes About Opera

250 Anecdotes About Religion

250 Anecdotes About Religion: Volume 2

250 Music Anecdotes

Be a Work of Art: 250 Anecdotes and Stories

The Coolest People in Art: 250 Anecdotes

The Coolest People in the Arts: 250 Anecdotes

The Coolest People in Books: 250 Anecdotes

The Coolest People in Comedy: 250 Anecdotes

Create, Then Take a Break: 250 Anecdotes

Don't Fear the Reaper: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Art: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Books: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Books, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Books, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Comedy: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Dance: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families, Volume 4: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families, Volume 5: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Families, Volume 6: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Movies: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Music: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Music, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Music, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Neighborhoods: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Relationships: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Sports: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Sports, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Television and Radio: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People in Theater: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People Who Live Life: 250 Anecdotes

The Funniest People Who Live Life, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds, Volume 1: 250 Anecdotes

The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

Maximum Cool: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Movies: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Politics and History: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Politics and History, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Politics and History, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Religion: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People in Sports: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People Who Live Life: 250 Anecdotes

The Most Interesting People Who Live Life, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes

Reality is Fabulous: 250 Anecdotes and Stories

Resist Psychic Death: 250 Anecdotes

Seize the Day: 250 Anecdotes and Stories

Notes

[← 1]

Source: Carin T. Ford, *Jackie Robinson: "All I Ask is That You Respect Me as a Human Being,"* pp. 18, 45-46.

[← 2]

Source: Ohio University Emeriti Association, compilers, *Ohio University Recollections for the Bicentennial Anniversary: 1804-2004*, p. 14.

[← 3]

Source: Steve Jacobson, *Carrying Jackie's Torch*, pp. xviii-xix.

[← 4]

Source: David Shirley, *Satchel Paige*, pp. 68, 81-83.

[← 5]

Source: Carl Erskine, *Carl Erskine's Tales from the Dodger Dugout*, p. 10.

[← 6]

Source: Hillary Hauser, *Scuba Diving*, pp. 18, 20.

[← 7]

Source: Ginger Wadsworth, *Susan Butcher: Sled Dog Racer*, pp. 58-59.

[← 8]

Source: Tina Schwager and Michele Schuerger, *Gutsy Girls*, pp. 109, 111, 114.

[← 9]

Source: Candace Savage, *Born to Be a Cowgirl: A Spirited Ride Through the Old West*, p. 55.

[← 10]

Source: R.S. Ashby, *Sarah Hughes: America's Sweetheart*, pp. 102, 111.

[← 11]

Source: Walter M. Brasch, editor, *ZIM: The Autobiography of Eugene Zimmerman*, p. 110.

[← 12]

Source: Dorothy Hamill, *On and Off the Ice*, the page following the table of contents.

[← 13]

Source: John A. Torres, *Home-Run Hitters: Heroes of the Four Home-Run Game*, pp. 23-25.

[← 14]

Source: Bud Greenspan, *Frozen in Time*, p. 75.

[← 15]

Source: Rob Quinn, *Oscar De La Hoya*, pp. 22-23, 27, 48.

[← 16]

Source: Scooter Toby Davidson and Valerie Anthony, *Great Women in the Sport of Kings: America's Top Women Jockeys Tell Their Stories*, p. 47.

[← 17]

Source: Helen Hull Jacobs, *Famous American Women Athletes*, p. 46.

[← 18]

Source: Don Knotts, *Barney Fife and Other Characters I Have Known*, pp. 17-18.

[← 19]

Source: Richard Scott Rennert, *Henry Aaron*, pp. 17, 19-20, 22, 39.

[← 20]

Source: Barry Wilner, *Tara Lipinski: Star Figure Skater*, p. 21.

[← 21]

Source: Candace Savage, *Born to Be a Cowgirl: A Spirited Ride Through the Old West*, pp. 13-14.

[← 22]

Source: Karen Folger Jacobs, *The Story of a Young Gymnast: Tracee Talavera*, p. 75.

[← 23]

Source: Morgan E. Hughes, *Mario Lemieux: Beating the Odds*, pp. 14-15.

[← 24]

Source: Shaun Hunter, *Great African Americans in the Olympics*, pp. 4-5.

[← 25]

Source: Sasha Cohen, *Fire on Ice*, pp. 5-6.

[← 26]

Source: S.H. Burchard, *Chris Evert*, pp. 32-33.

[← 27]

Source: Wayne Coffey, *Wilma Rudolph*, pp. 11-16.

[← 28]

Source: Krista Quiner, *Kim Zmeskal: Determination to Win*, pp. 3-4, 33, 54.

[← 29]

Source: Brad Herzog, *The 20 Greatest Athletes of the 20th Century*, p. 100.

[← 30]

Source: Shiobhan Donohue, *Kristi Yamaguchi: Artist on Ice*, pp. 11-12.

[← 31]

Source: Barry Wilner, *Scott Hamilton: Star Figure Skater*, pp. 21-22.

[← 32]

Source: George Sullivan, *Mary Lou Retton*, pp. 11-12.

[← 33]

Source: Bill Gutman, *Ken Griffey, Jr.: Baseball's Best*, pp. 8-9.

[← 34]

Source: Anne E. Hill, *Ekaterina Gordeeva*, p. 23.

[← 35]

Source: Leslie Strudwick, *Athletes*, pp. 19. 21-22.

[← 36]

Source: Lynn Haney, *Skaters: Profile of a Pair*, p. 35.

[← 37]

Source: Elizabeth Van Steenwyk, *Dorothy Hamill: Olympic Champion*, p. 10.

[← 38]

Source: Jerry Clower, *Life Everlaughter*, p. 95.

[← 39]

Source: Alexis Burakoff, *On the Ice*, p. 41.

[← 40]

Source: Lynn Haney, *Perfect Balance*, p. 8.

[← 41]

Source: Franny Shuker-Haines, *Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean: Ice Dancing's Perfect Pair*, 58-60, 79.

[← 42]

Source: Gwen Knapp, "True hero athlete." 4 May 2004 <<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2004/05/04/SPG5K6FD091.DTL>>.

[← 43]

Source: Leslie Strudwick, *Athletes*, p. 42.

[← 44]

Source: Jane Mersky Leder, *Wayne Gretzky*, p. 22.

[← 45]

Source: Sue Macy, *A Whole New Ball Game: The Story of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League*, p. 68.

[← 46]

Source: John and Kirsten Miller, *Legends 2*, p. 100.

[← 47]

Source: Kate Clinton, *Don't Get Me Started*, p. 142.

[← 48]

Source: Jim Tully, *A Dozen and One*, p. 176.

[← 49]

Source: Bud Greenspan, *100 Greatest Moments in Olympic History*, pp. 96-97.

[← 50]

Source: Jane Mersky Leder, *Wayne Gretzky*, p. 14.

[← 51]

Source: Sam Molen, *They Make Me Laugh*, pp. 95-96.

[← 52]

Source: Fred Russell, *I'll Go Quietly*, p. 9.

[← 53]

Source: Dorothy Hamill, *On and Off the Ice*, pp. 125-126.

[← 54]

Source: Sam Molen, *Take 2 and Hit to Right*, pp. 144-145.

[← 55]

Source: Nathan Aaseng, *Football's Cunning Coaches*, p. 21.

[← 56]

Source: George Burns, *Wisdom of the 90s*, p. 80.

[← 57]

Source: Kate Clinton, *What the L?*, p. 212.

[← 58]

Source: Peter Underwood, *Danny La Rue: Life's a Drag!*, pp. 68-69.

[← 59]

Source: Arthur Daley, *Knute Rockne: Football Wizard of Notre Dame*, pp. 130-131.

[← 60]

Source: Carole Ann Camp, *Sally Ride: First American Woman in Space*, pp. 13, 15, 17-18, 43.

[← 61]

Source: Ginger Wadsworth, *Susan Butcher: Sled Dog Racer*, pp. 54-55.

[← 62]

Source: Helen Hull Jacobs, *Famous American Women Athletes*, pp. 28-29.

[← 63]

Source: Rosemary G. Washington, *Mary Lou Retton: Power Gymnast*, p. 46.

[← 64]

Source: Nathan Aaseng, *Jose Canseco: Baseball's 40-40 Man*, pp. 17-18, 54.

[← 65]

Source: Sam Molen, *Take 2 and Hit to Right*, pp. 74-75.

[← 66]

Source: David Pietrusza, *The Boston Celtics Basketball Team*, p. 23.

[← 67]

Source: Terri Morgan and Shmuel Thaler, *Chris Mullen: Sure Shot*, pp. 33, 36, 54.

[← 68]

Source: Kathleen Krull, *Lives of the Athletes*, pp. 38-39.

[← 69]

Source: Alina Sivorinovsky, *Sarah Hughes: Skating to the Stars*, pp. 110-111.

[← 70]

Source: Terri Morgan and Shmuel Thaler, *Chris Mullen: Sure Shot*, pp. 43-44.

[← 71]

Source: Hana Ali, *More Than a Hero*, p. 72.

[← 72]

Source: Rob Quinn, *Oscar De La Hoya*, pp. 29-30.

[← 73]

Source: Bart Rockwell, *World's Strangest Baseball Stories*, p. 57.

[← 74]

Source: Steve Greenberg and Dale Ratermann, *I Remember Woody: Recollections of the Man They Called Coach Hayes*, pp. 117-118.

[← 75]

Source: Gary Paulsen, *How Angel Peterson Got His Name and Other Outrageous Tales About Extreme Sports*, pp. 36-37.

[← 76]

Source: Elson Smith, *The Blooper Man*, p. 22.

[← 77]

Source: Margaret J. Goldstein, *Jennifer Capriati: Tennis Sensation*, pp. 27, 31, 43.

[← 78]

Source: Margaret Poynter, *Top 10 American Women's Figure Skaters*, pp. 7-8.

[← 79]

Source: S.H. Burchard, *Chris Evert*, p. 36.

[← 80]

Source: Article on Pat Tillman. 23 April 2004 <<http://www.nfl.com/insider/story/5701425>>.

[← 81]

Source: Lynn Haney, *Perfect Balance*, pp. 38, 40.

[← 82]

Source: Kristin Smith Fehr, *Monica Seles: Returning Champion*, p. 24.

[← 83]

Source: Kay Cornelius, *Chamique Holdsclaw*, pp. 14-15, 43.

[← 84]

Source: Michael Boo, *The Story of Figure Skating*, p. 62.

[← 85]

Source: George Sullivan, *Mary Lou Retton*, pp. 61, 72.

[← 86]

Source: Herman L. Masin, *The Funniest Moments in Sports*, p. 17.

[← 87]

Source: Wayne Coffey, *Wilma Rudolph*, pp. 58, 60.

[← 88]

Source: Jane Gottesman, *Game Face: What Does A Female Athlete Look Like?*, pp. 36-37.

[← 89]

Source: Richard Scott Rennert, *Henry Aaron*, pp. 24-26, 37.

[← 90]

Source: Cindy Dyson, *Laila Ali*, pp. 18-19.

[← 91]

Source: Anne E. Hill, *Ekaterina Gordeeva*, p. 46.

[← 92]

Source: Kristin Smith Fehr, *Monica Seles: Returning Champion*, p, 11.

[← 93]

Source: Michael Boo, *The Story of Figure Skating*, p. 180.

[← 94]

Source: Jocko Conlan and Robert W. Creamer, *Jocko*, pp. 122-123.

[← 95]

Source: Robert Jakoubek, *Joe Louis*, pp. 19-20, 25.

[← 96]

Source: Jeff Savage, *Julie Krone: Unstoppable Jockey*, pp. 42, 53.

[← 97]

Source: Bill Barich, *The Sporting Life*, pp. 56, 59.

[← 98]

Source: Hillary Hauser, *Scuba Diving*, pp. 78-79.

[← 99]

Source: Kathleen Tracy, *The Life and Times of Confucius*, p. 16.

[← 100]

Source: Henry and Melissa Billings, *Eccentrics: 21 Stories of Unusual and Remarkable People*, p. 88.

[← 101]

Source: Heather Forkos, *Dorothy "Dot" Richardson*, p. 29.

[← 102]

Source: Linda Jacobs, *Olga Korbut: Tears and Triumph*, p. 31.

[← 103]

Source: Arthur Daley, *Knute Rockne: Football Wizard of Notre Dame*, pp. 65, 72-73.

[← 104]

Source: Rachel Jones, "Football's Women Huddle and Hustle for Their Sport." 19 November 2006
<<http://www.womensenews.org/article.cfm/dyn/aid/2965/context/cover/>>.

[← 105]

Source: Mac Davis, *100 Greatest Sports Feats*, p. 16.

[← 106]

Source: Fred Russell, *I'll Try Anything Twice*, p. 17.

[← 107]

Source: Jerry Clower, *Life Everlaughter*, p. 123.

[← 108]

Source: Don L. Wulffson, *When Human Heads Were Footballs*, p. 7.

[← 109]

Source: Fifi Monteux, *Everyone is Someone*, p. 43.

[← 110]

Source: Ross Bernstein, *Barry Bonds*, p. 71.

[← 111]

Source: Bill Barich, *The Sporting Life*, pp. 8-9.

[← 112]

Source: Don L. Wulffson, *When Human Heads Were Footballs*, p. 12.

[← 113]

Source: S.H. Burchard, *Jim "Catfish" Hunter*, pp. 51-52.

[← 114]

Source: Shiobhan Donohue, *Kristi Yamaguchi: Artist on Ice*, pp. 38-39.

[← 115]

Source: Margaret J. Goldstein, *Jennifer Capriati: Tennis Sensation*, p. 17.

[← 116]

Source: Ernestine Gichner Miller, *The Babe Book*, p. 158.

[← 117]

Source: Steve Greenberg and Dale Ratermann, *I Remember Woody: Recollections of the Man They Called Coach Hayes*, p. 165.

[← 118]

Source: Barry Wilner, *Scott Hamilton: Star Figure Skater*, p. 38.

[← 119]

Source: Ernestine Gichner Miller, *The Babe Book*, p. 160.

[← 120]

Source: David Pietrusza, *The New York Yankees*, pp. 6-7, 9.

[← 121]

Source: Jeff Savage, *Millionaire by 40*, p. 129.

[← 122]

Source: James A. Riley, *The Negro Leagues*, p. 63.

[← 123]

Source: Nathan Aaseng, *Jose Canseco: Baseball's 40-40 Man*, p. 28.

[← 124]

Source: Dave Kindred, *Heroes, Fools, and Other Dreamers*, p. 178.

[← 125]

Source: Robert Lipsyte, *Assignment: Sports*, pp. 15-16.

[← 126]

Source: Cal and Rose Samra, *More Holy Hilarity*, p. 129.

[← 127]

Source: Mike Towle, *I Remember Arthur Ashe*, pp. 38-39.

[← 128]

Source: Marilyn Olsen, *Women Who Risk: Profiles of Women in Extreme Sports*, p. 89.

[← 129]

Source: Bill Gutman, *Modern Women Superstars*, pp. 70-71.

[← 130]

Source: Jeff Savage, *Julie Krone: Unstoppable Jockey*, pp. 45-46.

[← 131]

Source: Cindy Dyson, *Laila Ali*, pp. 33, 36, 61.

[← 132]

Source: Walter M. Brasch, editor, *ZIM: The Autobiography of Eugene Zimmerman*, p. 121.

[← 133]

Source: Herman L. Masin, *For Laughing Out Loud: Football's Funniest Stories*, p. 15.

[← 134]

Source: James Haskins, *Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron: The Home Run Kings*, p. 71.

[← 135]

Source: Krista Quiner, *Kim Zmeskal: Determination to Win*, p. 9.

[← 136]

Source: Carl Erskine, *Carl Erskine's Tales from the Dodger Dugout*, pp. 52-54.

[← 137]

Source: Joe Garagiola, *It's Anybody's Ballgame*, p. 175.

[← 138]

Source: Peter Jacobsen, *Embedded Balls*, pp. 23-24.

[← 139]

Source: Cal and Rose Samra, *More Holy Hilarity*, p. 128.

[← 140]

Source: H. Allen Smith, *How to Write Without Knowing Nothing*, p. 44.

[← 141]

Source: Michael J. Pellowski, *Baseball's Funniest People*, p. 39.

[← 142]

Source: William Heuman, *Famous Coaches*, p. 94.

[← 143]

Source: Jeff Savage, *Top 10 Sports Bloopers and Who Made Them*, pp. 31-32.

[← 144]

Source: Elson Smith, *The Blooper Man*, p. 31.

[← 145]

Source: William Heuman, *Famous Coaches*, pp. 96-97.

[← 146]

Source: Lynn Haney, *Skaters: Profile of a Pair*, p. 40.

[← 147]

Source: Mike Towle, *I Remember Arthur Ashe*, p. 143.

[← 148]

Source: Bart Rockwell, *World's Strangest Baseball Stories*, p. 55.

[← 149]

Source: Bart Rockwell, *World's Strangest Football Stories*, p. 85.

[← 150]

Source: Herman L. Masin, *The Funniest Moments in Sports*, p. 14.

[← 151]

Source: Yogi Berra, *"I Really Didn't Say Everything I Said,"* p. 85.

[← 152]

Source: Don Knotts, *Barney Fife and Other Characters I Have Known*, p. 32.

[← 153]

Source: James Haskins, *Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron: The Home Run Kings*, p. 86.

[← 154]

Source: Herman L. Masin, *For Laughing Out Loud: Football's Funniest Stories*, p. 16.

[← 155]

Source: Robert Jakoubek, *Joe Louis*, p. 41.

[← 156]

Source: Dave Kindred, *Heroes, Fools, and Other Dreamers*, p. 142.

[← 157]

Source: John A. Torres, *Home-Run Hitters: Heroes of the Four Home-Run Game*, pp. 14-15.

[← 158]

Source: Hana Ali, *More Than a Hero*, p. 24.

[← 159]

Source: Robert Lipsyte, *Assignment: Sports*, p. 70.

[← 160]

Source: James A. Riley, *The Negro Leagues*, p. 32.

[← 161]

Source: Christin Ditchfield, *Martina Hingis*, pp. 15-18.

[← 162]

Source: Alina Sivorinovsky, *Sarah Hughes: Skating to the Stars*, pp. 47-48.

[← 163]

Source: Morgan E. Hughes, *Mario Lemieux: Beating the Odds*, p. 14.

[← 164]

Source: Karen Folger Jacobs, *The Story of a Young Gymnast: Tracee Talavera*, p. 127.

[← 165]

Source: Scooter Toby Davidson and Valerie Anthony, *Great Women in the Sport of Kings: America's Top Women Jockeys Tell Their Stories*, p. 17.

[← 166]

Source: Miles Shapiro, *Bill Russell*, pp. 28-29.

[← 167]

Source: Mark Sufrin, *Payton*, pp. 85-87.

[← 168]

Source: Stew Thornley, *Alex Rodriguez: Slugging Shortstop*, p. 24.

[← 169]

Source: Bud Greenspan, *Frozen in Time*, p. 64.

[← 170]

Source: Don L. Wulffson, *Amazing True Stories*, pp. 53-54.

[← 171]

Source: Wendie C. Old, *Duke Ellington: Giant of Jazz*, pp. 22-23.

[← 172]

Source: Bill Littlefield, *Champions: Stories of Ten Remarkable Athletes*, pp. 60-61.

[← 173]

Source: Christina Lessa, *Women Who Win*, p. 88.

[← 174]

Source: Brad Herzog, *The 20 Greatest Athletes of the 20th Century*, pp. 69, 99, 123.

[← 175]

Source: Jacob Margolies, *The Negro Leagues: The Story of Black Baseball*, p. 44.

[← 176]

Source: Luana Metil and Jace Townsend, *The Story of Karate: From Buddhism to Bruce Lee*, p. 69.

[← 177]

Source: Stew Thornley, *Alex Rodriguez: Slugging Shortstop*, p. 58.

[← 178]

Source: Bill Gutman, *Ken Griffey, Jr.: Baseball's Best*, p. 8.

[← 179]

Source: Diana C. Gleasner, *Track and Field*, p. 10.

[← 180]

Source: Alexis Burakoff, *On the Ice*, p. 32.

[← 181]

Source: Yogi Berra, "*I Really Didn't Say Everything I Said*," pp. 89.

[← 182]

Source: Art Berke, *Babe Ruth*, p. 14.

[← 183]

Source: Mac Davis, *100 Greatest Sports Feats*, p. 65.

[← 184]

Source: Barry Wilner, *Tara Lipinski: Star Figure Skater*, p. 19.

[← 185]

Source: R.S. Ashby, *Sarah Hughes: America's Sweetheart*, pp. 88, 105-106.

[← 186]

Source: Sasha Cohen, *Fire on Ice*, pp. 14-15.

[← 187]

Source: Septima Green, *Top 10 Women Gymnasts*, p. 12.

[← 188]

Source: Davida Kristy, *Coubertin's Olympics*, p. 69.

[← 189]

Source: Kate Clinton, *What the L?*, p. 126.

[← 190]

Source: Elizabeth Van Steenwyk, *Dorothy Hamill: Olympic Champion*, p. 44.

[← 191]

Source: Bud Greenspan, *100 Greatest Moments in Olympic History*, pp. 108-109.

[← 192]

Source: Linda Jacobs, *Olga Korbut: Tears and Triumph*, p. 12.

[← 193]

Source: Ken Rappoport and Barry Wilner, *Girls Rule!*, p. 39.

[← 194]

Source: Stephen E. Rubin, *The New Met in Profile*, p. 38.

[← 195]

Source: Helen Traubel, *St. Louis Woman*, p. 221.

[← 196]

Source: Jeff Savage, *Top 10 Sports Bloopers and Who Made Them*, pp. 27-28.

[← 197]

Source: David Pietrusza, *The Boston Celtics Basketball Team*, pp. 15, 40.

[← 198]

Source: Jean Little, *Little by Little: A Writer's Education*, pp. 207-210.

[← 199]

Source: Christina Lessa, *Women Who Win*, pp. 80, 83.

[← 200]

Source: Bill Littlefield, *Champions: Stories of Ten Remarkable Athletes*, pp. 107-110.

[← 201]

Source: David Shirley, *Satchel Paige*, pp. 39-40, 50.

[← 202]

Source: Art Berke, *Babe Ruth*, pp. 41-42.

[← 203]

Source: Joe Garagiola, *Baseball is a Funny Game*, p. 43.

[← 204]

Source: Joel Cohen, *Odd Moments in Baseball*, p. 40.

[← 205]

Source: Sue Macy, *A Whole New Ball Game: The Story of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League*, p. 46.

[← 206]

Source: David Pietrusza, *The New York Yankees*, pp. 10, 12.

[← 207]

Source: Bill Adler, *Baseball Wit*, pp. 67, 74.

[← 208]

Source: Joel Cohen, *Odd Moments in Baseball*, p. 94.

[← 209]

Source: Henry and Melissa Billings, *Eccentrics: 21 Stories of Unusual and Remarkable People*, p. 25.

[← 210]

Source: Kay Cornelius, *Chamique Holdsclaw*, p. 30.

[← 211]

Source: Fred Russell, *I'll Go Quietly*, p. 96.

[← 212]

Source: Eric Gregg and Marty Appel, *Working the Plate*, p. 99, 104.

[← 213]

Source: "From Hermes to bonsai kittens." *The Economist*. 20 December 2005
<http://economist.com/world/displaystory.cfm?story_id=5323412&no_na_tran=1>.

[← 214]

Source: Fred Russell, *I'll Try Anything Twice*, p. 31.

[← 215]

Source: Miles Shapiro, *Bill Russell*, pp. 91, 93.

[← 216]

Source: Carin T. Ford, *Jackie Robinson: "All I Ask is That You Respect Me as a Human Being,"* pp. 65-66, 70-71.

[← 217]

Source: Gary Younge, “I’m not just that big gay bloke.” *The Guardian*. 28 June 2007
<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/g2/story/0,,2113030,00.html>>.

[← 218]

Source: Jacob Margolies, *The Negro Leagues: The Story of Black Baseball*, p. 18.

[← 219]

Source: Steve Jacobson, *Carrying Jackie's Torch*, pp. xxi-xxii.

[← 220]

Source: Diana C. Gleasner, *Track and Field*, p. 10.

[← 221]

Source: Don L. Wulffson, *Amazing True Stories*, pp. 107-108.

[← 222]

Source: Heather Forkos, *Dorothy "Dot" Richardson*, pp. 53-54.

[← 223]

Source: Peter Jacobsen, *Embedded Balls*, p. 69.

[← 224]

Source: Stan W. Carlson, *Baseball Banter*, p. 28

[← 225]

Source: Ken Rappoport and Barry Wilner, *Girls Rule!*, pp. 87-88.

[← 226]

Source: Joe Garagiola, *It's Anybody's Ballgame*, p. 48.

[← 227]

Source: Jane Gottesman, *Game Face: What Does A Female Athlete Look Like?*, pp. 22-23.

[← 228]

Source: Nathan Aaseng, *Football's Cunning Coaches*, pp. 14-16.

[← 229]

Source: Ross Bernstein, *Barry Bonds*, p. 70.

[← 230]

Source: Bart Rockwell, *World's Strangest Football Stories*, p. 14.

[← 231]

Source: H. Allen Smith, *Buskin' With H. Allen Smith*, p. 214.

[← 232]

Source: Tina Schwager and Michele Schuerger, *Gutsy Girls*, pp. 158-160.

[← 233]

Source: Mark Sufrin, *Payton*, pp. 19-10.

[← 234]

Source: Davida Kristy, *Coubertin's Olympics*, pp. 69-70.

[← 235]

Source: Marilyn Olsen, *Women Who Risk: Profiles of Women in Extreme Sports*, pp. 38, 54.

[← 236]

Source: Shaun Hunter, *Great African Americans in the Olympics*, pp. 14-15.

[← 237]

Source: Luana Metil and Jace Townsend, *The Story of Karate: From Buddhism to Bruce Lee*, p. 65.

[← 238]

Source: Terri Morgan, *Gabrielle Reece: Volleyball's Model Athlete*, pp. 50-51.

[← 239]

Source: Jocko Conlan and Robert W. Creamer, *Jocko*, pp. 115-116.

[← 240]

Source: Joe Garagiola, *Baseball is a Funny Game*, p. 83.

[← 241]

Source: Stan W. Carlson, *Baseball Banter*, p. 15.

[← 242]

Source: Michael J. Pellowski, *Baseball's Funniest People*, p. 48.

[← 243]

Source: Sam Molen, *They Make Me Laugh*, pp. 61-62.

[← 244]

Source: Kathleen Krull, *Lives of the Athletes*, p. 53.

[← 245]

Source: H. Allen Smith, *Buskin' With H. Allen Smith*, p. 134.

[← 246]

Source: Eric Gregg and Marty Appel, *Working the Plate*, p. 18.

[← 247]

Source: H. Allen Smith, *How to Write Without Knowing Nothing*, p. 42.

[← 248]

Source: Jack Kinney, *Walt Disney and Other Assorted Characters*, p. 21.

[← 249]

Source: Jim Tully, *A Dozen and One*, p. 172.

[← 250]

Source: Bill Adler, *Baseball Wit*, p. 53.