

Contents

List of Illustrations	xi
Preface	xv
Acknowledgments	xxi
1 Games the Colonists Played	1
<i>The English Heritage</i>	2
<i>The Commoners at Play</i>	3
<i>The Games of the English Gentry</i>	7
<i>The Puritan Reaction</i>	8
<i>Games in Colonial New England</i>	10
<i>Games of the Southern Elite</i>	14
<i>Sporting Life of the Colonial Working Class</i>	17
<i>The Revolutionary Era</i>	19
2 The Emergence of Organized Sports, 1815–60	21
<i>Sports in the Early National Period</i>	22
<i>The Democratization of Racing: the Trotters</i>	25
<i>Racing by Land and Sea</i>	27
<i>The Formative Years of Prizefighting</i>	31
<i>Baseball: the Creation of “America’s Game”</i>	37
3 “This Noble and Envigorating Game”	42
<i>The Early Professional Era</i>	44
<i>Henry Chadwick and a Game of Numbers</i>	47
<i>Growing Pains</i>	49
<i>Early Years of the Professional Game</i>	52
<i>Emergence of the Modern Game</i>	56
<i>The 1880s: A Decade of Rancor</i>	58

4	The Formative Years of College Football	62
	<i>The Early Years of College Athletics</i>	63
	<i>Football American Style</i>	64
	<i>Yale and the Creation of Football</i>	66
	<i>Football Moves West</i>	71
	<i>Football As Spectacle</i>	74
	<i>Football in Crisis</i>	77
5	Sports and the Emergence of Modern America, 1865–1920	83
	<i>Boxing Enters the Mainstream</i>	84
	<i>Sports and Social Class</i>	90
	<i>The Early Years of Women’s Sports</i>	95
	<i>Strong Bodies and Devout Souls</i>	98
	<i>America’s Greatest Athlete</i>	102
	<i>Organized Play for the Modern Era</i>	105
	<i>Interscholastic Sports</i>	107
6	Baseball Ascendant, 1890–1930	109
	<i>The 1890s: Years of Discord</i>	110
	<i>Ban Johnson and the American League</i>	112
	<i>The Cyclone and the Georgia Peach</i>	114
	<i>Calling the Shots: the Manager</i>	118
	<i>The Federal League Challenge</i>	120
	<i>Crisis: Gamblers Fix the World Series of 1919</i>	122
	<i>The Babe</i>	126
	<i>Baseball’s Golden Age</i>	130
7	“An Evil to be Endured,” Sports on Campus, 1920–50	134
	<i>The Essential Myth of Big-Time College Athletics</i>	135
	<i>Football: Driving the Bus</i>	138
	<i>Football’s Golden Age: the Twenties</i>	139
	<i>Knute Rockne and the Making of Notre Dame Football</i>	143
	<i>The Second Challenge to Big-Time Football</i>	147
	<i>“Playing Nice”: the Demise of Women’s Athletics</i>	151
	<i>Hoop Dreams</i>	155
	<i>Hoop Nightmares</i>	158
8	Sports in an Age of Ballyhoo, Depression, and War, 1920–45	161
	<i>Gee-Whiz: Sports Journalism During the 1920s</i>	162
	<i>Heroes for a Heroic Age</i>	165
	<i>Boxing Becomes Respectable</i>	171
	<i>Babe: the Texas Tomboy</i>	175
	<i>Baseball’s Long Slump</i>	181
	<i>Seabiscuit: Sports Star for the Depression Era</i>	187
	<i>Baseball During the War Years</i>	190

9	America's Great Dilemma	193
	<i>Racism Shapes American Sports</i>	194
	<i>The "Fight of the Century"</i>	196
	<i>Separate and Unequal: the Negro Leagues</i>	199
	<i>Out of the Cotton Fields of Alabama: Jesse and Joe Jackie</i>	204
	<i>In the Shadow of Jackie Robinson</i>	210
	<i>Gentlepeople and Sanctimonious Hypocrites</i>	215
	<i>The Baron and the Bear</i>	218
		221
10	Television Changes the Face of American Sports	228
	<i>The Formative Years of Sports Television</i>	229
	<i>Tale of the Tube: Boxing</i>	232
	<i>Professional Football Comes of Age</i>	235
	<i>Pete and Rooney</i>	238
	<i>The NFL and the AFL Make Peace</i>	242
	<i>Super Sunday and Monday Night</i>	242
	<i>ESPN: All Sports, All the Time</i>	246
11	College Sports in the Modern Era	252
	<i>The Sanity Code Is Scuttled</i>	253
	<i>Creation of a Cartel</i>	254
	<i>Emphasis and De-Emphasis</i>	256
	<i>Woody and the Bear</i>	258
	<i>Deceit and Deception: the NCAA and Gender Equity</i>	263
	<i>Criticism of Major College Sports</i>	270
	<i>Television and the Triumph of Commercialized College Sports</i>	277
	<i>The Knight Commission Report</i>	280
12	Play For Pay	283
	<i>A Tale of Two (Football) Cities</i>	283
	<i>Urban Rivalry, Redevelopment, and Promotion</i>	286
	<i>The Travails of Baseball</i>	289
	<i>Baseball's Labor Disputes</i>	294
	<i>Reaping the Spoils: the NFL and the World of Parity</i>	298
	<i>The Wondrous World of Magic, Larry, and Michael</i>	304
	<i>Always Turn Left: NASCAR Takes the Checkered Flag</i>	309
	<i>Struggling To Be Major League</i>	316
13	Do You Believe in Miracles?	317
	<i>The Cold War Shapes the Olympics</i>	321
	<i>Television Transforms the Olympics</i>	329
	<i>The Games Must Go On</i>	334
	<i>To Boycott or Not To Boycott</i>	338
	<i>The Triumph of Professionalism</i>	343
	<i>Athens and Beyond</i>	345

14 The Persistent Dilemma of Race	348
<i>"I'm the Greatest"</i>	350
<i>Boycott, Backlash, and Beyond</i>	355
<i>A New Era in Race Relations</i>	357
<i>Hank Aaron Catches the Babe</i>	362
<i>Can White Men Jump?</i>	364
<i>Tiger</i>	368
<i>Sister Act: Venus and Serena</i>	372
15 "Only In America!"	378
<i>Triumph of the Swoosh</i>	380
<i>The World of Jimmy the Greek</i>	384
<i>The Tragedy of Pete Rose</i>	388
<i>The Demise of Boxing</i>	391
<i>Whatever It Takes</i>	398
<i>Under a Cloud: Barry Bonds Chases Hank Aaron</i>	406
16 The Democratization of Sports	410
<i>Community Cauldron: High School Sports</i>	410
<i>Conflicting Views of Youth Sports</i>	416
<i>Golf's Golden Age: Arnie, the Super Mex, and the Golden Bear</i>	423
<i>Billie Jean Sparks a Revolution</i>	430
<i>The Comeback Kids</i>	434
<i>Viva America! America's Soccer Women</i>	438
Epilogue	442
Notes	448
Index	473