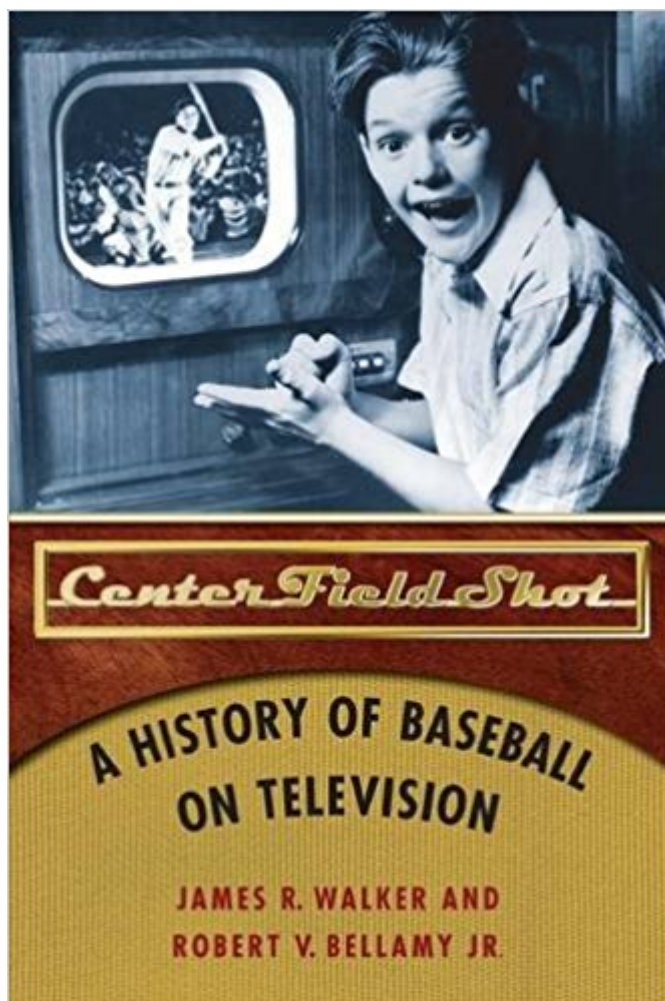


The book was found

# Center Field Shot: A History Of Baseball On Television



## Synopsis

In *Baseball Weekly*’s list of things that most affected baseball in the twentieth century, television ranked second—behind only the signing of Jackie Robinson. The new medium of television exposed baseball to a genuinely national audience; altered the financial picture for teams, owners, and players; and changed the way Americans followed the game. *Center Field Shot* explores these changes—all even more prominent in the first few years of the twenty-first century—and makes sense of their meaning for America’s pastime. *Center Field Shot* traces a sometimes contentious but mutually beneficial relationship from the first televised game in 1939 to the new era of Internet broadcasts, satellite radio, and high-definition TV, considered from the perspective of businessmen collecting merchandising fees and advertising rights, franchise owners with ever more money to spend on talent, and broadcasters trying to present a game long considered “unfriendly” to television. Ultimately the association of baseball with television emerges as a reflection of—perhaps even a central feature of—American culture at large.

## Book Information

Paperback: 402 pages

Publisher: Bison Books; 1 edition (June 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0803248253

ISBN-13: 978-0803248250

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,656,915 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #79 in *Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Sports Broadcasting* #234 in *Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Journalism* #1459 in *Books > Humor & Entertainment > Television > History & Criticism*

## Customer Reviews

“Center Field Shot is a winner. It’s smart, crisply written, and packed with eye-opening research and analysis. I learned something new on every page. Turn off the TV and start reading. I guarantee you’ll be glad you did.”—Jonathan Eig, best-selling author of *Luckiest Man: The Life and Death of Lou Gehrig* and *Opening Day: The Story*

of Jackie Robinson's First Season (Jonathan Eig 2008-03-07)" "At last an intensive analysis of this complicated and fascinating phenomenon has been produced. . . . Center Field Shot is at once a fun, engaging read that can be enjoyed in random five-minute snippets, and a serious full-length work of scholarship. Like the very best of television, it informs as it entertains."

•Steve Treder, The Hardball Times (Steve Treder The Hardball Times 2008-05-27)"Center Field Shot: A History of Baseball on Television successfully tells the story of how the sport made a huge breakthrough arriving in people's homes. . . . Walker and Bellamy provide perhaps the definitive history of the evolution of baseball on television without ever getting too scholarly or slipping into fanciful nostalgia."

•Josh Marks, Variety (Josh Marks Variety 2008-11-12)"A well-told story of owners and networks, businessmen and merchandizing. The best part of this history of baseball on television is its revelation of how broadcasters learned a new craft, a new art form." S. Gittleman, Choice (S. Gittleman Choice 2008-10-01)"More than just baseball history shot through a video lens, Center Field Shot is also a history of television shot through the lens of the national pastime."

•Roberta Newman, NINE (Roberta Newman NINE)"Bellamy and Walker offer a cogent and sophisticated analysis of the consequences of television for baseball, both positive and negative. Their work contains much new information and synthesizes the old with the new in meaningful ways. . . . Center Field Shot is a must for anyone interested in the impact of television on American culture, and on baseball, an American sporting institution that once carried the designation of National Pastime."

•Richard C. Crepeau, American Studies (Richard C. Crepeau American Studies)

James R. Walker is professor of communication and chair of the Department of Communications at Saint Xavier University. Robert V. Bellamy Jr. is an associate professor in the Department of Journalism and Multimedia Arts at Duquesne University.

This is a great introduction to baseball and the medium of television, but beware that it's pretty heady stuff. It doesn't take long before you have to wade into contracts and deals so complex that I still don't think I understand how they work. The later chapters especially, which deal with recent situations, can be pretty complex. My hope was that this would be about how TV has been used to cover the game, and the book does include that. But it ultimately has to spend a whole lot of time talking about where the money comes from and where it goes, especially once the basic logistics of covering a game were settled. I enjoyed it, but had to slog through the later chapters...

A well written book in which the authors discuss the still developing and burgeoning relationship between baseball and television. First discussed is local baseball telecasts of baseball (which were done well before any national coverage of baseball), the national coverage in terms of broadcast and cable channels, and how this "marriage" of baseball and television has been dysfunctional - various announcers are discussed, too. Many nice insights in this book - it gives THE best explanation for the declining attendance figures of the Fifties and the contraction of the minor leagues in the Fifties that I have read in my lifetime - it was almost like a light bulb went off in my head when I read that section. It's also fun to read about how few camera angles were used in those early local broadcasts of games, and how surprising it was to read that the center field camera shot was discouraged by MLB until the late Sixties. A book definitely worth getting - the chapters on the television rights are slow and tedious reading (X years contract for X million dollars, etc.) and the chapter references in this book (ie "see Chapter XX" or "discussed in Chapter XX") got a little annoying but all in all, a better book than I expected.

wonderful book ,tells about a part of baseball history that many fans are not aware of

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Center Field Shot: A History of Baseball on Television Baseball Defense Mastery: Fundamentals, Concepts & Drills For Defensive Prowess (Baseball Defense, Baseball Book, Baseball Coaching, Baseball Drills, Outfield, Infield) Baseball Hitting Mastery: Art of the Line Drive Swing (Baseball Book, Baseball Hitting Mechanics, Baseball Hitting Drills, Baseball Swing) (Coaching Youth Baseball) INSIDE A COACH'S MIND: THE BASEBALL BIBLE (Coaching Baseball) Film Directing Shot by Shot: Visualizing from Concept to Screen (Michael Wiese Productions) Jello Shot Recipes: 55 Fun & Creative Jello Shot Recipes for your Party (Jello Shots, Jelly Shots, Party Recipes, Jungle Juice, Punch Recipes, Vodka Recipes, ... Rum Recipes, Cocktail Recipes, Wine Making) Jello Shot Recipes: 55 Fun & Creative Jello Shot Recipes for your Party Shot In The Favela: How Television and Film Influence the Image of Poverty in Rio de Janeiro Watching TV: Eight Decades of American Television, Third Edition (Television and Popular Culture) Reading The L Word: Outing Contemporary Television (Reading Contemporary Television) Studio Television Production and Directing: Studio-Based Television Production and Directing (Media Manuals) You Can't Air That: Four Cases of Controversy and Censorship in American Television Programming (Television and Popular Culture) Baseball Field Guide: An In-Depth Illustrated Guide to the Complete Rules of Baseball World History, Ancient History, Asian History, United States History, European History, Russian History, Indian History, African History. ( world history) One Shot at Forever: A Small Town,

an Unlikely Coach, and a Magical Baseball Season Louisville, Kentucky: Including its History, The Muhammad Ali Center, The Kentucky Center, and More The City in a Garden: A History of Chicago's Parks, Second Edition (Center for American Places - Center Books on Chicago and Environs) The Everything Kids' Baseball Book: From Baseball's History to Today's Favorite Players--With Lots of Home Run Fun in Between! The Baseball Trust: A History of Baseball's Antitrust Exemption Incredible Baseball Stats: The Coolest, Strangest Stats and Facts in Baseball History

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)