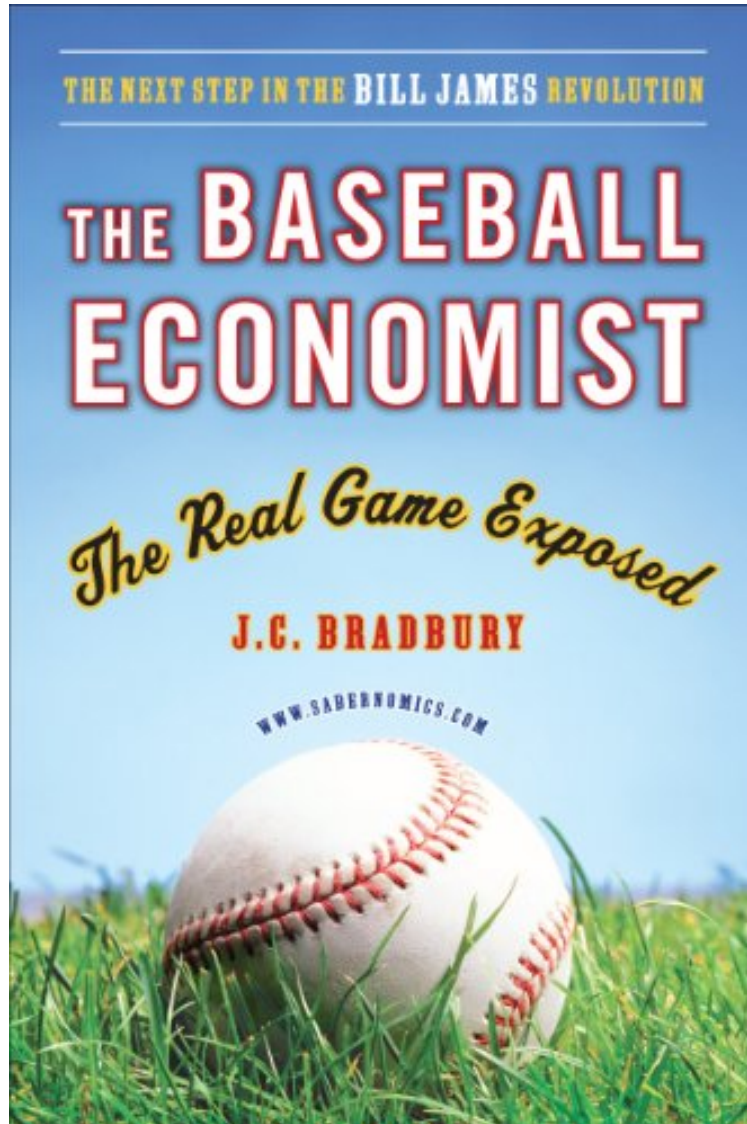


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The Baseball Economist: The Real Game Exposed

J.C. Bradbury

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J.C. Bradbury : The Baseball Economist: The Real Game Exposed before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Baseball Economist: The Real Game Exposed:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful book for any baseball stat headBy Kyle JamesI just finished reading The Baseball Economist: The Real Game Exposed the other night. If you're not a baseball fan then you can skip the rest of this post without offending me. Besides being a book about something that I love, this book was written by a Wofford alum! All the more reason to reason to read it! The author J.C. Bradbury runs an interesting blog, Sabernomics, where he writes all sorts of interesting baseball articles. Sometimes they are specifically Atlanta

Braves related articles, but they run the gamut from free agent player values to, and most recently, the steroid situation. This book was absolutely fantastic and one that I would highly recommend to anyone that is either a fan of the game or loves statistics. Because the subject of the book is baseball, the regression analysis and formulas presented seem to flow naturally. The chapters are perfectly sized analysis in themselves that each make for an evening sit-down. With chapters like "The Legendary Power of the On-Deck Hitter", "The Evolution of Baseball Talent", and "Scouts vs. Stat-Head" you know that you have something interesting in your hands. J.C. does a masterful job of laying statistical data to support his conclusions without losing the reader. My personal favorite chapter, "The Extinct Left-Handed Catcher," looks at why there is no such thing as a left-handed catcher in baseball. J.C. looks for performance reasons and ultimately concludes "the benefits of using right-handed catchers are small, maybe the costs will yield some answers." These costs ultimately show their solution in the very simple revelation: "The biggest reason there is no left-handed catchers is natural selection. Catchers need good throwing arms. If you have a kid on your baseball team who is left-handed and has a strong arm, what are you going to do with him?" Any baseball person can easily answer this, he's going to pitch! The entire book was filled with revelations similar to this! Every chapter brought statistical analysis into the equation to definitively prove relationships in baseball. Is any of this going to make me a better baseball player, coach, or fan? Probably not, but for anyone that has a passion for the sport I'm sure they will feverously consume this book with the same passion. It's obvious that J.C. also shares that passion and it carries through this work. You can read my other reviews on my blog: [...]

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Some great stat analysis

By CJI found this book worth reading overall, with a few flaws. The author shines on the sections that are more pure statistical analysis to argue a particular point about the multifaceted game of baseball. The chapter on left handed catchers is a good one, as well as the section on how we judge hitters and pitchers' stats. In addition, though he is a college professor, he makes the statistical analysis reasonably accessible to the general public, and some sections could easily be used as interesting supplemental reading in microeconomics first year courses (especially if your audience are 19 year olds who would rather be hitting college balls then sitting in your course). The book weakens when he wanders into more policy territory (a la Freakonomics, the current trendy thing to do), as he tends to argue points by basically stating the data doesn't prove anything. The chapter on steroid use is a prime example. He also at times risks turning baseball into a pure commodity, rather than seeing the entertainment angle - what can one expect from a guy who has no problem with having advertisements on the baselines. Nonetheless, I found this book to be generally well-researched and thought-provoking. As a final note, he quotes heavily from the book Moneyball, and I would recommend reading that book first before this one. (I did not)

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book

By Komson Chanprapan Love this book. It applies microeconomics theories in an easy-to-understand baseball related examples. I use this as a complimentary book for my sport economics class and my students love it

Freakonomics meets Moneyball in this provocative expose acute; of baseball's most fiercely debated controversies and some of its oldest, most dearly held myths. Providing far more than a mere collection of numbers, economics professor and popular blogger J.C. Bradbury, shines the light of his economic thinking on baseball, exposing the power of tradeoffs, competition, and incentives. Utilizing his own "sabernomic" approach, Bradbury dissects baseball topics such as: "Did steroids have nothing to do with the recent homerun records? Incredibly, Bradbury's research reveals steroids probably had little impact. " Which players are ridiculously overvalued? Bradbury lists all players by team with their revenue value to the team listed in dollars including a dishonor role of those players with negative values updated in paperback to include the 2007 season. " Does it help to lobby for balls and strikes? Statistics alone aren't enough anymore. This is a refreshing, lucid, and powerful read for fans, fantasy buffs, and players as well as coaches at all levels who want to know what is really happening on the field.