

Banner, Stuart. *The baseball trust: a history of baseball's antitrust exemption*. Oxford, 2013. 283p index afp ISBN 9780199930296, \$29.95

Legal scholar Banner (UCLA) summarizes his thesis in the opening sentence of the introduction: "This book is about one of the oddest features of our legal system, the near complete exemption of baseball from antitrust law." In ten chapters, he progresses chronologically from 1879 to the present; the fulcrum is the 1922 Supreme Court decision in *Federal Baseball Club of Baltimore v. the National League*, which created this anomaly. Other major stopping points include the reserve clause, the roles the Federal League and the Mexican League played, *Toolson v. New York Yankees* (1953), the famous *Flood v. Kuhn* case (1972), the coming of free agency in the 1970s, the Curt Flood Act of 1998, and thorny franchise relocation situations as well as congressional involvement (or, perhaps more precisely, its non-involvement) along the way. The author seamlessly weaves in complementary events and actions in professional football; his weakest suit is inadequate coverage of important contemporary issues such as broadcasting and ticket-related quandaries. This well-researched, well-written book merits a diverse audience, whether baseball fan, historian, public official, or legal scholar. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All readership levels and collections.