

**Circling the bases: essays on the challenges and prospects of the sports industry by Andrew Zimbalist. Temple University, 2011. 222p index ISBN 9781439902820, \$64.50; ISBN 9781439902837 pbk, \$24.95; ISBN 9781439902844 e-book**

Zimbalist (economist, Smith College) is one of the US's most prolific (and seemingly omnipresent) authors and commentators on sports economics issues, from popular media outlets to professional academic journals.

Circling the Bases is an edited, updated collection of seven of the author's recently published articles from journals and contributed chapters in books on sports economics, plus an original, hit-and-miss introduction. The essays cover a range of topics: college athletic finances; the Bowl Championship Series (BCS); economic issues related to gender equity (aka Title IX); salaries and payroll caps in professional leagues; the economics of publicly funded sports facilities; the financing and economics of the Olympic Games; and the use of steroids and other performance-enhancing substances (and their detection) in baseball. Chapters are uneven in length, detail, and interest, but each offers a good beginning for intelligent general readers who want to know a little about a particular topic. The detailed endnotes are a solid complement and invaluable for scholars who want to know more--and do more--about one or more of these issues. Summing Up: Recommended. All readership levels. -- A. R. Sanderson, University of Chicago