

**Edge, Marc. Red line, blue line, bottom line: how push came to shove between the National Hockey League and its players. New Star, 2004. 160p bibl index ISBN 1554200113 pbk, \$12.00**

Though Edge's volume is timely--given the 2005 work stoppage in the National Hockey League (NHL)--it went to press before the owners locked out the players and canceled the entire season. Accordingly, the book has a dated feel to it, especially when major daily newspaper reports offer more recent and more detailed information. The book also has a "tabloid" feel, given the choppy writing style, assertions and speculations, and unsophisticated coverage. Across seven chapters Edge touches briefly on labor-management relations issues in general and NHL economics over time, notably the reserve clause and free agency in the four major professional North American sports leagues; strikes and lockouts; mechanisms such as payroll caps (which Edge mistakenly calls salary caps) to restrain the growth of player pay; and luxury taxes and revenue sharing. However, several important issues, including franchise relocations and league expansion, are missing. Those who want a "Cliff's Notes" tutorial on the evolution of labor history and labor-management negotiations along with information on hockey's current woes will find this book serves well. Others will find the references and footnotes incomplete and of little value and the author's viewpoints on where-do-we-go-from-here alternatives no better than those of any intelligent layperson. Summing Up: Not recommended for academic collections. -- A. R. Sanderson, University of Chicago