CICOTELLO, DAVID, AND ANGELO LOUISA, EDS. *Forbes Field: Essays and Memories of the Pirates' Historic Ballpark, 1909-1971.* Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Co., 2007. Pp. xii+242. Black-and-white photographs, appendices, notes, and index, $35 pb.

During the 1970s, as Pittsburgh hemorrhaged jobs and people due to de-industrialization, sport usurped steel as the basis of the region's identity. Three Rivers Stadium—its primary athletic venue—witnessed an astonishing sporting renaissance, prompting Howard Cosell to confer the title of City of Champions upon Pittsburgh during the 1979 World Series. Playing on Three Rivers's rock-hard artificial surface, the Pirates won two World Series and the Steelers four Super Bowls. But when the multi-purpose facility on the banks of the Allegheny River was imploded in 2001, few lamented its demise. Instead, Pittsburghers continued to speak with emotion and affection of Forbes Field, a ballpark in the Oakland section that had been demolished thirty years before. *Forbes Field: Essays and Memories of the Pirates' Historic Ballpark, 1909-1971*, edited by David Cicotello and Angelo Louisa, captures much of why that ballpark and sport have become so entwined with the story that Pittsburgh tells about itself to the world.

Forbes Field is a pastiche of essays and remembrances about the ballpark that was home to the Pirates, and where the Steelers and college football teams played, fight cards were staged, and political rallies held. While the volume is not a definitive history of Forbes Field, it evokes the sentiments that made the ballpark a touchstone for generations of Pittsburghers. It also points to lines of inquiry that could be pursued in a more comprehensive history. As is often the case in a volume of this sort, the writing is uneven. Some of the essays offer strong analyses of Forbes Fields' early years; others are largely descriptive compilations of important games or classic fights. A few are idiosyncratic. One analyzes its dimensions and considers the impact on hitting; another is a transcript of the radio broadcast of the last game played there—on June 28, 1970—including Nellie King's pre-game chat with Roberto Clemente. Some of the personal accounts are more compelling than the essays—such as Rich Sestili's remembrances of selling newspapers inside the ballpark and Joe Bruno's astonishment at becoming a batboy.

Robert Trumpbour's essay shows that while most fans regard Forbes Field as redolent of earlier sporting traditions, the ballpark was an innovative, state-of-the-art effort in architectural modernity. Another of the better essays, Sam Bernstein's piece about Barney Dreyfuss, begs for a bookend piece on John Galbreath. Dreyfuss built Forbes Field with his own money in 1909. His family owned the Pirates from 1900 through 1946, when Galbreath *et. al.* bought the team and ballpark. Dreyfuss made baseball popular and profitable in Pittsburgh; Galbreath's Pirates won the 1960 World Series featured in this

book, but he was unable to keep doing business at Forbes Field. Why? How had the business of baseball and promotion changed to make the construction of a municipal facility seem a necessity to keep the Pirates in Pittsburgh, and more importantly, allow their sometime tenants, the Steelers, to achieve financial stability?

This book rightfully stresses that Forbes Field fit into the neighborhood, in contrast to later stadia that were often surrounded by parking lots with few connections to their setting. This relationship could be explored further. How did Forbes Field change the neighborhood and why did the University of Pittsburgh seek ownership during the 1960s? Richard Morgan's interview with Bob Smith discusses how Gus Miller's newsstand served as a hiring hall for ushers. Several generations of fans encountered two Oakland groups as ushers, ticket-takers, and groundskeepers at Forbes Field (and later at Three Rivers Stadium): Italians from South Oakland and Irish from the Oakland slopes. Community and work relations, including efforts to unionize and the ballpark's informal economy that allowed fans to duke a ticket-taker and usher with a buck or two and be seated in the choicest of seats, offer other possible slants. So does the gamblers' section along the third-base line and its connections to the city's sport-betting business.

Pittsburghers will enjoy this volume, and prospective authors plumbing the ballpark's significance will find it a jumping-off point for further exploration. Forbes Field fell victim to the Pirates' and Steelers' need to play in a municipally-built and maintained facility in order to be financially competitive, and to the desire of the university to expand its footprint in Oakland. Forbes Quad (later renamed Posvar Hall and home to the history department where I sit) was built on the site. Only an outfield wall, a line of bricks, a flagpole, and home plate (under glass in Posvar Hall) remain, where each year on October 13, hundreds gather to listen to a tape of the broadcast of Game Seven of the 1960 World Series.

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