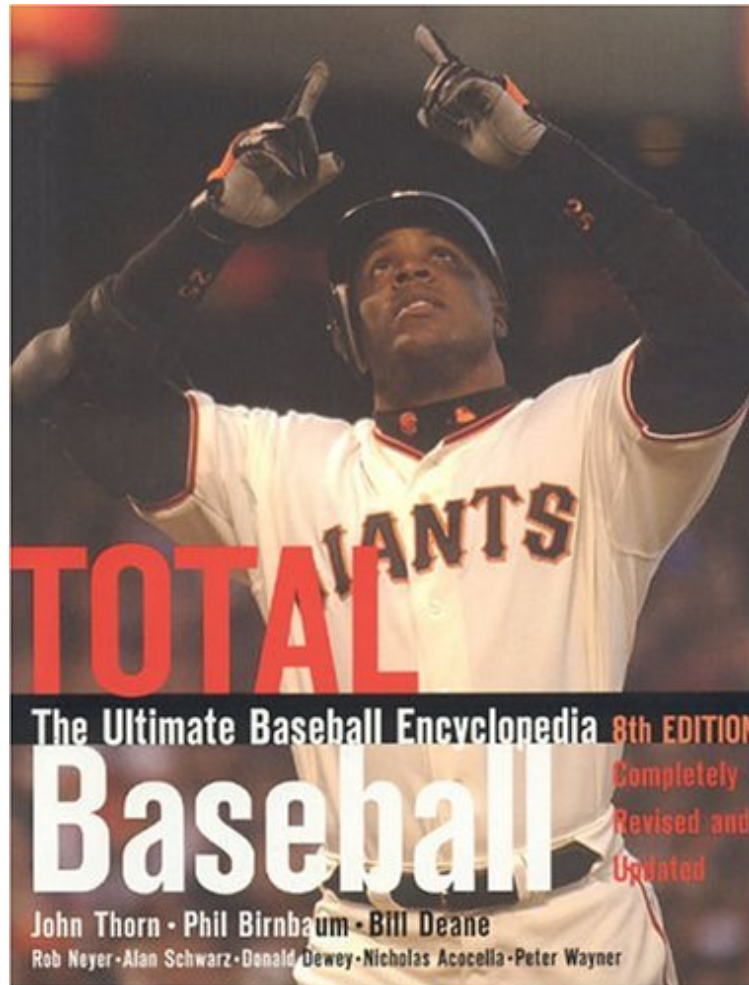


(Read now) Total Baseball, Completely Revised and Updated: The Ultimate Baseball Encyclopedia (Total Baseball: The Official Encyclopedia of Major League Baseball)

## Total Baseball, Completely Revised and Updated: The Ultimate Baseball Encyclopedia (Total Baseball: The Official Encyclopedia of Major League Baseball)

*John Thorn*

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**John Thorn : Total Baseball, Completely Revised and Updated: The Ultimate Baseball Encyclopedia (Total Baseball: The Official Encyclopedia of Major League Baseball)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Total Baseball, Completely Revised and Updated: The Ultimate Baseball Encyclopedia (Total Baseball: The Official Encyclopedia of Major League Baseball):

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The most striking, compelling and comprehensive single volume ever devoted to America's pastime.

From BooklistThe eighth edition of Total Baseball lives up to even the highest expectations. By continuing to supplement, amend, and expand, this publication reminds us how hard work and dedication can result in a reference book that significantly improves with each edition. Thorn, chief editor, has masterfully integrated previous editions with much new content from many new and old contributors. Covering major league baseball in wondrous detail, this is, as the new subtitle proclaims, truly the ultimate baseball encyclopedia.Improvements and enhancements since the seventh edition include the introduction of new statistical measures, a new organizational structure, and detailed table of contents. The important and well-written essays (many new to this edition, others revised from previous editions) that appear here set this volume apart from other comprehensive baseball reference works. These essays are sprinkled throughout the volume and cover ideas such as a discussion of the secret behind the recent success of the Oakland Athletics ("Moneyball"), a ranking of the greatest teams of all time (the '39 Yankees rank first), and an overview of recent research that uncovered the appearance of William Edward White in a 1879 Providence Grays game. White was the first black man, and only former slave, ever to appear in major league game, predating Jackie Robinson's breaking of the color barrier by a full 68 years.Sections 2 through 5 highlight another new feature in this edition, year-by-year essays covering every single year of major league baseball from 1873 to 2003. As in previous editions and other sections of the encyclopedia, statistics supplement the knowledgeable prose. The reader will also find some wonderful historical essays that originally appeared in the pages of SPORT magazine.About half of the volume is made up of detailed statistics for every player ever to appear in a major league game. Other statistical sections, including records, awards, and MVP and Hall of Fame voting results, help round out this tribute to the statistical minutiae that fascinates many baseball fans. For anyone who wants to know all about baseball statistics, the detailed "Glossary of Statistical Terms" will delight (and perhaps overwhelm).Total Baseball demonstrates how a fanatical commitment to sharing the love of the game can produce a truly remarkable reference work. If your library can only afford one book about baseball, this is it. Highly recommended; supercedes the seventh and all previous editions. Jeff KosokoffCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "The book is essential, irreplaceable..." -- Katherine A. Powers in Boston Globe on October 24, 2004From the Inside FlapTotal Baseball, launched to universal acclaim in 1989, has been the most compelling and exhaustive reference series ever devoted to Americas pastime. With this eighth edition, Total Baseball: The Ultimate Baseball Encyclopedia totally revised and completely updated through 2003has undergone a significant makeover and introduces a more visual design plus several fresh narrative and statistical features. Longtime readers will be delighted by the addition of several new essays and classic reprints from SPORT magazine, plus more than 200 photographs, including, for the first time, color, as well as the inclusion of Bill James revolutionary statistic, Win Shares, to baseballs most respected statistical Player and Pitcher Registers. At 2,688 pages and seven pounds, this is the largest Total Baseball ever, and a worthy successor to the line of encyclopedias hailed by Baseball Weekly as "the ultimate source for baseball information." As always, Total Baseballs Player and Pitcher Registers carry detailed career records for all 16,000-plus players in major-league history. There are also exhaustive lists chronicling every possible aspect of the game, among them baseballs all-time and season leaders in dozens of categories, individual award winners, all-time standings, all-star results, Hall of Fame voting, line scores and composite box scores from every postseason game and series, and much more. And new to this edition are year-by-year reviews of the major leaguesin prose, pictures and statisticsthat highlight the newsmakers, award winners, stats leaders, and champions from 1871 to 2003 Returning to this edition are updated team histories and provocative essays that touch all the significant historical bases, supplemented by several new essays that are sure to spark debate. Noted baseball historian and Total Baseball editor John Thorn assesses Barry Bonds as possibly the greatest player ever, author Peter Wayner takes an insightful look at the "Moneyball" phenomenon, ESPN writer Rob Neyer makes his case for the Greatest 100 Teams in history, and Thorn teams up with noted journalist Alan Schwarz to select the 100 most important figures in baseball history. Another exciting new addition is the inclusion of feature articles from the archives of the former SPORT magazine that recapture the life and times of such immortals as Honus Wagner, Ty Cobb, Walter Johnson, Babe Ruth, Rogers Hornsby, Lou Gehrig, Charlie Gehringer, and Lefty Grove. Other reprints from SPORT tell the colorful stories of some of baseballs all-time greatest teams. But perhaps the most striking upgrade for Total Baseballs faithful followersall 300,000 of them since 1989is the inclusion of photographs, including dozens of classic color shots, that tell baseballs rich history in pictures. It all adds up to make Total Baseball: The Ultimate Baseball Encyclopedia a worthy successor in the reference family that Ken Burns called "a superb encyclopedia, a wonderful place, indeed, a whole world, to get lost in." JOHN THORN, one of the country's foremost baseball experts, wrote his first baseball book thirty years ago and since then has created a great many more, including Treasures of the Baseball Hall of Fame and The Armchair Books of Baseball. He co-founded Total Baseball in 1989,

has written for several periodicals and was Senior Creative Consultant to the Ken Burns documentary Baseball.