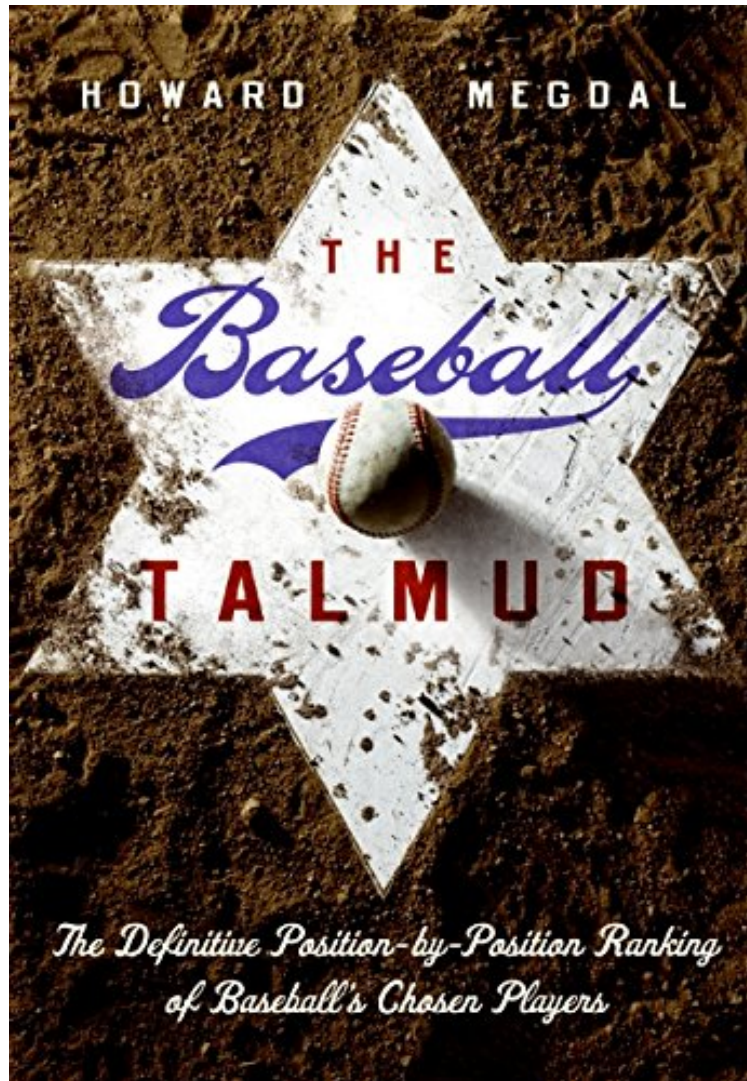


(Free) The Baseball Talmud: The Definitive Position-by-Position Ranking of Baseball's Chosen Players

The Baseball Talmud: The Definitive Position-by-Position Ranking of Baseball's Chosen Players

Howard Megdal

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Howard Megdal : The Baseball Talmud: The Definitive Position-by-Position Ranking of Baseball's Chosen Players before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Baseball Talmud: The Definitive Position-by-Position Ranking of Baseball's Chosen Players:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great book for all baseball fans... not to mention this 47yr old Jewish baseball fanatic!By CustomerThis book could easily be a tough read with all the heavy statistics on board, but thanks to Megdal's breezy and funny style it's a pleasure!An example of the humor is this line used when talking about

Sid Gordon's ability to draw a walk... "This is a recurring theme for so many Jewish players - unlike Eliot Spitzer, they grasped the value of not paying for something they could get for free." Sure, many could squabble over where he ranks the players... but basically he's got it down. He ranks the players much like Jayson Stark does in his great book, "The Stark Truth". (...where he ranks Sandy Koufax as the most overrated left handed starting pitcher ever, and Hank Greenberg as the most underrated first baseman of all time. Talk about food for debate!) This is one of those books that I just can't put down. The only major criticism is the omission of catcher Johnny Kling... probably the greatest catcher of his time. (Early 1900's for the Chicago Cubs) Now I know that there's still some who don't think he was Jewish, but most feel the preponderance of evidence clearly points to Kling as a Jew. (See Gil Bogen's engrossing bio "Johnny Kling" which features some well researched, compelling evidence... as well as a heartwarming foreword by Ernie Banks!) Overall Megdal's "Baseball Talmud" is quickly turning into one of my favorite baseball books! Buy it! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Maybe call it "The Jewish Baseball White Pages Directory." It's that boring. By Still a Phillies Phan Just a listing of Jewish ballplayers, with a lot of fantasizing about what might have been had they played in different times, different ballparks, or had avoided injuries. Very few anecdotes about what made them top ballplayers or how they dealt with anti-Semitism, just a few awful jokes about Jewish mothers. So much more the author could have done, but didn't. Really a poor excuse for a book, and a crime that the title should exploit the word "Talmud." There is nothing Talmudic about this book, because very little deep thought seems to have been put into its writing. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun Book, lots of surprises By Low Hertz This book was fun to read. Lots of surprises and virtually unknown players. Once you get past a hand full of players, from Koufax, Greenberg, there aren't too many stars. It appears that only Koufax had the guts to take a high holiday off.

From the icons of the game to the players who got their big break but never quite broke through, The Baseball Talmud provides a wonderful historical narration of Major League Jewish Baseball in America. All the stats, the facts, the stories, and the (often unheralded) glory. The Baseball Talmud reveals that there is far more to Jewish baseball than Hank Greenberg's powerful slugging and Sandy Koufax's masterful control. From Ausmus to Zinn, Berg to Kinsler, Holtzman to Yeager, and many others, Megdal draws upon the lore and the little-known details that increase our enjoyment of the game, including: Which Jewish player spent a portion of his retirement as a spy Who received \$50,000 and a car to quit school and join the Major Leagues How many players sat out of games scheduled on Yom Kippur Which famous player chose baseball over becoming a rabbi But this is more than just stories. Megdal, a stat geek himself, uses the wealth of modern sabermetrics to determine the greatest Jewish players at each position, the all-time Jewish All-Star Team, and how they would rate against the greatest teams in baseball history, from the 1906 Chicago Cubs to the 1998 New York Yankees. The Baseball Talmud rewrites the history of Jewish baseball and is a book that every baseball fan should own.

In the spirit of a lavish bar mitzvah, The Baseball Talmud skimps on nothing. They're all here: the greats, the unknowns, the descendants of Abraham and the recently converted. This is the book Bill James would have written if he were Jewish. (Jeremy Schaap, ESPN reporter and author of Cinderella Man) What is there to say about a book that, among its many merits, invents the value-added Judaism statistic? With high humor and a strong grasp of his facts, Howard Megdal answers questions and addresses issues that Jewish fans have long wondered about and fans of other faiths will also enjoy. (John Eisenberg, author of The Great Match Race) Howard Megdal's witty and informative book gives the definitive rabbinic commentary on the 160 Who knew? Jews who played in the Major Leagues. These guys could pitch, field and hit. Plus, they loved their mothers. (L. Jon Wertheim, Senior Writer, Sports Illustrated and author of Running the Table and Blood in the Cage) About the Author Howard Megdal edits The Perpetual Post, writes for ESPN.com, Capital New York, MLB Trade Rumors.com and many others. His new book, Taking The Field, is available for order, with a May 10 release from Bloomsbury.