



The Red Stockings of Cincinnati: Base Ball's First All-Professional Team and Its Historic 1869 and 1870 Seasons

By Stephen D Guschov

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In early 1869, Harry Wright of the Cincinnati Base Ball Club made an announcement to the sporting press: the Red Stockings would be the first all-professional club in the history of the game. The outcry could be heard in nearly every town in which the sport was played. Wright, however, paid little heed to their protests and went about his business of signing players. By the start of the season he had inked ten players to contracts, with salaries ranging from \$600 to \$1,400 annually. By June of 1870, the Red Stockings had compiled a 90-game winning streak and were recognized as the finest team in the game. How the Red Stockings were formed, who the players were, and why things came to an end are all fully covered in this detailed history.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

The Red Stockings are justly celebrated for not only pioneering pro baseball but also for their amazing winning streak of 94 games. Their story has been told often, in Greg Rhodes and John Eradi's *The First Boys of Summer* (Road West, 1994) and other histories and even in a novel, Darryl Brock's *If I Never Get Back* (Crown, 1989). Still, Guschov's slim work intimately documents the personalities, triumphs, defeats, and final breakup of this early baseball dynasty. An ideal choice for Southern Ohio libraries and worth a look elsewhere. —Morey Berger, St. Joseph's Hosp. Medical Lib., Tucson, AZ

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Review

"covers the subject exhaustively -a convenient one-volume treatment"--*Nineteenth Century Notes*

"a valuable resource for early baseball historians...recommended for all levels"--*Choice*; "intimately documents the personalities, triumphs, defeats and final breakup of this early baseball dynasty"--*Library Journal*; "helpful...clear...very engaging"--*Ohio Valley History*; "covers the subject exhaustively...a convenient one-volume treatment"--*Nineteenth Century Notes*.

About the Author

Attorney **Stephen D. Guschov** has taught a "Baseball and the Law" course at the Massachusetts School of Law in Andover, and has written for *Boston Baseball*. He lives in Maitland, Florida.

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