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[Review of] Once a Bum, Always a Dodger: My Life in Baseball from Brooklyn to Los Angeles

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SPORTS
Verdi, Chicago Tribune columnist and co-author of McMahon! (Warner, 1986) and Harry Caray's Holy Cow! (Random, 1989), has given Drysdale his own voice in this nostalgic look at Drysdale's career with the Dodgers organization, and the nature of the changes in the game. Drysdale's colorful anecdotes and opinions make for an informative, enjoyable book, as he describes his teammates (e.g., Gil Hodges, Pee Wee Reese, Duke Snyder), his bosses (Buzzie Bavasi, Walter Alston, Walter O'Malley), his style (including his "mean" nature in protecting the plate and his use of the spitball), and his broadcasting career. Drysdale clearly has a great love for the game the way it used to be: Brooklyn and the old Dodgers made a powerful impression on him, and will on the reader, too. This belongs in all baseball collections. [Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 11/15/89].—Robert Aken, Univ. of Kentucky Libs., Lexington