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Review of The Baseball Encyclopedia: The Complete and Official Record of Major League Baseball

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BASEBALL


Reichler, special assistant to the Baseball Commissioner, updates this comprehensive source of baseball statistics, adding information on new players and updating data on other players still active through the 1987 World Series. No new categories have been added since the sixth edition (see ARBA 86, entry 758); hitting data (most pitchers are excluded in this section) are provided in the player register and pitching performances in the pitcher register, while other sections include team and managerial figures. Inning-by-inning World Series, championship playoff, and All-Star Game data are also included.

One might question the continued publication in each edition of data on players who completed their careers long ago (coverage goes back to 1876), given the size of the work. However, the convenience of one volume, as well as the incorporation of new data in the “All-Time Leaders” section, makes the purchase of a new edition every three years worthwhile. The sixth edition was followed by a supplemental update (see ARBA 87, entry 760); this practice should continue in order to make each season’s statistics available as soon as possible (although such plans are not spelled out in the current edition). This work is the essential tool for statistical data on our national pastime. [R: RBB, 15 Mar 89, p. 1262]—ROBERT AKEN