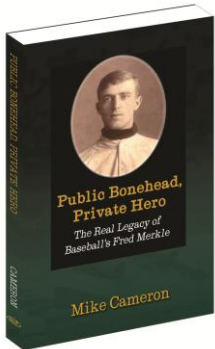




1074 Butler Drive Crystal Lake, IL 60014
sportingchancepress.com
815-245-9774

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PRESS RELEASE



Sporting Chance Press Publishes *Public Bonehead, Private Hero: The Real Legacy of Baseball's Fred Merkle* by Mike Cameron

Crystal Lake, IL—Sporting Chance Press™, Inc. announced publication today of *Public Bonehead, Private Hero: The Real Legacy of Baseball's Fred Merkle* by Mike Cameron. The book is available from the publisher's website at www.sportingchancepress.com and select outlets.

Public Bonehead, Private Hero is the great American story of Fred Merkle who was at the confluence of Progressive Era history and baseball legend. Just as automobiles, airplanes and modern communications were taking shape, baseball became the cultural centerpiece of our fast-growing nation—a popular metaphor for America's competitive drives and struggles. The book sets the stage historically and then recounts the most famous play in baseball history. A young New York Giant, Fred Merkle, walks off the base path after the apparent end of a hotly contested game only to be ruled out later on a rarely enforced technicality. The book recounts that while the Giants cried foul; the press focused all of its muckraking venom on the unfortunate Fred Merkle and christened him "bonehead" for the remainder of his life.

Public Bonehead, Private Hero reveals how baseball fans and the press never tired of recounting the "bonehead episode" and seeing Merkle relive the ignominy. The book discloses that the cartoon character that was Fred Merkle in the public eye was the opposite of the sensitive intelligent man who went on with his life and career with courage and determination. Who was Fred Merkle and how his story resonates with our own struggles is the heart and soul of this new work by journalist and Merkle fan Mike Cameron.

Author Mike Cameron

Mike Cameron writes about sports for Pioneer Press, publisher of newspapers in the Chicago suburbs and a division of the Sun-Times Media Group. He was sports editor of the *Barrington Courier-Review* and *Countryside* newspapers prior to a long career in advertising sales with consumer magazines including *Sport* and *The Sporting News*. Cameron's articles have appeared in the *Chicago Sun-Times* and the *Chicago Tribune*.

The author was a left-handed pitcher who confesses to "throwing too many hanging curveballs" for Barrington (Illinois) High School, Northern Illinois University and several semipro teams. Mr. Cameron umpires high-school baseball and is among several Fred Merkle admirers who are working to set the record straight on baseball's number one scapegoat.

Specifications

Public Bonehead, Private Hero by Mike Cameron is 216 pages. Paperback., 5½ × 8½. ISBN: 978-0-9819342-1-1. Pub. Mar. 2010. \$20. Sports/History/Biography. Includes selection of photographs from the Library of Congress and the National Baseball Hall of Fame Library.

Media Review Copies and Author Interviews: Write Larry Norris at Sporting Chance Press, 1074 Butler Drive, Crystal Lake, IL 60014 or send email to lmj.norris@sportingchancepress.com for media review copies and to schedule interviews.

Sporting Chance Press publishes sports books that entertain, inform and inspire readers to improve their game in life. Larry Norris, the company's founder, has over 35 years of publishing and bookselling experience. For more information visit www.sportingchancepress.com. Contact Larry Norris at 815-245-9774 or write lmj.norris@sportingchancepress.com.