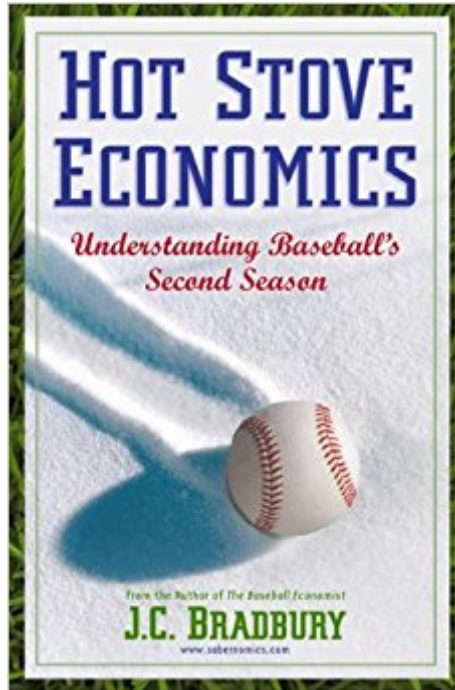


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Hot Stove Economics: Understanding Baseball's Second Season



Synopsis

The final out of the World Series marks the beginning of baseball's second season, when teams court free agents and orchestrate trades with the hope of building a championship contender. The real and anticipated transactions generate excitement among fans who discuss the merit of moves in the arena informally known as the "hot stove league." In *Hot Stove Economics*, economist J.C. Bradbury answers the hot stove league's most important question: what are baseball players worth? With in-depth analysis, Bradbury identifies the game's best and worst contracts—revealing the bargains, duds, and players who are worth every penny they receive. From minor-league prospects to major-league MVPs, Bradbury examines how factors such as revenue growth, labor rules, and aging—even down to the month in which players are born—shape players' worth and evaluates how well franchises manage their rosters. He broadly applies the principles of economics to baseball in a way that is both interesting and understandable to sports fanatics, team managers, armchair economists and students alike.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I like the work that JC Bradbury does in both this book and on his blog. He raises interesting questions and tries to answer them in a scientific manner. However, he has a me against the world mentality, complete with refusing criticism of his work. Most members of the sabermetric community do not agree with the conclusions that he draws. This is good in the sense that it drive discussion, but he does not want to be included in the conversation (specifically asked not to be) when

addressing new and controversial ideas.

The author obviously did not pay for a copy editor ("loose" instead of "lose", Tampa Bay Devil Rays and Tampa Bay Rays in the same table, "Image that" instead of "Imagine that", to/too, etc.), and the large number of mistakes, misplaced words, and other issues makes the book hard to read. As for the content, it's nothing special, either. I imagine the book would be more interesting to someone who doesn't keep up with baseball analytics, but for me, there was really nothing earth-shattering in it. And none of the author's approaches to analytics, and teasing out different causes and effects, struck me as particularly clever or new.

This book is great for the fan that likes to do a little math and get some real perspective on value. Highly recommended to all!

I enjoyed Bradbury's previous book, *The Baseball Economist*, but this book fell far short. Bradbury's arguments in this book appear to be only spewing arguments from his previous work. Furthermore, some of his arguments (e.g. arguing that baseball talent is normally distributed) does not comport with the work of many other sabermetricians (believing that talent skews to the left tail). Bradbury only provides a few pages to argue why he believes talent is normally distributed, and appears to ignore all the work of other mathematicians which balances in the other direction. Finally, the book is poorly edited. There are plenty of typos in the book, which is not necessarily Bradbury's fault but an annoyance nonetheless. Simply put, it is a mediocre read.

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