

Daniel Levitt: Baseball Expert

Award-Winning Author, MLB Commentator, Historian, Scholar and Fan

Winning baseball teams need major league talent in the front office and on the field. Daniel Levitt is a leading expert on both.

Levitt is one of baseball's most astute front office analysts of owners, general managers and baseball business strategies who combines a historical, scholarly and fan understanding of teams, coaches, players and pennants. He well could be the man for whom the ubiquitous term "Inside Baseball" was coined. He is an award-winning author, MLB Network TV commentator, frequent sports radio guest, recipient of the Society for American Baseball Research 2015 Bob Davids Award, and a diehard fan of America's classic pastime. Levitt always delivers an acute perspective on how the business of baseball impacts the playing of baseball and conversely, the lessons business can learn from our national pastime.



He has written four exhaustive and acclaimed books and dozens of essays illustrating the importance that GM's, team owners, coaches and players collectively share in shaping not just baseball teams but baseball culture, history -- and the game itself. Levitt's formidable knowledge and nuanced attention to detail can dramatically color any fan's love of the game. Whether he's looking at how dynasties were built after baseball's formative years of the Deadball era, or gauging in the post-*Moneyball* period -- and in the current 50th Anniversary Year of the Players Association -- where the game is going, Levitt throws strikes with an impressive arsenal of pitches.

Trained in Business and Finance, Schooled in Baseball's Many Economies

Levitt's expertise -- finding a historical context relative to a baseball team's economics in their win-loss record -- relies on mountains of research and his ability to accurately judge operational decision-making inside organizations while also seeing baseball's big picture. Credit that to Levitt's training in business and finance, which include 25 years at Ryan Companies U.S. where he manages capital markets for Ryan-owned properties. He holds both a BS in Industrial Engineering and a Master of Science in Business from University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Born in New York City, but raised in Minneapolis, Levitt is past president of the Minnesota chapter of SABR (Society for American Baseball Research), and a member since 1983. A Twins fan, he still plays the game he learned to love as a kid, occasionally in left field on the local SABR vintage baseball team.

Learn more about Daniel Levitt in the following Media Kit sections:

- [Daniel Levitt in Media -- MLB TV, Radio, Books](#)
- [Select Book Reviews/Testimonials about Daniel Levitt's Work](#)
- [Awards & Distinctions](#)
- [Further Inside Baseball: Accolades for Setting the Record Straight](#)
- www.daniel-levitt.com
- www.pursuitofpennants.com

DANIEL LEVITT IN MEDIA

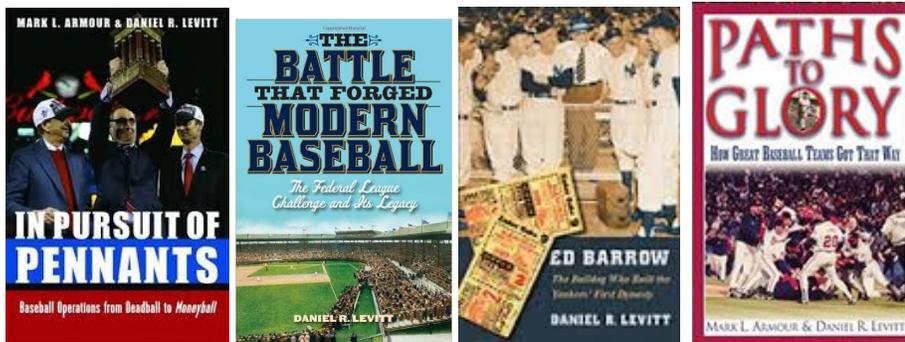


MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TELEVISION

- <http://m.mlb.com/video/topic/49502780/v543448183/manuel-discusses-judge-yankees-prospects-on-mlb-now>
- <http://m.mlb.com/video/topic/7417714/v528927583/mlb-now-talks-about-takeout-slides-and-team-payrolls>
- <http://m.mlb.com/video/topic/7417714/v528927683/the-mlb-now-crew-looks-at-big-free-agent-outfielders>
- <http://m.mlb.com/mia/video/topic/7417714/v91319183/dan-levitt-on-in-pursuit-of-pennants-on-mlb-now>

RADIO

- More than 35 interviews across the country in recent years



BOOKS

- [In Pursuit of Pennants: Baseball Operations from Deadball to Moneyball](#) (with Mark Armour -- 2015)
- [The Battle that Forged Modern Baseball: The Federal League Challenge and Its Legacy](#) (2012)
- [The National Pastime, 2012: Short But Wondrous Summers: Baseball in the North Star State](#) (Editor -- 2012)
- [Ed Barrow: The Bulldog Who Built the Yankees' First Dynasty](#) (2008)
- [Paths to Glory: How Great Baseball Teams Got That Way](#) (with Mark Armour -- 2003)



SELECT BOOK REVIEWS/ TESTIMONIALS ABOUT DANIEL LEVITT'S WORK

- If *Moneyball* is the tale of how a modern front office works, *In Pursuit of Pennants* is the prequel that ably sets the stage." -- **Jonah Keri, *The Extra 2% and Up, Up, and Away***
- "Daniel R. Levitt's [*The Battle That Forged Modern Baseball*](#) is one of the most important historical baseball works so far this century." -- **Allen Barra, *Dallas Morning News***
- "Dan Levitt's biography of Hall of Famer Ed Barrow will wind up being one of the most important baseball books of this year." — **Rob Neyer, *ESPN.com***
- Never a player, Barrow spent 50 years in organized baseball as manager, executive, and owner. He was a hard-driving businessman, deeply involved in the money, power, and wheeler-dealer aspects of the game, and his story, well told here, is a remarkable and intricate business history as much as anything else." -- **Katherine A. Powers, *Boston Globe***
- "The best baseball book I have read this spring...It's simply an excellent book [[*Paths to Glory, How Great Baseball Teams Got That Way*](#)], one that can be both enjoyed and studied." -- **Joe Sheehan, *Baseball Prospectus***
- "Not everyone can write a great baseball book, although many of us try. Mark Armour and Dan Levitt have succeeded and they deserve our congratulations." -- **David Shiner, *Elysian Fields Quarterly*** (review), [*Paths to Glory, How Great Baseball Teams Got That Way*](#)
- Armour and Levitt have given the reader an inside look into the different cultures and challenges facing professional sports executives [with *In Pursuit of Pennants*]. Their management styles might differ, but the objective never changes: "Be a consistent winner." -- **Pat Gillick, President, Philadelphia Phillies**
- For *The Battle that Forged Modern Baseball: The Federal League Challenge and Its Legacy*: "Anyone who wants to advance beyond the stage of fandom to understand what it takes to establish and run professional baseball would do well to read Mr. Levitt's fascinating book. -- **The New York Journal of Books**
- "If we recall the Federal League today it is for its last gasp: the Supreme Court decision of 1922 that provided Major League Baseball with an antitrust exemption that has endured to the present day. But the story of how it began, briefly flourished, frayed, and collapsed, is a fascinating and instructive tale on many fronts. No one has ever told it more compellingly than Dan Levitt; I cannot recommend his book highly enough." — **John Thorn, Official Historian of Major League Baseball, author of *Baseball in the Garden of Eden***



AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

- The 2015 SABR winner of the [Bob Davids Award](#), the Society's highest honor, reflecting the ingenuity, integrity, and self-sacrifice of the founder and past president of SABR, L. Robert "Bob" Davids.
- The 2013 winner of the [Larry Ritter Book Award](#) for *The Battle that Forged Modern Baseball: The Federal League Challenge and Its Legacy*: given by SABR's Deadball Era Research Committee for the best book related to the Deadball Era published in the previous year.
- For their research in producing *Paths to Glory*, in 2004 Dan and co-writer Mark Armour won the [Sporting News--SABR Baseball Research Award](#), an award honoring those individuals whose outstanding research projects have significantly expanded our knowledge or understanding of baseball.
- Both of Levitt's books, *Ed Barrow: The Bulldog Who Built the Yankees' First Dynasty* and *In Pursuit of Pennants: Baseball Operations from Deadball to Moneyball*, were finalists in 2009 and 2016 respectively for [The Seymour Medal](#), which recognizes the best baseball book each year.
- He is a longtime member of [SABR](#), past president of the Minnesota chapter, and occasional left fielder on the chapter's vintage baseball team.
- He has participated in special book signings with other elite baseball authorities and authors such as **Michael Lewis** (best known for *Moneyball*), **Bill James** (numerous books), and **Rob Neyer** (numerous books and **ESPN.com** articles).



FURTHER INSIDE BASEBALL: ACCOLADES FOR SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

- The Top 25 GM's of All Times, [Blog Post](#). -- *In Pursuit of Pennants Blog*
- "In this compelling narrative, Levitt uncovers the economic and legal battles between Organized Baseball and its last rival, the Federal League of 1913-15. Anyone seeking to understand how Major League Baseball (or the other U.S. sports leagues) came to be structured as the closed monopolies that they are today will benefit from reading Levitt's excellent book." -- **Andrew Zimbalist, Smith College, Robert A. Woods Professor of Economics**
- Curses, Broadway and Anti-Semitism: [The truth](#) about the Red Sox sale of Babe Ruth to the Yankees and the man who sold him, Harry Frazee. -- **"History vs. Harry Frazee" cover story in the Baseball Research Journal, Vol. 37 (2008)**
- Levitt furnished early research on the impact of speed on opposition errors. -- ***The Best of By the Numbers***
- Behind Joe DiMaggio's [Hitting Streak](#): "Resolving the Probability and Interpretations of Joe DiMaggio's Hitting Streak." -- ***By The Numbers (May 2004)***
- "Daniel L. Levitt's book on the Federal League is the best work on the subject up to now. Thoroughly researched and well-written, it is particularly impressive in its detailed narrative and analysis of the corporate, financial, and legal aspects of the Federal League's potent challenge to the two established major leagues—a challenge that, while ultimately unsuccessful, eventuated in the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark exemption of Organized Baseball from the federal antitrust laws." -- **Charles C. Alexander, Ohio University**
- In the article "**Pitch Counts**," Levitt contributed new and convincing evidence that today's pitchers throw just as many pitches per season as their Deadball era counterparts despite fewer innings pitched. -- ***Baseball Research Journal***