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Review of *College Football Awards: All National and Conference Winners through 2010* by Dave Blevins

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or New York. Teams in small towns, like Rockford, Illinois; Troy, New York; Fort Wayne, Indiana; or Keokuk, Iowa, were at a competitive and economic disadvantage compared with their counterparts in large metropolitan areas, like Philadelphia or Boston. While fourteen clubs were unable to complete even a single season, the NA was dominated by just a few financially viable teams. Only the Athletic Base Ball Club of Philadelphia, Mutual of New York, and Boston Red Stocking competed for the pennant in each of the five years. Boston (the precursor to the Atlanta Braves) and the Chicago White Stocking (which became the Cubs) still exist today.

The entries for each of the league’s twenty-five teams are an invaluable resource for baseball fans and researchers. A concise franchise history gives information about the team’s founding, entry into the NA, financial difficulties, if any, and post-NA affiliations, when applicable. Information about the teams’ playing fields is especially welcomed and helps the reader envision how baseball may have been played. The huge Howard Avenue Grounds, home of the Elm City Base Ball Club in New Haven, Connecticut, may have been the first stadium to sell advertisement on its fences. Batesel also includes information about what occupies the site of each stadium (which may distress many baseball historians and enthusiasts). Batesel concludes each entry with a detailed account of each year the team competed in the NA.

Though hitting-sensation Cap Anson and pitching stars Pud Galvin and Albert Spalding (the founder of Spalding Sporting Goods) may be the most recognizable names of the NA to the modern baseball fan, the National Association is more than just a collection of individual players and teams. With its players, teams, owners, and economic realities, the NA reflected the substantial economic, social, and political changes underway in the country. Batesel’s well-written reference work helps give the league and those involved in it a human face.

—GREGORY H. WOLF
North Central College


More than 575 awards are presented annually to college football players and coaches, according to Dave Blevins, author of College Football Awards: All National and Conference Winners through 2010. This reference work includes a major awards chapter and sections for each level of football competition chronicling conference championships along with coaches and players of the year. A credit to this work is its inclusion of not just the NCAA Division I Football Bowl Series and Football Championship Series but also NCAA Division II and III, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA), and Community College and Junior College Football Conferences.

The in-depth treatment of the awards beyond just listings is valuable. Blevins includes introductory information for most awards including the founding of the award,
who it is named after, past names the honor existed under, and the sponsoring organization. An organization’s contact information including website will enable a researcher in subsequent years to easily find updated information on awards.

The awards chapter is comprehensive and not limited to major honors as stated. For example, alongside the Associated Press National Championship Trophy, the Heisman Trophy and the Outland Trophy are regional honors and awards that were given one year and subsequently disbanded. Perhaps a more differentiating organization separating the truly top honors from others would have served the reader better.

The seven chapters on the different football divisions are not uniform. Treatment of the NCAA’s three divisions and NAIA is well done. Each section comprises a complete listing of conference office contact information, current membership, championships, and awards. Honors pertinent to each division also are included. What could have contributed greatly to this work would have been listing the football schools and the different conference affiliations they held through the years. Not having previous knowledge of league membership makes it difficult to cross-reference awards won in different conferences for an individual university. The switching of conference affiliation historically goes beyond just the recent turmoil for many universities.

Too much information beyond the stated scope of the book is distracting. The headline inclusion of specific leagues for wrestling, rowing, hockey and lacrosse with the notation that they are non-football conferences is unnecessary. The NCCAA and National Junior College Athletic Association sections list all member schools with contact information including those not offering football, which are a majority of the institutions.

The reference book is indexed, but its inclusion of individuals is inconsistent. Despite these minor limitations, Blevins’ book will certainly be of value to football researchers, the media and students of the game wishing to gain knowledge of the number and variety of accolades alongside conference championships.

—PAUL M. MCINERNY
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With her dissertation on “Bilder vom Sport. Untersuchungen zur Ikonographie römischer Athleten-Darstellungen” (“Pictures of Sports. Examinations of the Ikonography of the Illustrations of Roman Athletes”) (University of Bonn, 2006), Anke Bohne made an important contribution to the research on physical education during the Roman Empire. A complete overview has been missing up to now. Therefore one of Bohne’s major credits is the compilation of such a catalogue with 147 images of physical education in mosaic, mural paintings, and stuccoed reliefs of the Roman Empire. It embraces more than half of her own works (452 of 797 pages in total) and provides the basis for her comprehensive study.