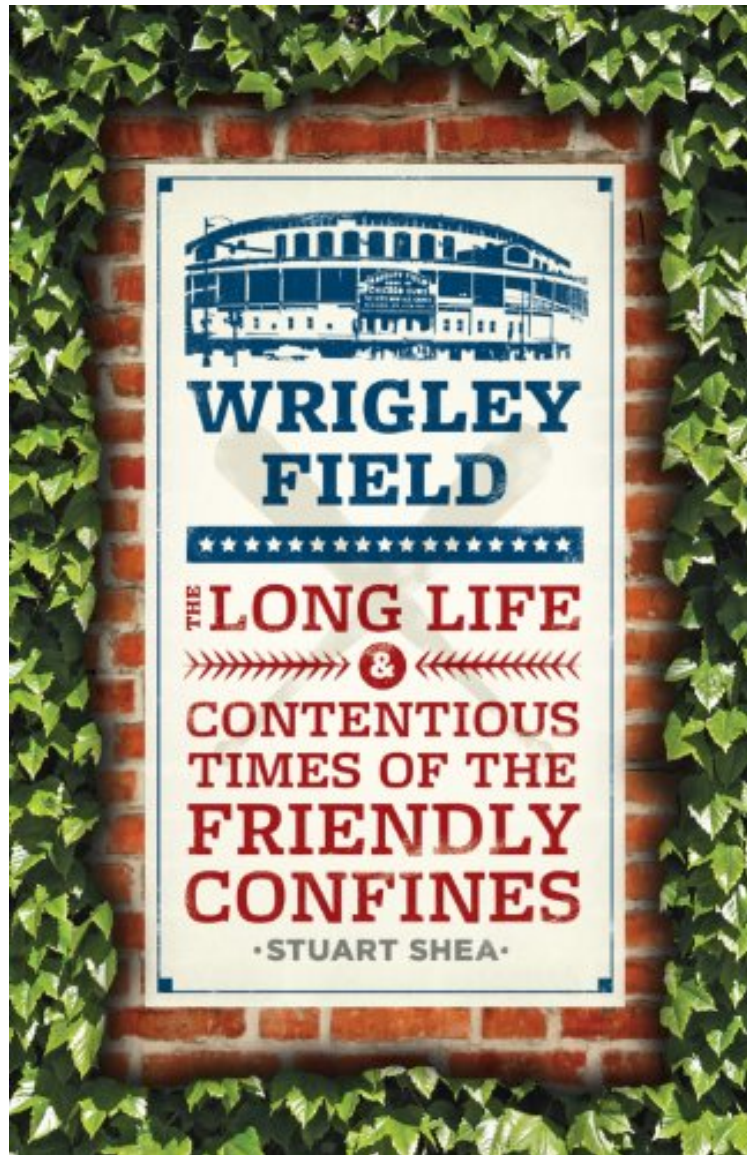


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Wrigley Field: The Long Life and Contentious Times of the Friendly Confines

Stuart Shea

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Stuart Shea : Wrigley Field: The Long Life and Contentious Times of the Friendly Confines before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wrigley Field: The Long Life and Contentious Times of the Friendly Confines:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Update of Wrigley Field: An Unauthorized BiographyBy John CorbettI thoroughly enjoyed Stuart Shea's 2004 book, Wrigley Field: The Unauthorized Biography, and still believe it

is the most thorough book on the history of the park, especially its origins and early years. (It remains to be seen whether the upcoming book, *Before Wrigley Became Wrigley: The Inside Story of the First Years of the Cubs' Home Field* by Sean Deveney, will surpass it with respect to the early years.) I have been looking forward to this new release from Shea on the same topic, called *Wrigley Field: The Long Life and Contentious Times of the Friendly Confines*. Although I have purchased this book, I have not yet received it. But I have checked an extended excerpt of the book from the publisher's website - which is the reason why I write this review. Based on that excerpt, it appears that this book is effectively a rewrite and update of *Wrigley Field: An Unauthorized Biography*. Much of the excerpt that I read is identical to the original book (including many of the subheadings), although in some places the writing has been tightened or expanded upon. It is also worth noting that this book carries the story beyond the time of the original book into the Ricketts era. In short, if you are expecting a brand new book on Wrigley Field by Shea, you will be disappointed. On the other hand, Shea's original book was an excellent work, and this book appears to improve and expand upon it. If you have the original book, you should consider reinvesting here. If you never read that book, but have an interest in learning about the colorful history of the Friendly Confines, don't miss this one.

UPDATE: After having read through the book, I have a few other notes to share. First, the book has a few illustrations, all of which are different from the *Unauthorized Biography* version. Surprisingly, a picture showing the 1922-23 expansion of the ballpark (p. 45) is incorrectly described in the caption as a picture taken during the original 1914 construction of the park. Hopefully this and other minor errors will be fixed in the next pressing.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Let's root, root, for the Cubbies -- and their home for a century
By OldBloom
It's a great read about the backstory of *The Friendly Confines* -- from the history of the ground it sits on to the people (men) who've guided its fortunes (and occasionally those of the Cubs) -- you'll probably find out something you didn't know on every page. A great gift for Cubs fans everywhere -- but read it first yourself as I did LOL!
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent timeline of Wrigley history
By James C Lundin
This was an easy, fun read. I did not realize how much baseball history there is within the friendly confines. I attended many games when I lived in Chicago and always had fun. Having also lived in Boston, I can say that Wrigley is a more beautiful baseball park than Fenway. If you love the Cubs and Wrigley, then you really need to have this in your collection.

In spring 1914, a new ballpark opened in Chicago. Hastily constructed after epic political maneuvering around Chicago's and organized baseball's hierarchies, the new Weeghman Park (named after its builder, fast-food magnate Charley Weeghman) was home to the Federal League's Chicago Whales. The park would soon be known as Wrigley Field, one of the most emblematic and controversial baseball stadiums in America. In *Wrigley Field: The Long Life and Contentious Times of the Friendly Confines*, Stuart Shea provides a detailed and fascinating chronicle of this living historic landmark. The colorful history revealed in *Wrigley Field* shows how the stadium has evolved through the years to meet the shifting priorities of its owners and changing demands of its fans. While Wrigley Field today seems irreplaceable, we learn that from game one it has been the subject of endless debates over its future, its design, and its place in the neighborhood it calls home. To some, it is a hallowed piece of baseball history; to others, an icon of mismanagement and ineptitude. Shea deftly navigates the highs and lows, breaking through myths and rumors. And with another transformation imminent, he brings readers up to date on negotiations, giving much-needed historical context to the maneuvering. *Wrigley Field* is packed with facts, stories, and surprises that will captivate even the most fair-weather fan. From dollar signs (the Ricketts family paid \$900 million for the team and stadium in 2009), to exploding hot dog carts (the Cubs lost that game 6-5), to the name of Billy Sianis's curse-inducing goat (Sonovia), Shea uncovers the heart of the stadium's history. As the park celebrates its centennial, *Wrigley Field* continues to prove that its colorful and dramatic history is more interesting than any of its mythology.

"Amid Wrigley Field's birthday revels much will be reported about its vines, its scoreboard, its goat, its very origin—much of it not quite so. More than any other American institution, baseball most wholeheartedly welcomes half-baked history and curdled lore. It's fun, after all; what grinch wishes to poke at the tale of Babe Ruth's called shot? But more often than not the real stories are even more delicious, and no one has gathered more of them than author Stuart Shea. His book is an unceasing delight."