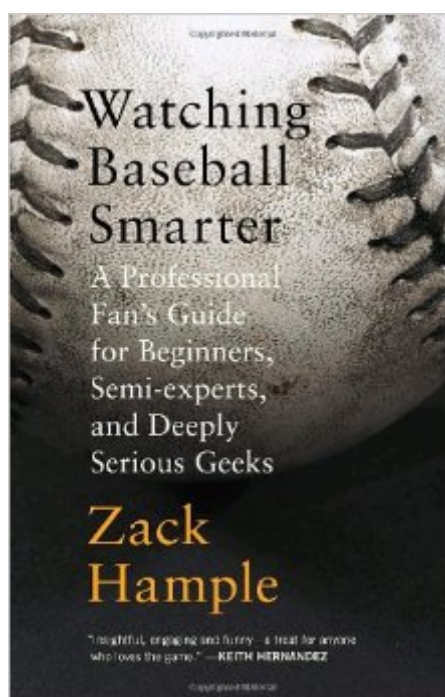


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# Watching Baseball Smarter: A Professional Fan's Guide For Beginners, Semi-experts, And Deeply Serious Geeks



## Synopsis

Whether you're a major league couch potato, life-long season ticket-holder, or teaching game to a beginner, *Watching Baseball Smarter* leaves no territory uncovered. In this smart and funny fan's guide Hample explains the ins and outs of pitching, hitting, running, and fielding, while offering insider trivia and anecdotes that will surprise even the most informed viewers of our national pastime. What is the difference between a slider and a curveball? At which stadium did "The Wave" first make an appearance? How do some hitters use iPods to improve their skills? Which positions are never played by lefties? Why do some players urinate on their hands? Combining the narrative voice and attitude of Michael Lewis with the compulsive brilliance of Schott's *Miscellany*, *Watching Baseball Smarter* will increase your understanding and enjoyment of the sport no matter what your level of expertise. Zack Hample is an obsessed fan and a regular writer for [minorleaguebaseball.com](http://minorleaguebaseball.com). He's collected nearly 3,000 baseballs from major league games and has appeared on dozens of TV and radio shows. His first book, *How to Snag Major League Baseballs*, was published in 1999.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (179 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I strongly disagree with the reviewer that says that there is not much here that has not been said elsewhere. While I am new to baseball, at the age of 55 vastly more familiar with soccer, football, and basketball, my youngest son loves the game, and I have spent time looking for the perfect book that can both help him see the nuances, and help me follow the game. This book is nothing less than extraordinary. It would be a superb gift for any high school or college student who loves the game, and for any parent or grandparent new to the game. Personally I think it has a great deal of

information that those who consider themselves avid fans have NOT noticed, but you can decide that better than I. Here are some of the nuggets in this book, which is the tactical complement to the strategic companion by another author, "Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game." The two books together constitute an instant reference library from any baseball aficionado. 1) 1 in 100,000 make it to major leagues from among those who strive to get there. 2) Going to college is a superb way to perfect your skills and shorten the time to selection for minor leagues--a tiny handful get to go straight to the majors. 3) Five tool players can field well, throw hard (and accurately), run fast, hit home runs, and hit a high batting average. 4) Any major leaguer, however "bad" they might appear on a given day, is the best of the best and has spent a lifetime getting there. 5) Awesome concise clear description of the many kinds of balls that a pitcher can throw to a batter. 6) Runner on second can see catcher's signals and signal to the hitter more often than not. I had no idea.

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