**The History of Baseball**

Student Name

Institutional

Professor

Course

Due Date

**The History of Baseball**

Historians believe baseball evolved from bat-and-ball, a popular game in England. In the

mid-18th century, immigrants introduced it to North America. The Knickerbocker Base Ball

Club formulated baseball rules in 1845. They resembled those of rounders. In the US, baseball is

considered a national pastime. The history of baseball spans decades of the quest for racial

integration, the clash of labor management, and the metamorphosis of popular culture

(Alexander, C. C., 1991). Over the years, baseball has impacted the US in the following areas.

**Racial and Social Integration**

Before 1845, African Americans were prohibited from playing in Major League Baseball

(MLB). There were intense campaigns by members of the black press, and a minority of their

White colleagues for the end of racial segregation in the sport. Owners of MLB preferred renting

Stadiums to Negro teams when their teams were on away matches (Tygiel, J., 2001). The rental

revenue was significant because it attracted a large African American audience. When blacks

joined the MLB, both black and white audiences attended. These contributed significantly to

ending racial segregation in the US. The first black player to join MLB was Jackie Robinson, in

1947.

**Infrastructure**

The construction of a baseball stadium has the potential to revitalize the surrounding

neighborhoods. It can dramatically increase the value of adjacent properties and spur

development of sports-related entertainment. Typical examples include Busch Stadium in St.

Louis, the Dodger in Los Angeles, and Wrigley Field in Chicago. For instance, the stadium-

building boom in St. Louis enhanced its urban landscape, forming an L-shaped sports

entertainment region. The entertainment district comprises the Dome, the Enterprise Center,

MLS Stadium and the Union Station. It is surrounded by bars, hotels, and restaurants (Helyar, J.,

1995).

**The Economy**

The world economy has benefitted tremendously from baseball-related activities. In

2019, baseball impacted the US economy to the tune of $41 billion. It includes direct and

indirect MLB-related spending. According to Ernst & Young (EY), MLB supported 176,00 jobs

in the United States the same year (Rader, B. G., 2008) across industries such as

sales of merchandise and memorabilia, advertising and marketing, media, and broadcasting as

well as hospitality and tourism. Forbes ranked baseball as one of the

highest-earning sports behind the NBA.

Baseball has good attendance figures worldwide. However, like any other

sport, baseball managers are grappling with several issues. Some players are using performance-

enhancing drugs. The MLB banned the use of these drugs in 2006 (Goldstein, W. J., 2014).

Sadly, some players are still using these drugs, particularly steroids. Understandably, many

players are under intense pressure to perform better and qualify for the professional leagues.

Baseball associations should name, shame, and suspend such players. The integrity of baseball as

a professional sport should be upheld at all costs.

**References**

Alexander, C. C. (1991). Our game: An American baseball history. Macmillan.

Helyar, J. (1995). The Lords of the Realm: The Real History of Baseball. BoD–Books on

demand.

Goldstein, W. J. (2014). Playing for keeps: A history of early baseball. Cornell University Press.

Rader, B. G. (2008). Baseball: a history of America's game (Vol. 14). University of Illinois Press.

Tygiel, J. (2001). Past time: Baseball as history. Oxford University Press.