In the early 1990s George Plimpton presented his "Small Ball Theory," which states that the quality of writing about a particular sport is inversely proportional to the size of the ball used to play that sport. Without debating the merits of Plimpton's theory in relation to other sports, he was certainly right about baseball. Over the years a number of very good books have been written on this sport. Baseball Fever, Early Baseball in Michigan by Peter Morris can now be added to this category.

Morris uses a chronological approach to examine the growth of baseball in the Wolverine State from the mid-1850s through the mid-1870s. In...
and a half of organized play, baseball's origins remain unclear. Most accounts focus on Eastern teams and the advent of professionals, but how the game spread across a predominantly rural America to become our national pastime is a question still largely unresolved. In this well-researched study of Michigan baseball from the 1830s to the 1870s, baseball scholar Peter Read Full Overview.