

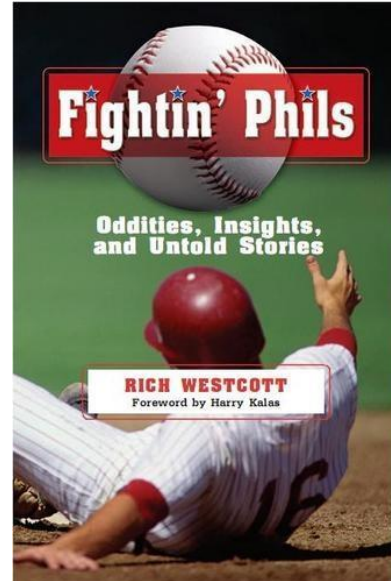
# The Fightin' Phils

## Oddities, Insights, and Untold Stories

Rich Westcott

Foreword by Harry Kalas, National Baseball Hall of Fame sportscaster

As baseball fans, we are usually aware of our favorite team's players, their numbers, and their honors. But are we aware of the backgrounds of our favorite players and our favorite teams?



We know that Ryan Howard set the Phillies record for home runs in one season with 58. And we know that he was only the second player in major league history to win Rookie of the Year and Most Valuable Player awards in back-to-back seasons, joining Cal Ripken, who performed the feat in the 1982 and 1983 seasons with the Baltimore Orioles (Fred Lynn of the Boston Red Sox was both Rookie of the Year and MVP in 1975).

But what about Howard's youth? And what about his days on the high school and college playing fields? How did he perform in those years? What did his coaches and the scouts think about this young slugger? You're about to find out.

It was a tremendous honor to have watched Hall of Famer Steve Carlton take the mound over the years with the Phillies. In 1972, "Lefty" won 27 games for a last place team that won a total of only 59. What a feat for Carlton!

As we know, though, Carlton did not talk with the media during most of his playing days. But he did sit down with our esteemed author recently, and talked about that spectacular 1972 season.

The Phillies franchise is one of the oldest in major league baseball. Over the years, there have been many, many stories on things that took place with the

club, both on the field and behind the scenes. For instance, the Phillies were the first major league team to hire a full-time woman scout. The Phillies once played a nine-inning game in 51 minutes.

And the team had a left handed catcher who was a regular for 14 years.

These are just a few of the amazing stories connected with Phillies teams. There are numerous others. Many of them appear amid the 33 chapters in this book. You'll be amazed at what you read.

Rich Westcott is a baseball writer and historian. Nobody does that job any better. Now, through tireless research and countless interviews, he has written a fascinating collection of stories of Phillies exploits, both past and present.

Remarkable Phillies Stories is as interesting a book as has ever been written about the team. It's different than most of them—almost all of which have been written by Rich. And it's interesting, entertaining, and it tells wonderful stories. Many of these stories have never been told before, and even among those that have, there are details that most readers certainly never knew before..

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Remarkable Phillies Stories. And I recommend it, not only to all Phillies fans, but to baseball fans everywhere and of all ages.