



# ROWMAN & LITTLEFIELD

## LIGHTS, CAMERA, FASTBALL

### HOW THE HOLLYWOOD STARS CHANGED BASEBALL

BY DAN TAYLOR

“An inside look at the Hollywood Stars, one of the most exciting franchises in the history of the Pacific Coast League, immersing the reader in the culture surrounding it.”— **Mark Macrae, director, Pacific Coast League Historical Society**

“I have the pleasure of calling Dan Taylor a television broadcast partner and friend. If there is anyone who off the top of their head could write a book about the history of the Hollywood Stars or the old Pacific Coast League, it's Dan. He is a Star in his own right when it comes to the background of our great game.”— **Doug Greenwald, Radio/TV play-by-play broadcaster, Fresno Grizzlies professional baseball**

In *Lights, Camera, Fastball: How the Hollywood Stars Changed Baseball*, Dan Taylor delivers a fascinating look at the Hollywood Stars and their glorious twenty-year run in the Pacific Coast League. Led by Bob Cobb, owner of the heralded Brown Derby restaurant and known more famously as the creator of the Cobb salad, the Hollywood Stars took professional baseball to a new and innovative level. The team played in short pants, instigated rule changes, employed cheerleaders and movie-star beauty queens, pioneered baseball on television, eschewed trains for planes, and offered fans palatable delicacies not before served at ballparks. On any given night, Clark Gable, Jimmy Stewart, Barbara Stanwyck, Humphrey Bogart, and dozens more cheered on their favorite team from the boxes and grandstands of Gilmore Field.

During the Hollywood Stars' history, its celebrity owners pushed boundaries, challenged existing baseball norms, infuriated rivals, and produced an imaginative product, the likes of which the game had never before seen. Featuring interviews with former players, *Lights, Camera, Fastball* is an inside look at a team that was far ahead its time, whose innovations are still seen in professional baseball today.

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Dan Taylor** is a former award-winning television sportscaster. He is the author of *Rise of the Bulldogs, A Scout's Report: My 70 Years in Baseball*, and *Fate's Take-Out Slide* in collaboration with George Genovese. Taylor is a member of the Society for American Baseball Research and the Pacific Coast League Historical Society. He resides in Fresno, California.

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