

10 ♦ WHAT'S MY NAME, FOOL?

“The Don” Rob Scavone, and Keeanga Taylor.

Finally, endless thanks to Nick Chin, my former co-editor and comrade at the Prince George’s Post. Without your tireless efforts to cover my ass at work, I never would have been able to write this.

And last but never least, to Sasha Jane Truth Zirin, my miracle baby. Thank you for putting a smile on my face that may require surgery to remove. Anyone who doesn’t like this book has made my baby cry. Just consider that, when you start reading. ♦

Foreword by David Meggyesy

Dave Zirin is one of our most talented and progressive young sports writers. Zirin understands better than any other sports writer I know the connection between the world of sport and the larger political and social matrix of our culture as we roll into the twenty-first century. His writing reminds me of Bob Lipsyte, former sports columnist of the *New York Times*.

Zirin is an avowed progressive, a lover of sport, and a talented and committed journalist. He traces his historical sports writing roots to Lester Rodney former Sports Editor of the Communist Party’s *Daily Worker*. Few people know Lester Rodney’s columns in the *Daily Worker* generated necessary public awareness about the racist nature of Major League Baseball in its exclusion of African-American baseball players. There is little doubt that Rodney’s campaign paved the way for Jackie Robinson’s entry into the Major League. Parenthetically, the Boston Red Sox eighty-seven year curse had less to do with Babe Ruth and more to do with a racist franchise that refused to employ African-American baseball players until 1959—Willie Mays for example. During Rodney’s time—and to some degree this continues today—baseball journalists were nothing more than public relations flacks for their respective teams and

David Meggyesy is a former NFL linebacker and the author of *Out of Their League*.