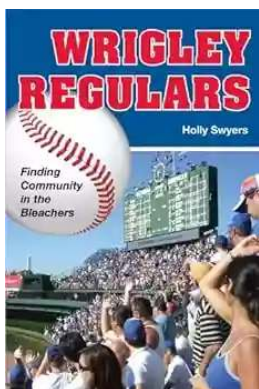


# Wrigley Regulars: Discovering the True Essence of Community in the Bleachers

Baseball has always been more than just a sport. It is a game that captivates millions of people around the world, bringing them together to celebrate the thrill, the excitement, and the camaraderie that comes with being part of something bigger than oneself. Nowhere is this sense of community more evident than at Wrigley Field in Chicago, where die-hard fans, known as the "Wrigley Regulars," have found their second home in the bleachers.

For decades, Wrigley Field has been the hallowed ground for baseball lovers. Its ivy-covered outfield walls, the iconic red marquee, and the timeless beauty of its architecture create an atmosphere that is nothing short of magical. But what truly sets Wrigley apart is the unparalleled sense of belonging experienced by those who fill the bleachers day in and day out, season after season.

The bleachers at Wrigley Field are more than just seating; they are a close-knit community within a community. From April to October, a group of dedicated fans show up, game after game, rain or shine, to support their beloved Chicago Cubs. They come from all walks of life, bringing their banners, homemade signs, and unwavering loyalty to create a sea of blue that engulfs the outfield.



## Wrigley Regulars: Finding Community in the Bleachers by Holly Swyers(Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1083 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled



What makes the Wrigley Regulars truly remarkable is their dedication to their fellow fans. In the bleachers, there are no strangers – only friends waiting to be made. It is a place where conversations are struck up with the person next to you, where a simple high-five is shared with a stranger after a home run, and where the collective energy of the crowd creates bonds that transcend the game itself.

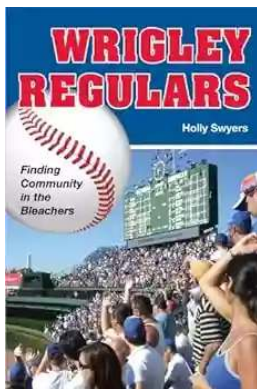
One might wonder what brings these individuals together, year after year. Is it simply a love for baseball? Or is it something more? The answer lies in the bonds forged through shared experiences and a profound sense of belonging. In the bleachers, it doesn't matter your age, occupation, or background – all that matters is that you bleed blue and stand with your fellow fans.

It is this unwavering loyalty that has made the Wrigley Regulars legendary. They are a beacon of support for their team, often called the tenth player on the field. Their chants, cheers, and unending encouragement give the Cubs an extra boost, helping them push through tough innings and inspiring memorable victories. The players themselves have acknowledged the unique atmosphere created in the bleachers, recognizing the vital role the Wrigley Regulars play in elevating their performance.

But the community doesn't stop when the game ends. The Wrigley Regulars have built lasting friendships that extend far beyond the ballpark. They gather for pre-game tailgates, celebrate victories at nearby bars, and support each other through life's triumphs and tribulations. It is this sense of unity that sets them apart from other fan bases – they truly embody the spirit of community.

In today's increasingly digitized world, where personal connections are often mediated through screens, the Wrigley Regulars remind us of the power of face-to-face interaction and the magic that unfolds when people come together around a common passion. They serve as a poignant reminder that community is not just a buzzword – it is a vibrant, living entity that thrives within the bleachers of Wrigley Field.

So, the next time you find yourself in the vicinity of Wrigleyville, make your way to the bleachers. Come prepared to cheer, to connect, and to witness the magic that unfolds when strangers become friends and a game becomes so much more than a game. Become a part of the Wrigley Regulars and discover firsthand the true essence of community in the heart of Chicago.



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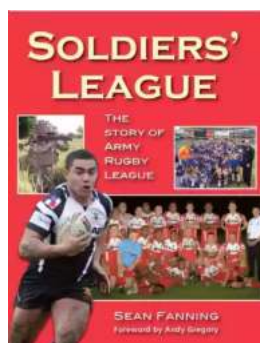


Holly Swyers turns to the bleachers of Chicago's iconic Wrigley Field in this unique exploration of the ways people craft a feeling of community under almost any conditions. Wrigley Regulars examines various components of community through the lens of "the regulars," a group of diehard Chicago Cubs fans who loyally populate the bleachers at Wrigley Field. In a time when many communities

are perceived as either short-lived or disintegrating, the Wrigley regulars have formed their own thriving set of pregame rituals, ballpark traditions, and social hierarchies.

Swyers examines the conditions, practices, and behaviors that help create and sustain the experience of community. At Wrigley Field, these practices can include the simple acts of scorecard-keeping and gathering at the same location before each game or insisting on elaborate rules of ticket distribution and seating arrangements, as well as more symbolic behaviors and superstitions that link the regulars to each other.

A bleacher regular herself, Swyers uses a qualitative approach to define community as the ways in which people arrive at an awareness of themselves as a group with a particular relationship to the larger world. The case of the regulars offers a challenge to the claim that community is eroding in an increasingly fragmented and technologically driven culture, suggesting instead that our notions of where we find community and how we express it are changing.



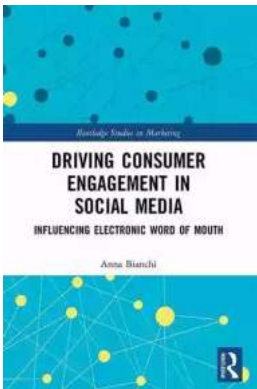
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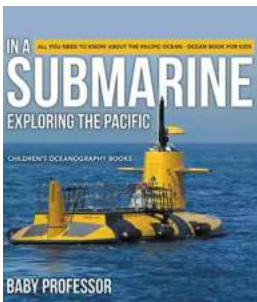
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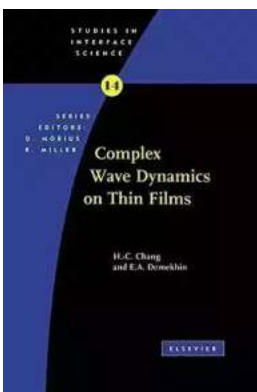
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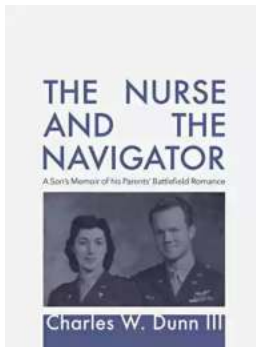
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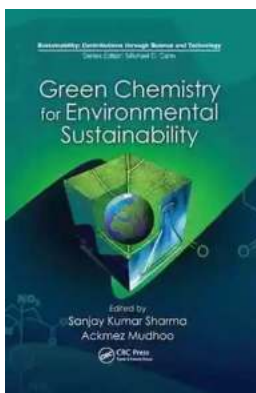
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