

# SL

Poetry

## At Third

Ron Smith

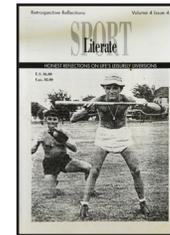
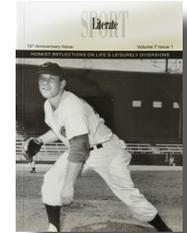
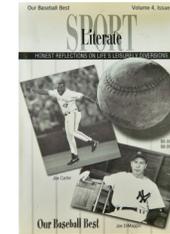
A blazing one-hopper popped  
 my reaching backhand pulling  
 a long stride to stomp the bag  
 then whirl a missile just there beyond  
 second to empty air where Bobby's glove  
 in fact appeared, already spinning a  
 white streak to tall Gerald who didn't  
 even have to stretch.

But he did, exhibitionistic-  
 ally flashing textbook form for that final  
 perfect pop in the palm. Corner to corner,  
 three big grins, and star shortstop Brian,  
 superfluous, gaping straight up at the sky's  
 single cloud as if he hadn't seen a thing.

**Ron Smith's** most recent poems can be found in *Plume*, *Blackbird*, *Cold Mountain Review*, and *Make It New*. He has published four collections with LSU Press. His first book, *Running Again in Hollywood Cemetery*, was issued in a second, enhanced edition by MadHat Press, poems from which have recently appeared in the anthology *Southern Voices: 50 Contemporary Poets*. A former Poet Laureate of Virginia, Smith is currently Consultant of Poetry and Prose at St. Christopher's School and Poetry Editor of *Aethlon: The Journal of Sport Literature*. And, yes, quite some time ago, he did play five seasons at third base.

# SPORT Literate

Baseball Bias



Baseball has been a frequent reflection point of *Sport Literate* contributors. In fact, we have published more poetry and essays about baseball than any other sport. In 2001, "Our Baseball Best" issue included essays from Jeffrey Hammond, Michael Steinberg, and a contest winner from Mark Krewatch. Steinberg's essay, "Elegy for Ebbets," earned him a *Best American Essay* nod in 2002, an *SL* first.

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