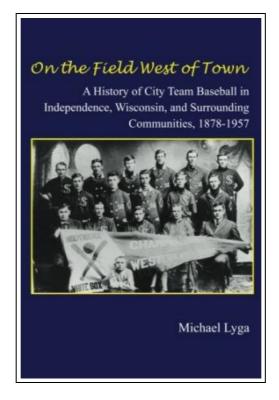
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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2011. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English. Brand new Book. From the 1800's to its demise in the 1950's, the game of "base ball" played a major role in small town society in West Central Wisconsin. This book traces the introduction of the game in one such community - Independence, Wisconsin - and chronologically follows its development through to its concluding year, 1957. The reader will be introduced to the teams, players, and events surrounding the rivalries between neighboring communities through season game reviews, numerous box scores and newspaper quotes, and 115 photos of teams and players from not only Independence, but also of those they competed against, half of the time in Independence, On the Field West of Town. The early days featured players such as Frank "Kiddo" Mish, Valentine "Young Pole" Tomazsewski, Melvin "Mouse" Elstad, and Theodore "Big T" Olson, and was a time of heavy wagering on games and a battle, at times, with religious people of the area who demanded the game not be played on the Sabbath. The era also featured a player named Louis Runkel, who not only played On the Field West of Town, but also captained the Wisconsin Badgers team of 1896, earned a law degree from the University, and played professionally for several years. An entire chapter is devoted to the biography of this interesting man who had such a great impact on the game and his community. One of the primary features of this early history is the numerous quoted words, phrases, sentences, and sometimes entire paragraphs taken from newspaper game summaries that lend an interesting and sometimes humorous sense of the times. It often is these quotes of long ago, written in a style no longer seen in sports journalism, that give the story...

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