

Preface

This book, *The Econometrics of Sport*, focuses on the empirical analysis of sports economics models using econometric techniques. In the Foreword Professor William Greene points out that this literature has been traditionally built on four central themes: competitive balance; labour relations; attendance and demand, price and income elasticities; and economic impact of sport on the economic community. Each section of this volume is devoted to one of these topics.

The first section is devoted to competitive balance with two papers by John Vrooman, and Rodney Fort and Young Hoon Lee. Vrooman presents a comprehensive study on competitive balance theory and Fort and Lee analyse the effect of the uncertainty of outcome on attendance for the case of Major League Baseball. The second part of the book is divided into four chapters about player's labour markets. In the first two, Stefan Szymanski and Bernd Frick study the relationship between players' wages and team performance for the case of English Premier League and European Football Leagues, respectively. The third chapter by Leo Kahane, Neil Longley and Robert Simmons estimates a salary model to distinguish between the salary returns to major and minor offenses in the National Hockey League and they also examine how the post-2004/05 lockout rule changes have affected salaries. The last paper by David Berri, Brad Humphreys and Robert Simmons is an application of what is known as nano-econometrics in which they estimate the returns to performance for offensive linemen in the National Football League.

Attendance is the topic of the third section with three papers. Roger Noll discusses the most relevant specification issues in demand modelling, Young Hoon Lee estimates variations in fan loyalty between teams and through time using multi-factor models applied to data from the Major Baseball League and Jaume García and Plácido Rodríguez analyse the determinants of football match attendance for two different groups of spectators: occasional spectators and season ticket holders, using data from the Spanish Football League. The last section is devoted to economic impact studies and is composed of three studies. In the first, Robert Baumann and Victor Matheson present an empirical examination of the

errors in ex post economic impact analysis using data on college athletics in the USA. Gabriel Ahlfeldt and Georgios Kavetsos focus on the impact that professional sports facilities have on prices of proximate properties in Greater London. Finally José Baños and Plácido Rodríguez analyse the expected economic impact for Spain of becoming the organizer of the FIFA World Cup.