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Oriole Magic: The O's Of 1983



Synopsis

That great season is resurrected with candid, colorful interviews and stories from every key member of the 1983 Orioles World Series Championship team along with detailed narrative about the major events throughout the season.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The 1982 baseball season ended in bitter disappointment for the Baltimore Orioles. After a brilliant stretch run put them in position to claim the Eastern Division title, the entire campaign came down to one game - winner take all. But the Oriole Magic ran out on the final day of the season, and the team's World Series dreams were put on hold for the duration of a long winter. It was during that winter that the Orioles named Joe Altobelli their new manager, replacing retired legend Earl Weaver. Altobelli had enormous shoes to fill come spring training, but he also had a veteran ballclub that had something to prove. With everyday players like Cal Ripken, Eddie Murray, Ken Singleton, and Rick Dempsey, and a pitching staff that included Mike Flanagan, Scott McGregor, Mike Boddicker, Dennis Martinez, and Jim Palmer, the Orioles were poised to achieve the glory that had eluded them the previous season. It wouldn't be a walk in the park, though. In fact, from the season's Opening Day - an embarrassing loss to start the "Altobelli Era" - to the final out of the World Series, the Baltimore Orioles' 1983 season was a virtual roller-coaster ride. Together the team experienced dramatic highs and lows and held on during the many twists and turns on the way to their ultimate goal. What made the 1983 championship all the more special - though nobody knew it at the time - was that it would be the franchise's last title to date, marking the end of a proud era that

dated back to 1966. Younger players like Ripken and Boddicker, as well as the legions of Baltimore fans, naturally expected to be in another World Series before long, as the franchise had been to six Series in the past 18 years. But things didn't turn out that way, and the franchise bottomed out five years later after starting the 1988 season at a record 0-21 en route to a franchise-worst 107 losses. Years later we are finally seeing signs of that Oriole Magic again and feeling what it was like to be linked to the Orioles in the summer of '83. Oriole Magic is the first book that introduces us to all of the subplots and personalities that contributed so greatly to that unforgettable summer. Orioles fans will not only relive one of the proudest times in Baltimore's sports history, they will also get a true, inside look into the machinations of the franchise's last world championship.

Thom Loverro is a sports columnist for The Washington Times. The winner of numerous awards, Loverro joined the Baltimore sun in 1984 as a reporter and editor. In 1992 he moved to the Times, where he has covered Baltimore Orioles baseball, Washington Redskins football, and a host of other sports, including several Olympic Games. Other books by Thom Loverro include Blazing Trails with John Mackey, The Story of Camden Yards, and The Washington Redskins: The Authorized History.

my brother loves it, it was a great bday gift, came in great time and just as described on the internet.

Any book about the O's is a winner.

Rating: 2 1/2 of 5 stars (so-so) - rounded up to 3 for and Goodreads Review: The Baltimore Orioles were one of baseball's most successful franchises for nearly 20 years "from their shocking 1966 World Series sweep to the 1983 championship, the team was very successful and this book by former Orioles beat writer Thom Loverro recaps that last championship season from start to finish. The book starts with a look back at past Orioles disappointments - the 1969 World Series loss to the New York Mets, being the first team to lose a World Series after having a three-games-to-one lead to the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1979, to losing the Eastern Division on the last day of the season in 1982 to the Milwaukee Brewers. These were used as motivation for the 1983 team, something Loverro reminds the reader regularly. I thought it was mentioned too often, one of the problems I had reading this book. I felt the biggest strength of this book was also its biggest weakness. While Loverro does a good job of recapping the season's games, it was hard to keep up on what series was being played against which team. The details of each game were

written up almost like a newspaper article written to be read in the morning edition. That would be logical since Loverro covered the team for a Washington newspaper, but reading a book that is a narrative of the season written in that style was difficult to fully enjoy. I also felt that when the book left the recap to tell a story about a player, it didn't seem to be connected with the season at that point. Here Loverro gets a plus for not only talking about the stars like Eddie Murray and Cal Ripken Jr. but also other players such as Dan Ford and John Lowenstein. However, no matter who the story was about when it was told, it felt like a distraction to the recap of the season instead of an enhancement. This wasn't a terrible book as the details were good, the game-by-game listing at the end was a nice touch, and some of the player stories were interesting. But as a book to read and enjoy it just didn't do that for me. Therefore, the rating of this book is right down the middle 2 1/2 of 5 stars. Did I skim? No. Pace of the book: It was a fast read, but very choppy as the narrative goes from recapping games to a story about a player back to the games to some other tidbit such as the fate of the manager. This would be fine if they were somehow connected with transition sentences or paragraphs, which were lacking. Do I recommend? Oriole fans will enjoy this recap of their latest championship. Other baseball fans may wish to pass on this one as there isn't much depth or entertainment value in this book. Book Format Read: E-book (Kindle)

Being an Orioles fan, I was very excited about the possibility of going back in time to re-live the last championship season. Unfortunately, the book turned out to be a disappointment. This book has little insight on what went on, with few in-depth interviews or details. The book is poorly written and soulless, being more a chronological narration of events than a true document that takes you back to the excitement lived by a championship team. It seems to me that you would get close to the same effect of how the season went by just going over the boxscores of Orioles' games. Inevitably, I compared it with the book "The Bad Guys Won!" (the tale of the 1986 Mets) and it pales in comparison. Both teams were quite different, but the way the Orioles' book is written, it seems they were the dullest of teams, winning without any heart. Even though I'm an Oriole fan, I got more excited about the Mets' championship season than the Orioles'! Finally, as a literary piece of work, it is quite poor: bad use of the English language, bad storytelling, relies too much on stats description, etc.

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