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Dream Team: How Michael, Magic, Larry, Charles, And The Greatest Team Of All Time Changed The Game Of Basketball Forever



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Synopsis

How Michael, Magic, Larry, Charles, and the greatest team of all time conquered the world and changed the game of basketball forever. They were the Beatles of basketball, the Mercury Seven in sneakers.... In Dream Team, acclaimed sports journalist Jack McCallum delivers the untold story of the greatest team ever assembled: the 1992 U.S. Olympic men’s basketball team that captivated the world, kindled the hoop dreams of countless children around the planet, and remade the NBA into a global sensation. As a senior staff writer for Sports Illustrated, McCallum enjoyed a courtside seat for the most exciting basketball spectacle on earth, covering the Dream Team from its inception to the gold medal ceremony in Barcelona. For the duration of the Olympics, he lived with, golfed with, and - most importantly - drank with some of the greatest players of the NBA’s Golden Age: Magic Johnson, the ebullient showman who shrugged off his recent diagnosis of HIV to become the team’s unquestioned captain and leader; Michael Jordan, the transcendent talent at the height of his powers as a player - and a marketing juggernaut; and Charles Barkley, the outspoken iconoclast whose utterances on and off the court threatened to ignite an international incident. Presiding over the entire traveling circus was the Dream Team’s beloved coach, Chuck Daly, whose laissez-faire approach proved instrumental in getting the most out of such disparate personalities and superstars as Larry Bird, Patrick Ewing, and Scottie Pippen. Drawing on fresh interviews with the players, McCallum provides the definitive account of the Dream Team phenomenon. He offers a behind-the-scenes look at the controversial selection process. He takes us inside the team’s Olympic suites for late-night card games and bull sessions where the players debate both the finer points of basketball and their respective places in the NBA pantheon. And he narrates a riveting possession-by-possession account of the legendary July 1992 intrasquad scrimmage that pitted the Dream Teamers against one another in what may have been the greatest pickup game - and the greatest exhibition of trash talk - in history. In the 20 years since the Dream Team first captivated the world’s attention, its mystique has only grown - and so has its influence. The NBA is now flush with international stars, many of them inspired by the exuberant spirit of ’92. Dream Team vividly recreates the moment when a once-in-a-millennium group of athletes came together, outperformed the hype, and changed the future of sports - one perfectly executed fast break at a time.

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Customer Reviews

Reading Dream Team brought me back to when I was a 14 year old getting to enjoy all the great legends of the NBA at the time on the same team. Getting to watch those great names in action was always such a treat, especially being a Bulls fan and having the privilege of watching MJ and Scottie do their thing on both ends of the court. But in Dream Team, Jack McCallum gives a behind the scenes look at how it all came to be and the controversies and alliances that formed after the team was assembled. I only wish he had given more details on the specifics of the games, but the section on the scrimmage between the players on the team was fun reading and really page-turning. Apparently Michael and Magic didn't always get along when it came to winning and losing.This was truly the greatest basketball team ever assembled, and this is the definitive account of that.

As an avid basketball fan and player, I loved this book. I would thoroughly recommend it to anyone who has a love for the game. If you are not a basketball fan, this probably is not the book for you.Jack McCallum had the unique opportunity to ride along with the Dream Team through its wild ups and (very few) downs. His firsthand accord of what happened in practices, games, and locker rooms is fantastic. He obviously established personal relationships with most of the players on the team. I particularly enjoyed the chapters on Christian Laettner and Scottie Pippen. His details about the coaching staff (especially Coach K) kept me itching for more. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity for a reporter, and McCallum perspicaciously soaked it all in.The writing in the book is very strong. His use of prose and varying sentence structure was refreshing. As a reader, you could tell this isnt the writer's first rodeo. The only thing I would change would be the length of the book. Certain chapters ran a little long, but didnt necessarily take away from the enjoyment of the book.

Amazingly detailed account of the Dream Team & how they were formed. Who would've thought that the idea of putting NBA players didn''t come from America but from Europe? Some little knows facts pop up every now and then which are invaluable as insights. We get a look into the politics that might have played around in the background. We get a detailed account of each and every player in the dream team too, and how in spite of being competitors they really came together to form one hell of an amazing team. then we see how this affected basketball for the whole world and really took the game to the next level internationally. Brilliant book

If you're familiar with the Dream Team and seen the documentary, then you got most of the main highlights of the book. He does go more in depth on some areas, such as how the team was formed and the "greatest game never seen". The author clearly has a spectacular vocabulary, but his writing style is not much to write home about. I felt like I was just flipping each page hoping to learn something new that I hadn't seen in the documentary, and there were small portions of that, but he doesn't write in a way that flows well.

Bought this book thinking that it was the Dream Team book I really enjoyed when I was younger. Read a few chapters and knew that something about it was not right. It didn't flow as smoothly and not as fun as how I used to remember it.Then, I googled around and then found out that I bought the wrong book! "The Golden Boys" by Stauth is a MUCH better book. Skip McCallum's. If you really want to dig what the Dream Team was like, check out The Golden Boys. Won't disappoint!

As someone that fondly remembers the 1992 Dream Team, this was one of my favorite books. It brought back a lot of memories, including obscure ones like "Uniform-Gate" for the Gold Medal ceremony and also included much unknown material, such as the lives of the players during the Olympics in Barcelona. I highly recommend this to anyone that was old enough to remember that team and followed players like Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, Larry Bird, and Charles Barkley closely during their careers.

This book came to me very highly recommended, it did not reach those heights, still enjoyable, just not worthy of the hype

Everyone knows the story of the 1992 Dream Team. A collection of a dozen of America's greatest players, and Christian Laettner. They were brought together for one common goal: to bring the gold

back to the States. And boy, did they do it!McCallum is a fantastic writer, and he really brings you into their universe in this book. You go out to the golf courses that Jordan and Daly liked to visit, to the casinos that these millionaires liked to gamble in, and of course the basketball court where the magic (and Magic, as it were) took place.The book even describes in fantastic detail of a intrasquad game between MJ and Magic Johnson lead teams, which was brimming with pent up envy and one-upmanship.An essential read for fans of the beautiful game.

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