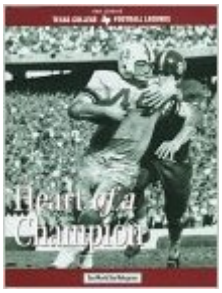
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John David Crow: Heart Of A Champion (Texas Legends Series)



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Synopsis

1997 hardcover with dust jacket. jacket has slight edgewear. otherwise, clean

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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John David Crow came into the NFL as the Heisman Trophy winner from Texas A&M, posessing speed, size, toughness, and the ability to run, pass, catch and kick. He also could play defense. Unfortunately, he was drafted by the Chicago Cardinals, a chronically bad team that did not have the overall team talent to showcase someone as gifted as Crow. For 7 years he was buried in Chicago (later to become St. Louis), until he was dealt to San Francisco for the last four years of his career (where he caught 14 touchdowns coming out of the backfield - Golly Gee Batman!!!!!!). He was a bigger and faster version of Frank Gifford, the wonder boy and eventual Hall of Famer for the Giants. The luck of the draw.But I got ahead of myself. As a youngster Crow was quite a high school football player, and he matriculated to Texas A&M to play for the as yet unknown Bear Bryant, who figures almost as much in Crow's story as Crow does. Crow was one of two stud running backs who entered Texas A&M at the same time, the other being a super fast kid (9.3 hundred) who was faster, larger, stronger and shiftier than Crow. So how did it come to pass that Crow became the starter and the other kid didn't? Well, we never find out in the book, not because the author didn't do his homework, but rather because Bryant never told anyone, and to this day neither Crow nor his teammates know why Bryant had it in for this kid, whom he treated dismissively for four years of

football (and in case you are wondering why he was mistreated, considering the times and social mores that existed in the late 50's, the kid was white). It simply appears that Bryant saw something in Crow that brought about a certain amount of concern, caring and reverence that he did not exhibit for anyone else. A case in point is when Crow passed out at practice due to dehydration (in those days the coaches restricted the amount of water the players could drink because to drink water was a sign of weakness). Crow was rushed to the hospital where he was near death for some days. Bryant hardly left his side, and during this time showed a kind of remorse and second guessing that was singularly unique during his time at Texas A&M. Another example is Crow's name - John DAVID Crow. Until Crow got to Texas A&M, his middle name was not referenced. While it appears to be true that in Texas, for some reason, the use of the middle name takes on an importance that it really doesn't anywhere else, the fact was that Crow was the only one that Bryant ever called by his middle name. It was always, "John David, how are you feeling today?" It stuck, and forever he was to be known as John David Crow, not John Crow. Considering the almost fatherly concern that Bryant had for Crow, I couldn't help wondering if Bryant saw Crow as his meal ticket into the big time (he left after the season to coach at Alabama). Naw, I don't think so - I believe that Bryant simply revered Crow for being a class act.You should read this rather short book (160 pages) if you want to learn about the very early days of Texas A&M football (their practice field didn't even have grass), about a legendary coach who wasn't such an icon during his first head coaching gig, and mostly about a man who had natural physical gifts that were largely overlooked by all except those who played against him, and who worked hard every day despite playing on awful teams and having to overcome a huge physical handicap (read the book to find out what). Recommended.

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