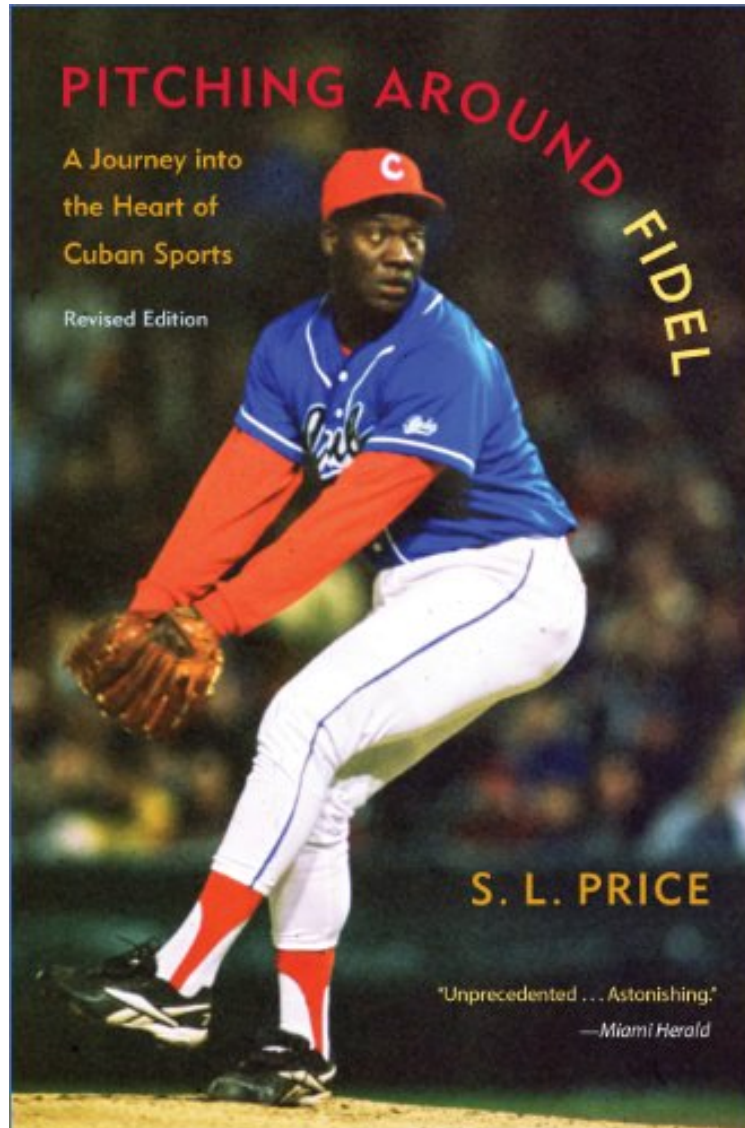


(Download) Pitching Around Fidel: A Journey into the Heart of Cuban Sports

Pitching Around Fidel: A Journey into the Heart of Cuban Sports

Von S. L. Price

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Von S. L. Price : Pitching Around Fidel: A Journey into the Heart of Cuban Sports before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pitching Around Fidel: A Journey into the Heart of Cuban Sports:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Excellent but Unfulfilling Von Donald Ray Hopkins In this period of Elian Gonzalez saturation, I was very pleased to learn of the book by S.L. Price. I was in graduate school at the time of the Bay of Pigs. I visited Cuba in 1979 for a

period of 10 days. I have been an avid reader about the developments on the Island, before and after Castro. I cannot imagine anyone, however one feels about Castro or the Cuban revolution, not finding a mother lode of delightful information, commentary, anecdotes, etc., in Price's book. If one happens to be a sports fan, as I am, the book is doubly rewarding; to read of the tidbits about people like Canseco (who played in my hometown), Ordonez, Stevenson, et.al. Plus, the book gives the reader the context and texture of Cuba since Castro: its sights, its sounds, its people, and the extraordinary complexity of the issues involved in evaluating the success or failure of the revolution, or in assigning blame or fault for what has gone right, and for what has gone wrong. If I have a fault with Price's conclusion, it is in the nonjudgmental tone of the Postscript, where he says, "for me, the game is over. Castro's country is a place" as the cliché is about New York, to be visited, but no place to live. After all Price has seen heard and observed, and after his prodigious research, one would have expected him to say something more trenchant. I would at a minimum have expected him to wonder, however wistfully, what might the Cuban revolution have accomplished but for the implacable hostility of the United States. But alas, in the end, I suppose we are all patriots, though writers like Price seem to not understand that citizens of Cuba can also be patriots, however wierd that may appear to an American.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Landmark in Sportswriting Von J. Gaines I was moved to tears by S.L. Price's poignant and unique view into the Cuban life. S.L. clearly drew on his sincere personal interest in Cuban culture to gain unprecedented access to compelling figures like Teofilo Stevenson and Lazaro Valle. We all know about El Duque, but Valle's bittersweet story, recounted with giddy mirthful hilarity behind a dilapidated garage, left a haunting impression of perhaps the world's greatest pitcher, reduced to sneaking change out of a waiter's tip. Sweet as lemon pie.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Interesting read. Von Jeanne Lightly A vivid and heartbreaking elegy to a place and time fading before our eyes.

Kurzbeschreibung "Fascinating."--Chicago Tribune "Unprecedented... Astonishing."--Miami Herald "A rarity: a balanced, compassionate, intimate journal of Cuba's slow, agonizing decay."--Sports Illustrated "Price describes a lovely, proud, impoverished people caught in [a] repressive system that destroys thousands as it celebrates a handful."--Kirkus "Takes the wider view, poking its nose into the politics and culture of Cuba every few pages. Price has an easy, lyrical style that elevates his work beyond the usual sports fare."--Business Week "Fascinating, sometimes hilarious, often heart-wrenching."--Philadelphia Inquirer "Easily the most engaging book on Cuban sports--if not Cuba--published in many years."--Baseball America "Offers a rare and provocative tour of the world's most remarkable sports culture. It's an unforgettable story of supremely gifted athletes, the utter madness of politics, and the scent of big money across the sea."--Carl Hiaasen "Price is one of the finest writers on sports anywhere."--USA Today S. L. Price, a senior writer at Sports Illustrated since 1994, has been called a "Master of the New Journalism" by the New York Times. An award-winning former columnist and feature writer at the Miami Herald and the Sacramento Bee, he is also the author of *Far Afield*, which *Esquire* named one of the five best books of 2007, and *Heart of the Game*, which was named the #1 baseball book of 2009 by Baseball America.

deAt the core of Cuban sports is an enigma that Sports Illustrated senior writer S.L. Price captures in two sentences. The first part of it "holds that the great Cuban sports machine--instrument of totalitarian control and propaganda--is rightfully cracking apart. The second holds that Castro's regime not only has produced an unparalleled athletic system, but has also fostered a sports purist's delight, an American ideal, no less, for Cuba is one of the last places where athletes play for little more than love of the game." How is that possible? *Pitching Around Fidel* smartly aligns the contradictions. It's a provocative and penetrating look at the most fascinating and rabid sports culture on the planet, why sports in Cuba works, why it doesn't, and how its marvelous and gifted athletes are torn between the loyalties of home and the whiff of money 90 miles across the sea. Cuban athletes have been put on a pedestal since Castro took power, and their achievements on the international stage have swelled the national chest and been interpreted as triumphs over capitalism. Yet as conditions on the embargoed island deteriorate, athletes who complain are banished to oblivion, while others--think Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez of the Yankees and Mets shortstop Rey Ordonez--flee for freedom and cash. Price's reportage on how freedom and money have changed many of the exiles, Ordonez most notably, is stunning. And still, despite rundown facilities and repatched equipment, Cuba keeps turning out remarkable athletes and loyal fans. Examining the state of sports on the island, Price is in effect examining the state itself, and his own relationship to sports--and the big money of American sports--in the process. While the portrait he paints is not pretty, it is fascinating. There's much poignance in the joy that emanates from Cuba's playing fields, the passion in the stands, and the shabbiness Price observes in the appearance of the great Teofilo Stevenson--the multi-Olympic heavyweight champion and the island's reigning sports icon. Not even an icon can override the revolution's contradictions. --Jeff Silverman *Pressestimmen* [A] fabulous Cuba book. . .by an amazing sports writer. "The Daily Beast" [A] fabulous Cuba book. . .by an amazing sports writer. The Daily Beast"