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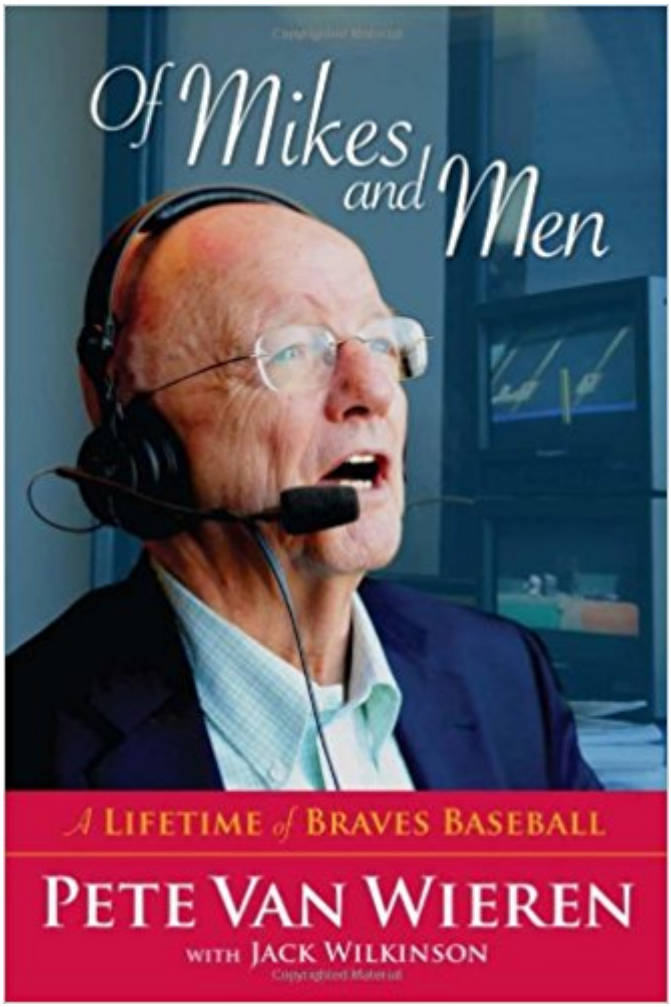
Of Mikes And Men: A Lifetime Of Braves Baseball



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Synopsis

The extraordinary life of an Atlanta Braves Hall of Fame broadcaster is shared in this firsthand account of the highs and lows of Major League Baseball. Pete Van Wierenâ ™s legacy began in 1976, when he and a young Skip Caray were hired to call Atlanta Braves games. During the next three decades, "the Professor" and Caray became the voices of a team known nationwide as America’s Team courtesy of Ted Turner’s SuperStation TBS. In this heartfelt autobiography, Van Wieren shares his memories of thrilling moments in Braves history, such as the 1995 season when the Braves won the world championship; the pitching mastery of Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine, and John Smoltz; the heartbreak of the 1996 World Series loss to the Yankees; and Atlanta’s unprecedented run of 14 consecutive division titles.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Of Mikes and Men, an autobiography by long-time Braves announcer Pete Van Wieren, will undoubtedly be of interest to most Atlanta braves fans. Unfortunately, the book doesn’t live up to my admittedly high expectations. While his book is solid, it is wholly unremarkable. It is competent, it is professional, but through most of the pages, it is lacking in both heart and surprisingly, for the man Braves fans know as "The Professor", in depth. As anyone who watched a Braves broadcast during the many years he sat behind the mic knows, Pete’s steady hand was the anchor of every Atlanta Braves broadcasts. He was the perfect counter to Ernie Johnson’s homer and Skip Carray’s smart-ass. His book lets him down.The majority of the book is dedicated to the Braves run of fourteen straight division titles, and this portion of the book tends to be a simple litany of facts

written in prose, when a list would have sufficed. Perhaps this is a misjudgment of audience? The people most likely to read this book, Braves fans, already know about the constant World Series disappointments. Pete, who was there for the whole run and would often have morning coffee with Bobby Cox, doesn't offer any in depth analysis into why the Braves were able to win their division so often, or why they failed in the post-season so often. He just mentions that they did.Likewise, the early portion of his career is skimmed over with mentions of a few famous games (like the brawl-a-thon with the Padres or the billion-inning affair against the Mets where Rick Camp hit a grand slam to keep the game going ... Braves fans know the games) without offering any insight into the games or even recreating them in the kind of language that would make them come alive.

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