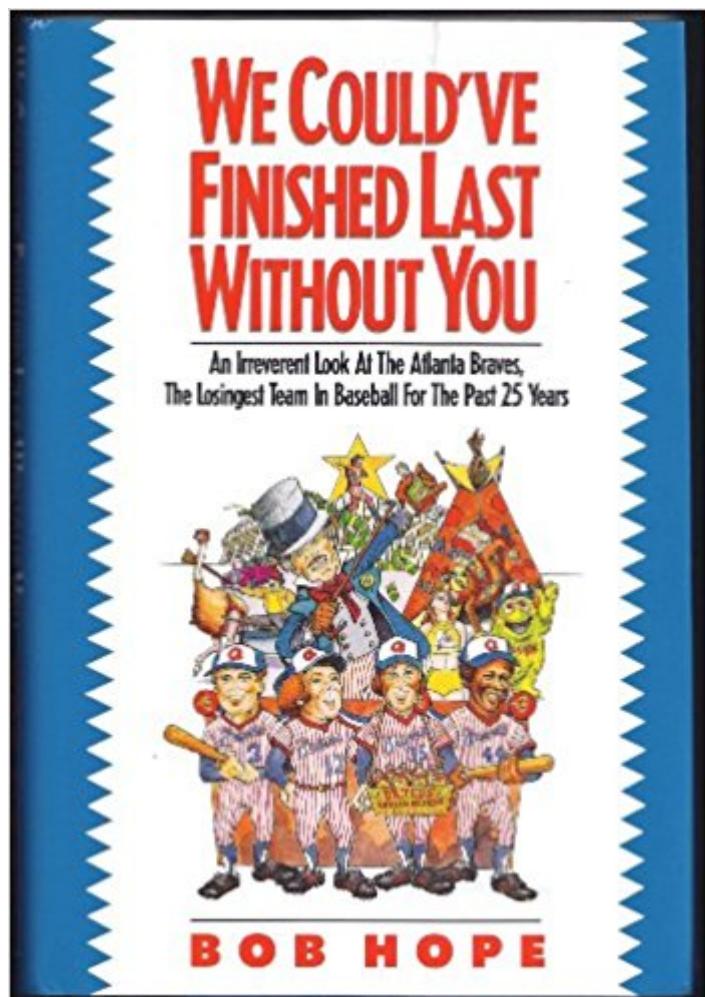


The book was found

We Could've Finished Last Without You: An Irreverent Look At The Atlanta Braves, The Losingest Team In Baseball For The Past 25 Years



Synopsis

Book by Hope, Bob

Book Information

Hardcover: 215 pages

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Customer Reviews

Bob Hope's book was a terrific read--full of memories of those hapless (but loved) Braves teams from the seventies and eighties. From the broadcast booth (Milo Hamilton) to the front office (Ted Turner), the Braves' larger than life personalities always kept them on the front page--and the team's zany promotions helped keep the stadium seats full when the team couldn't. These were the days of Bob Didier, Mike Lum, Felix Millan, Brad Komminsk and Bob Horner--familiar to Braves fans but who quickly came and went off the major league radar. But they were also the days of unforgettable memories, as Hope writes eloquently of Dale Murphy and his MVP back-to-back seasons. The author's extraordinary tribute to Hank Aaron, the greatest ever, who gave modern baseball its greatest memory in 1974, was as facisnating as it was poignant. If you grew up in the South or ever went to one of the those Braves games in the 1970s or 1980's, you will love this book. In fact, I bought one for my Mom, who was the biggest Braves fan in our family. If you can find a copy of this book, buy it--it's a classic for baseball fans anywhere.

Although the title's post-script claims to be an "irreverent look at the Atlanta Braves," this book is really about its author, the Braves long-time publicity director, Bob Hope. Hope chronicles his meteoric rise through the Braves organization from an usher to the Braves general manager (for about three days) and the zany promotions that he helmed during his time with the team. Another central figure in this tome is Ted Turner, the Braves fascinatingly complex and semi-maniacal

long-time owner. From the start, Hope seems unsure whether he wants his book to serve as a breezy memoir or a meditation on the actual game of baseball. When Ted Turner enters the scene in 1975, the book begins to act as a character study for the mercurial self-styled everyman. In the end, Hope's scatterbrained approach is couched firmly in the memoir tradition and certainly not an "irreverent look at the Braves" as the title suggests. Even though Hope bounces all over the board in his organizational approach, the prose is always engaging and never tired or boring. Hope's droll humor comes through in spades, as does his self-importance, making for an interesting although flawed read. This book was written in 1991, the same year the Braves began their unprecedented run of fourteen consecutive division titles. As an avid Braves fan and a voracious imbiber of baseball literature, this book for me acts as a perfect link between the Braves woeful past and their transcendent 90s and early 00s run - as well as evidence of "hope" (pun certainly intended) for their future. Go Braves!

This is an great inside view of the Atlanta Braves front office from an former employee. The Ted Turner years are the best part of the book.

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