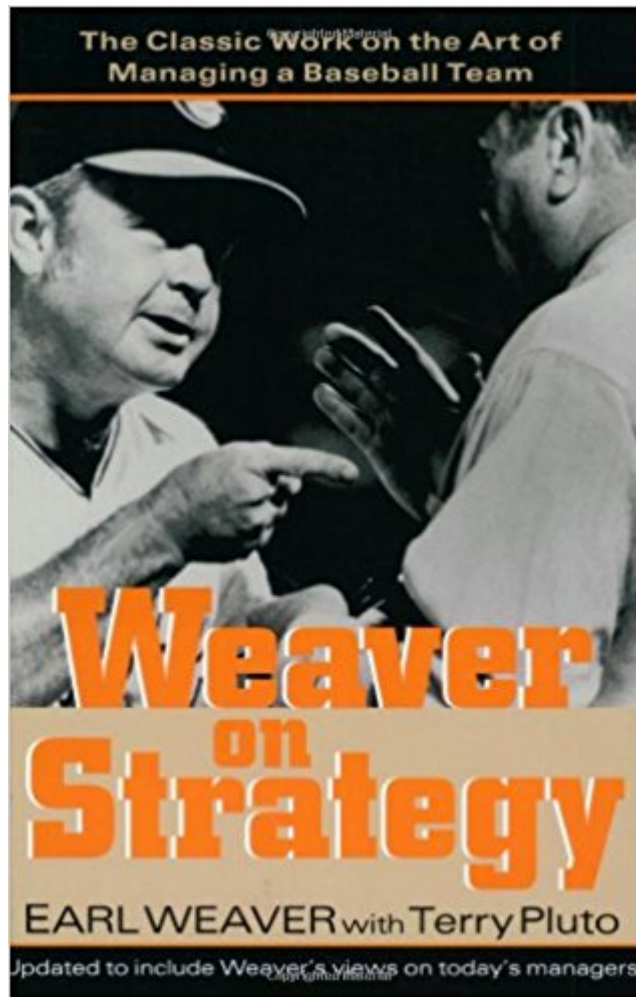


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Weaver On Strategy: The Classic Work On The Art Of Managing A Baseball Team



Synopsis

During his career as the manager of the Baltimore Orioles, Earl Weaver was called "baseball's resident genius." His distinctive style of managing helped his teams finish first or second thirteen times in his seventeen years as a manager. This volume reveals Weaver's approach to the game, with a focus on how to manage a roster, a lineup, and a pitching staff. He defines the differences between running a team during a single game and managing it during an entire season. In his characteristically blunt style, Weaver explains everything from how to tell when a pitcher is tiring to how and when to argue with an umpire. Successful ball clubs still mimic his offensive strategies. Readers of this updated edition will learn new ways to think about the game as it's played today.

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Customer Reviews

I've owned this book for several years but felt compelled to write a review after Weaver passed away on January 19, 2013. Weaver was one of, if not the first, managers to embrace what came to be known as Sabermetrics in how he shaped and utilized his team. This book explains his philosophies on hitting, fielding and pitching and contains insight that remains as valuable to winning baseball in the 21st century as it was when he managed the great Orioles teams of the 70's. Weaver's humor and irascibility run throughout the narrative. The man loved baseball and his contributions to the game will never be forgotten.

Earl Weaver reveals some of the reasons he was such a successful manager. Baseball fans can

use this book to get a better understanding of the strategy behind the managerial decisions. Some of Earl Weaver's advice is admittedly questionable for the current game, so he added a 2002 epilogue to comment on his past advice. Earl Weaver was not as hot headed as was the impression from his arguments with umpires. His attitude is that it was better for the manager to be thrown out of a game than to have one of his valuable players thrown out. He explains how he looked upon each decision as a type of gamble, basing the odds of success largely on past performance when a player was in a similar situation. That is why he kept and used lots of player statistics.

Years of statistical research and number-crunching have proven one thing: Earl Weaver was a pretty smart guy. Weaver, who didn't frown on using numbers himself, was a living hybrid of old-fashioned baseball wisdom and a forward-thinking organizational mind that helped turn the Baltimore Orioles into a dynasty. For the fan, you can read about how Weaver achieved such great success in the majors with methods not out of line with modern, or "sabermetric" analysis. For a manager or coach, Weaver offers a lot of practical advice about managing a ballclub. This won't teach you how to hit a curveball, but it will tell you what lineup to use against a curveball pitcher, how to handle players both young and old, and how to run an effective spring training regimen. Weaver's advice is pertinent and insightful even now, 20 years after he managed his last game.

Earl Weaver was manager of the Baltimore Orioles during most of their glory years, 1968-1982 and 1985-1986 (skipping the World Series year of 1983). The team only had one losing record during that season and had stars like Jim Palmer, Eddie Murray, a young Cal Ripken, Lee May, and Mike Cuellar. The book is Weaver's fairly straight forward view on every position and most elements of baseball from the third base coach to the lineup card. Weaver has ten rules, many of which still apply today though some are more outdated (a four man rotation would be an anachronism today). Weaver was known for fighting with umpires and gives some perspective on that here, emphasizing that his job was to keep the players from fighting with the umps so he did it for them. One thing that really surprised me was the lack of interaction Weaver had with players, admitting that he did not speak to them much when things were going well, which they usually were during the years he managed the Orioles. As an Orioles fan, it can be a little depressing reading about these glory and win filled years. The book is short, to the point, and great for any baseball fan.

This is a great, quick read on the basics of managing a Major League Baseball Team. Weaver

preaches many principles of sabermetrics, before they had come into vogue. Instead, he had come to espouse many sabermetric principles (i.e. high OBP guys at the top of the lineup, eschewing stealing/the hit and run/sacrifice bunting) not by reading Bill James, but simply from watching thousands of baseball games. His book lays out his simple yet innovative approaches to the game, and also, indirectly proves how intelligent of a manager he had been. Admittedly, this book is a little dated, but his main points still hold true in today's game. For anyone who wants to talk intelligently about managers in the Majors. This is a must read.

This book provides great insight into the strategy that Weaver used on his way to a hall of fame managerial career. With that said, I was hoping to read more anecdotes about his legendary temper. Still, this book is a must read for coaches, players or fans looking for a unique view of baseball.

With Baseball season almost here, I needed a baseball book to tide me over till then. Weaver, the former Skipper of my Beloved Baltimore Orioles, gives in this short readable book funny, insightful explanations as to how the game should be managed and played. The advice is still good today. Earl you'll be missed. Try to keep the language clean when you're talking around all those angels in Heaven...

It is easy to see why Weaver was one of the most successful coaches in Baseball. His approach to the game is analogous to many different things we do in life. His perception and the processes he applied were what set him apart from many. These are similar to the TQM processes applied in business today.

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