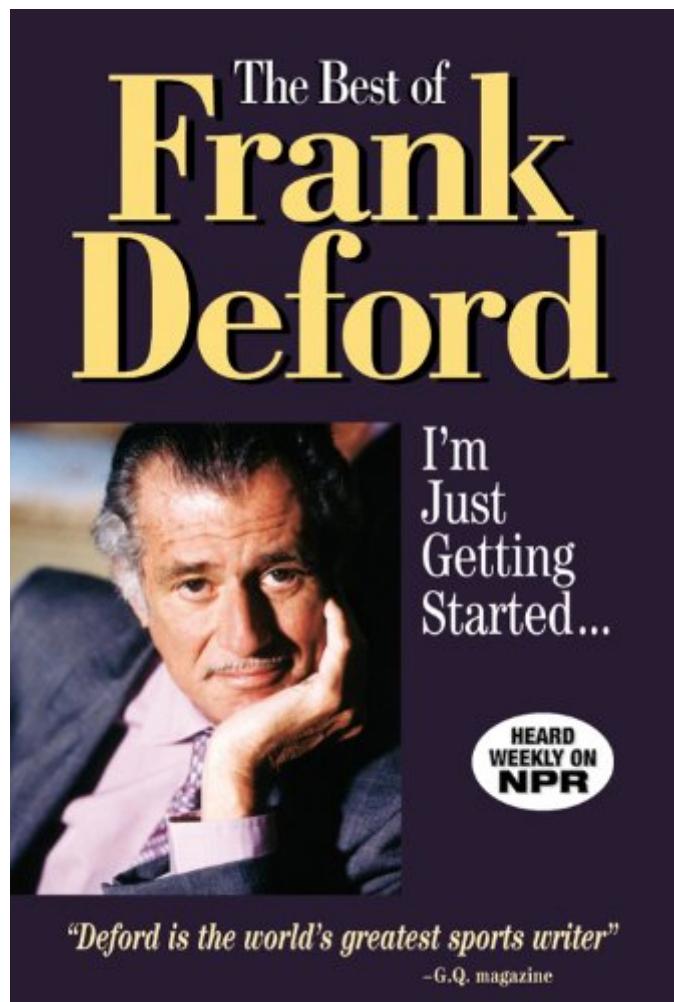


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The Best Of Frank Deford: I'm Just Getting Started...



Synopsis

Whether Frank Deford is the voice you hear on National Public Radio's Morning Edition or the name you see in the Newsweek byline, you are sure to be highly entertained with the irreverent musings of this much-acclaimed sports mind. Deford possesses a witty and poignant take on the world of athletics that has earned him a wealth of fans, from the most ardent sports enthusiast to the greenest novice. In this best of the best compilation, Deford creates insightful, richly, drawn yarns on the human drama and the occasional high comedy of athletic competition. The Best of Frank Deford relates not only the specific and the spectacular events that make up great sports writing, but reflects through sports the larger world of American culture. This is a grand collection of his most vivid caricatures, colorful anecdotes, and out-of-left-field observations on the often humbling and humorous nature of sport. The Best of Frank Deford is a treasure of Deford's best writing and will make an instant fan of any reader.

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Customer Reviews

Frank Deford is a brilliant writer, not to mention, probably the single greatest sports' writer on the planet. He just takes sports' writing to a higher level. The Best of Frank Deford will prove this. This

book showcases some of Deford's best work as a journalist. Although some of the articles are a little dated, his style and amazing use of language still shines. The pieces included in this book are easily some of the best writing available. Any inspiring journalist could learn a great deal from this collection of writings. Deford never holds anything back, and he is never afraid to speak his mind. I personally enjoyed the in-depth look at Bobby Knight. But, there are many other treasures in this candid book. Overall, this is an excellent book and quite a fast read. Deford's witty and extremely articulate writing style allows you to flow right through the book. This is a masterpiece of writing, and a true pleasure for any sports' fan. The Best of Frank Deford is simply the best.

Frank Deford is arguably one of the most gifted sports writers and commentators of our times. He is able to stand back and see the big picture. This compilation of Deford's NPR spots and columns spans a wide array of sports and sports figures. I think he is best when he profiles the people in sports. There are pieces on Pete Rose, Bobby Knight, Bill Russell, Keith VanHorn and those we may not know as well. What I like best is his obvious affection for and knowledge of the history of sports. The pieces in this book are short enough that you can skip the ones which don't grab you immediately. His outlook is wry and affectionate. Some of these pieces are Deford at his best. The majority are merely good.

Deford continues to offer fresh looks at sports on his weekly NPR feature. In this collection of essays, he reveals himself as a fine writer, as well as an outspoken observer of the sport scene. The selection presented here should have something of interest for fans of every sport. It covers the entire field. I am completely satisfied with this book; but I am in my 80s. I give it a satisfactory rating--rather than outstanding--because it is pretty dated. The topics and athletes it covers may not mean as much to the reader who is under 50. It really would sell better in a mass market edition.

In my opinion Frank Deford has long since been one of the preeminent sports journalists of our time. What keeps me from giving this book more of a rave is that most of the pieces contained within are transcripts of his short NPR pieces and as a result sound better than they read.

For anyone who enjoys Deford's witty, literate commentaries on sports and society--or those who haven't had the pleasure of reading his work--this book is a great introduction! I have to agree that Deford's best work is found in his longer magazine articles. His work for 'Sports Illustrated' alone could fill a few volumes, and the best pieces in this volume are those 'SI' stories already mentioned.

by other reviewers. Personally, I would have preferred more articles and fewer NPR essays. The shorter, 'intended for broadcast' commentaries are sort of a 'Reader's Digest Condensed' version of Deford's wit and wisdom-tantalizing glimpses that leave the reader wishing he had more room to elaborate! I especially recommend "When There Were Still Elusive Barriers" (about Bannister and Hillary), and "Got to Do Some Coachin'" (the brilliant play that encapsulates the turbulent personal life of Arkansas basketball coach Nolan Richardson).

Frank Deford is a most articulate, persuasive, engaging writer---perhaps the finest sports journalist writing today. The collection of articles and commentaries contained in "I'm Just Getting Started" are from 1980 to 1999 and touch on every aspect of sports. You get insight, irony, humor, commentary, entertainment, nostalgia and optimism as you turn the pages---all delivered in a most literate manner. The essay on Bill Russell alone is worth the price of admission. "Frank Deford Goes Bowling" is an intriguing take on a subject seldom written up in sports pages. Enjoyable for more than sports fans.

I love listening to Frank Deford on NPR. He gets to the heart of the matter and uses such great vocabulary. I am not a sports fan but, as a High School teacher and Wife & Mother of 2 sports aficionados, I am interested in the History and modern day controversies that go on in sports, so I can periodically speak with some credibility with my constituents. I bought this book for my 15 year old son, who had never heard of Deford, but is a fan of Rick O'Reilly. He loved this book and could not put it down. He has added Deford to his list of favorite writers.

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