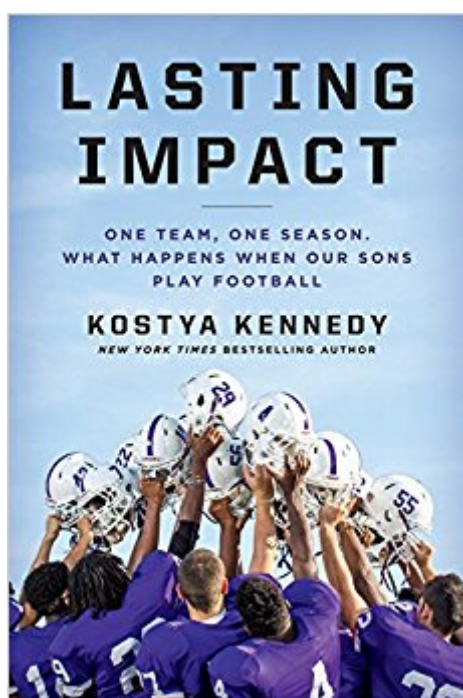


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Lasting Impact: One Team, One Season. What Happens When Our Sons Play Football



Synopsis

New York Times bestselling author Kostya Kennedy sets this captivating, character-rich story against the back-drop of one of the most pressing questions in sports: Should we let our sons play football? At the high end of America's most popular game is the glittering NFL, a fan-stoked money machine and also an opaque enterprise under scrutiny for the physical dangers imposed on its players. Then there's high school football, unrivaled for the crucial life lessons it imparts-discipline, leadership, cooperation, humility, perseverance-yet also a brain-rattling, bone-breaking game whose consequences are at best misunderstood, and, at the very worst, deadly. What is the parent of a young athlete to make of that?The New Rochelle High School team in suburban New York is like many across the country: a source of civic pride, a manhood workshop for a revered coach and an emotional proving ground for boys of widely different backgrounds. In the fall of 2014, New Rochelle's season unfolded alongside watershed NFL head injury revelations and domestic abuse cases (remember Ray Rice?), as well as fatalities on nearby fields.The dramatic story of that season, for players, parents and coaches, underscores fundamental questions. Are football's inherent risks so great that the sport may not survive as we know it? Or are those risks worth the rewards that the game continues to bestow, and that can stay with a young man for a lifetime?

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Customer Reviews

"This riveting story about a high school football team is more than just the intriguing tale of a season. It's also the crucial examination of America's passion for our true national pastime, football."
—Christine Brennan, USA Today
"We've read about concussions and worse in the

NFL and colleges, and now Kostya Kennedy examines the game at a high school rich in pride, tradition and battle scars. He paints a thoughtful, big-hearted picture of an old-school coach, players whose passion can overwhelm their judgment, second-guessing parents and yesterday's heroes, ranging from a violinist to a convict. 'Make your moment memorable,' one alum tells the team. It is Kennedy, however, who does the most with that advice." — John Schulian, editor of *Football: Great Writing About the National Sport*

KOSTYA KENNEDY, is the author of *56: Joe DiMaggio and the Last Magic Number* in Sports and *Pete Rose: An American Dilemma*. Both were New York Times Bestsellers and both earned the Casey Award as Best Baseball Book of its respective year. A former senior writer and assistant managing editor at *Sports Illustrated*, he is now an editorial director at Time Inc. As an on-air commentator Kennedy contributes regularly to the MLB Network, MSNBC and other news outlets. He teaches at New York University's Tisch Institute for Sports Management, Media, and Business and has taught journalism at NYU and Columbia University. He has edited several books, including *The Hockey Book* and 2015's *Super Bowl Gold: 50 Years of the Big Game*.

The New Rochelle Huguenots are continually a force in Section One Football. The coaching staff is extremely dedicated to the team and largely due to the leadership of Coach DeRienzo. *Lasting Impact* tells the tale of this special dynamic in an up close and personal way. Even for those fans if the team like myself, the book sheds new light on the hard work and dedication of the coaches and the players that forms a unique bond and shapes the future of these young men. A fun and enlightening read!

It is a very exciting book. I feel that the author really connects with the players and parents of the players. He tapped at the emotions of the players, and got them to open up about their experiences at playing such a grueling sport. The parents offered a lot of insight and experience and concerns regarding the sport. I purchased the book and finished it within a week. My husband and my son also enjoyed the book, I would recommend for all football players and parents to read this book.

A very well-written book on an important subject, a must read for football fans as well as non-fans alike.

Really good book about the inside of high school football.

good retelling of one year of a hs football team season.

Gives a well informed look at high school football.

great

Kostya Kennedy has written a book which should be required reading for any parent having a child with a desire to play football. The premise of the book is that 2014 was a pivotal year for the game of football which seemed to be teetering on the brink of sporting irrelevance. Scientific evidence of the prevalence of concussions was being recognized and numerous incidents of criminal violence including the notorious Ray Rice spousal abuse tape had cast a pall over the whole sport. Kennedy followed a suburban New York high school team through an entire season to illustrate both the values and the faults of the sport, and as a writer who has long been associated with Sports Illustrated, which excerpted a portion of the book as a feature story, his book is surprisingly even handed in its treatment of the game. Are the lifelong lessons and friendships acquired in participating in such a team oriented sport enough to outweigh the possible physical risks to mind and body which can occur in later years? Should parents begin to guide their young athletes in another direction? Should parents embrace football or want it abolished on the interscholastic level? Kennedy has no definitive answer to these questions but raises enough salient points to support either point of view in this excellent book.

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