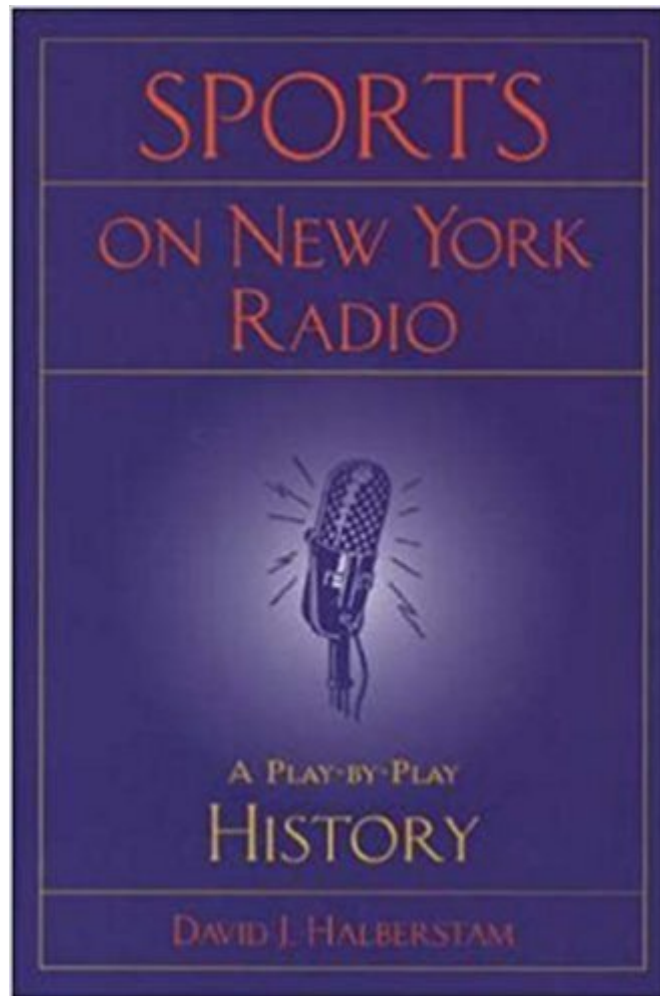




The book was found

Sports On New York Radio



Synopsis

"Radio is purely the announcer's medium. Accordingly, most of the best sports broadcasting has been done not on television, but on radio. David Halberstam writes from the knowledgeable and nuanced perspective of one who practices, respects, and understands the craft and its history."
--Bob Costas NBC Sports "Some of my friends and associates do not believe there was civilization before television, but I assure them that listening to Red Barber on radio from Ebbets Field or to Marty Glickman from Madison Square Garden was better than watching television. It was magic. Sports on New York Radio brings back memories of that magic. Reading about the many gifted radio voices who covered the Dodgers, Yankees, Giants, Rangers, Jets, the fights, and so much more reinforces my early conviction that I would never be a broadcaster. How I made it to even the brink of such company still baffles me." --Dick Schaap ABC News The Sports Reporters, ESPN "I grew up with Red Barber, Mel Allen, and Marty Glickman. They were warm, friendly, great voices. Through the radio they brilliantly linked the fan with the game. David Halberstam captures the colorful history and many great memories of sports on the radio." --Robert Merrill #1-1/2 New York Yankees New York Metropolitan Opera "The next best thing to sports on radio is reading about the perfect marriage of sports and radio. Halberstam takes us there. The information is riveting, the anecdotes hilarious. Radio lives in these pages." --Vic Ziegel Columnist New York Daily News "Sports radio in New York has spawned many broadcast legends, and David Halberstam has captured them in his thoughtful book." --David W. Checketts President and CEO Madison Square Garden

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Customer Reviews

In the 1920s something called radio began to change the way sports fans could track their teams. Previously, newspapers had been their only source of information. As radio caught on several far-sighted entrepreneurs, recognizing its power and potential, helped it become the sports fan's medium. *Sports on New York Radio: A Play-by-Play History* gives readers a look at the beginnings of New York radio and how the city's broadcasters shaped the face of radio throughout the nation. The play-by-play announcer, from Graham McNamee in the 1920s through Mel Allen, Phil Rizzuto, and Red Barber, to today's top voices, have touched millions of listeners for generations. The stories behind the broadcasts and the men whose voices brought them to life are covered in this provocative and hugely entertaining history.

If ever one of my book reviews deserved five stars this is it in spades. David Halberstam, a great author on numerous subjects, has provided us with a comprehensive history of the great names that have graced the radio sports scene in New York. The book is filled with anecdotes that reveal the personalities of such greats as Graham McNamee, Ted Husing, Red Barber, Mel Allen, Don Dunphy, Phil Rizzuto, Marv Albert, Marty Glickman, Clem McCarthy, Russ Hodges, Jim Woods, Lindsey Nelson, Bob Murphy, and numerous others. Anyone who ever reported sports on radio in New York is in here. Separate chapters are devoted to boxing, hockey, college and pro football, basketball, the Brooklyn Dodgers, the New York Giants, the New York Yankees, the New York Mets, talk radio, and his personal experience of a mistake he, himself, made while doing a game for the Miami Heat basketball team. The book concludes with a final section on references that cover most anything you may want to know on this subject. Halberstan says that baseball voices are not paid for how they describe a play, but how they handle airtime between plays. We are treated to a number of Vin Scully phrases such as when the Brewers and Cardinals, both sponsored by beer companies, played in the 1982 World Series. Scully said, "There will be no bad hops in this Series." An interesting tidbit is that Connie Desmond and Al Helfer are the only individuals that have covered the Yankees, Dodgers, and Giants. An interesting, but puzzling, story is told when Halberstam asked the general manager of a radio station in Tallahassee, Florida, to arrange for him to spend a half hour with Red Barber. Barber was cordial, but could be cold with visitors. The author said he had so much to ask him. Just as he was warming up, Barber politely got up off his chair, shook the author's hand, and thanked him for coming. Thirty minutes were up, and it was time to go. If you

enjoy the giants of the sports airwaves this book is a must for your reading, and deserves a prominent place in anyone's sports library.

David J. Halberstam (not to be confused with the more well-known David Halberstam) has written one of the best reference books ever on sports broadcasting, focusing on the history of radio play by play in New York City from its inception in the 20s to the present. Baseball, Football, Basketball, Hockey etc. are all given equal treatment in their own chapters, and while this can lead to occasionally repetitive information, that in no way detracts from the opportunity to enjoy this work. Only Curt Smith's "Voices Of The Game" has ever done anything similar to what Halberstam has done in this instance. I was glad to see Halberstam correct the injustice Smith's book did to the late Frank Messer by giving him due credit for his 18 years of outstanding work on the Yankees broadcast team (but I have to dissent from Halberstam's negative view of current Yankees voice John Sterling and think it's not fair to cite one disgruntled anonymous letter to the Post as a bellwether of how Yankee fans feel about his work), and other voices of New York sports like Mel Allen, Red Barber, Marty Glickman, Marv Albert, Jim Gordon etc. also receive attention for their fine work over the years with various teams. Along the way you'll learn all kinds of fascinating trivia you never would have expected. Did you know Monty Hall of "Let's Make A Deal" spent a season as a Rangers color analyst in 1960? Or that the Mets were on one of the weakest stations in NY during their amazing run in 69? That's just the tip of some of the fascinating material you'll learn in this book. Bravo to David Halberstam for giving us this must-have reference guide that collectors of historic broadcasts can never be without!

Interesting read. I was impressed with the research and many of the "behind the scenes" stories regarding so many of our great broadcasters from days gone by.

David Halberstam has compiled an exceptionally well written history of sports broadcasting in the Big Apple. His research is phenomenal. The anecdotes that he has compiled make you just breeze through this great page turner. If you want a behind the scenes look at sports broadcasting this is the book for you! Halberstam's prose is witty and concise. Anyone would enjoy this book.

Having grown up in NY in the 40s and 50s listening to all the sports on the radio, this book was a great match to my interests. Like the author, I have a passion for sports broadcast history and have extensive data on the subject myself; to my pleasant surprise, I did not find a single factual

inaccuracy in the entire book! The broadcast histories are the most comprehensive I've ever seen; moreover, the author brings to life the voices of ny sports with highly readable biographies and critiques; in terms of detail, this book goes far beyond anything ever published; anyone whose husband, father or grandfather grew up listening to the Stanley Cup champion Rangers (either the 1940 or 1994 version), Warm Up Time and Sports Extra, the Yankees, Dodgers and Giants, the Knicks (or even the New Jersey Americans, Brooklyn Tigers, the Golden Blades or the weekly fights at St Nick's Arena) should order this book and gift wrap it immediately; had I not already given this gift to myself, it would be the most appreciated gift I could imagine!

Mr. Halberstam has written a great book for someone doing a research project on a history of early radio. As a person growing up in the New York area, I found it very dry and, unfortunately, repetitive. Information from the section on World Series broadcasts was repeated in sections on the Dodgers, Giants, and Yankees. (Perhaps the author doesn't expect anyone will read it from cover to cover.)

An extremely excellent and enjoyable account of New York radio sports from the 1920s to today with an occasional side journey into the national scene. A must read for anybody who grew up in New York during the "Golden Age Of Sports" or for any media/sports junkies!

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