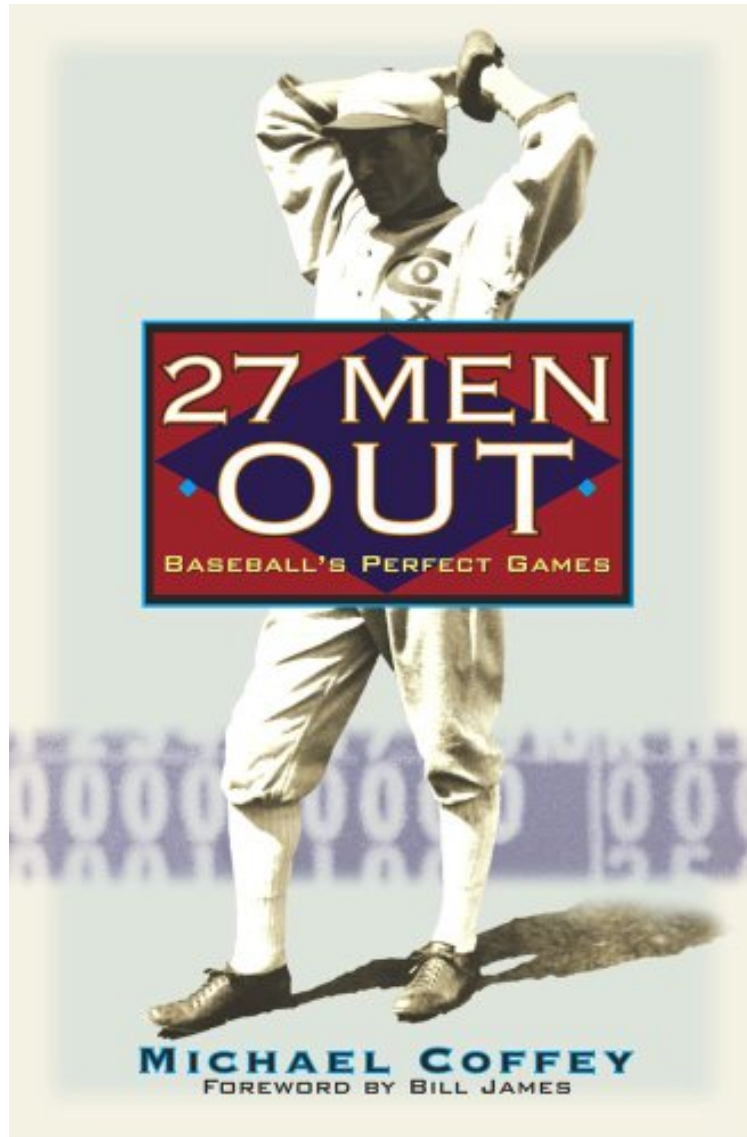


[Free and download] 27 Men Out: Baseball's Perfect Games (English Edition)

27 Men Out: Baseball's Perfect Games (English Edition)

Von Michael Coffey

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Von Michael Coffey : 27 Men Out: Baseball's Perfect Games (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 27 Men Out: Baseball's Perfect Games (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Perfect Pitching and Fielding in ContextVon Donald MitchellPerfect games had always left a sour taste in my mouth since I first watched Don Larsen of the Yankees twirl one at my favorite team, the Dodgers, in the 1956 World Series. The

Dodgers came within inches several times of breaking up the perfect game and winning the contest. I was disgusted when the game was over. The Dodgers hit him hard all day and had nothing to show for it. Well, since there had only been three earlier "perfect games" at that point, I could rack it up to a quirk of fate. But it began to become annoying when two other pitchers also had perfect games against the Dodgers (Tom Browning and Dennis Martinez) while only one Dodger, the great Sandy Koufax, had one to his credit. Perfect games seem to happen all of the time now. There have been 7 since 1981. Seeing that Bill James had written a foreword to this book, I thought perhaps I could learn more about what makes these unusual performances happen. What I learned was an eye-opener and I recommend this book to all baseball fans. First, I had forgotten that you have to be the winning pitcher in a complete game that goes at least nine innings to have a perfect game. Poor Harvey Haddix (12 perfect innings), Pedro Martinez (he came out before the game was complete), and Ernie Shore (27 perfect outs in relief). Their remarkable efforts don't count. Second, I didn't know very much about most of the games. This book filled me in. Some of the efforts seem to have been helped by players who were in a hurry to get out of town, umpires with enormous strike zones and meeting up with weak-hitting teams at the end of the season. So not all perfect games are equal. Third, some of these pitchers names didn't mean anything to me. How well do you know Addie Joss, Charlie Robertson, Len Barker and Kenny Rogers? I was glad to learn more. Fourth, there are some great pitchers who have finished perfect games. It was a nice treat to read more about them, especially Cy Young who doesn't come in for much discussion these days. The unexpected surprise in the book was that Mr. Coffey also made connections between the developments in the game of baseball and these pitching masterpieces. So I had a chance to learn more about when 60 feet six inches became the distance from the plate to the rubber, when underhanded pitching ended, and the early battles among start-up leagues. I also learned many interesting things about the development of Latin American players. You will probably have other nice surprises as well. The games themselves are described in interesting detailed ways, without becoming too developed. You find out about the close calls (3-0 counts, hard hit shots that are almost fair, balls that are snagged by lunging infielders and close plays at first) as well as the demeanor the players and fans. It's a little like being there. Speaking of being there, Mr. Coffey was inspired to write the book after taking his young son to see David Cone's perfect game in 1999. That game is especially interesting to learn about since it includes Mr. Coffey's personal reminiscences. With the all-star break coming up soon, I recommend that you read this book during off-days. I found it so fascinating that I doled out the chapters to read only one a day. It was more delightful that way. Play ball!

Kurzbeschreibung The first in-depth look at baseball's nirvana -- a lyrical history of pitching perfection. There have been only fourteen perfect games pitched in the modern era of baseball; the great Cy Young fittingly hurled the first, in 1904, and David Cone pitched the most recent, in 1999. In between, some great pitchers -- Sandy Koufax, Catfish Hunter, Jim Bunning, and Don Larsen in the World Series -- performed the feat, as did some mediocre ones, like Len Barker and the little-known Charlie Robertson. Fourteen in 150,000 games: The odds are staggering. When it does happen, however, the whole baseball world marvels at the combination of luck and skill, and the pitcher himself gains a kind of baseball immortality. Five years ago, Michael Coffey witnessed such an event at Yankee Stadium, and the experience prompted this expansive look at the history of these unsurpassable pitching performances. He brings his skills as a popular historian and poet to an appraisal of both the games themselves and of the wider sport of baseball and the lives of the players in it. The careers of each of the fourteen perfect-game pitchers are assessed, not only as to their on-the-field performances but with a regard for their struggles to persevere in an extremely competitive sport in which, more often than not, the men and women who run the game from the owners' boxes are their most formidable adversaries. Along the way, Michael Coffey brings us right into the ballparks with a play-by-play account of how these games unfolded, and relates a host of fascinating stories, such as Sandy Koufax's controversial holdout with Don Drysdale and its chilling effect on baseball's owners, Mike Witt's victimization by the baseball commissioner, and Dennis Martinez's long struggle up from an impoverished Nicaraguan childhood. Combining history, baseball, and a sweeping look at the changing face of labor relations, *27 Men Out* is a new benchmark in sports history. From Publishers Weekly More than 150,000 major league games have been played in the modern era, Coffey (The Irish in America, etc., and PW's senior managing editor) tells us in this marvelous book, but only 14 have been "perfect games." A game is perfect when "a pitcher pitches at least nine innings of a complete game victory and allows not a single runner to reach first base." The 14 men who have thrown perfect games "from Cy Young in 1904 to David Cone in 1999" provide the focus for Coffey's lively history. But it takes more than a pitcher to create a perfect game: superb fielding plays a part, as necessarily does some winning-team offense, and Coffey elucidates these factors in his colorful game-by-game commentary. More notably, Coffey, like other great baseball writers (Angell, Kahn), realizes that the sport, despite its embrace of eternity (in theory a baseball game can last forever) and inward gaze (all runs are scored at home plate), is played within the larger context of players' lives and the ever-evolving socioeconomic climate. So Coffey frames each pitcher's life and perfect game within the larger picture. Addie Joss's 1908 gem, for instance, occurred inside a sport that, like America, was transforming from rude ruralism to greater urbanity. Sandy

Koufax's 1965 feat "perhaps the most perfect of perfect games, as Koufax struck out 14 and triumphed despite his team recording only one hit" is configured against the changing economics of the sport, driven by new media revenues. Throughout the book, baseball holds the center, with each remarkable game springing to roaring life via Coffey's diligent research and vivid prose (Coffey is a poet as well as journalist: 87 North, etc.). The rarest achievement in baseball has here gained a rare companion: a brilliant book that's about baseball but also about life, one told with such care and passion that it, too, gives a glimpse of perfection. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Baseball is unique among team sports in that it includes a statistical basis with which the concept of perfection can be defined: 27 batters up, 27 batters out, a "perfect" game. In major-league baseball history, there have only been 14 perfect games. Coffey, the managing editor of Publishers Weekly, reveals his inner baseball-nerd self in this layered, revealing analysis of each perfect game. What will strike the casual baseball fan is that the games seem equally divided between great pitchers from whom one might reasonably expect perfection (Sandy Koufax, Jim Bunning, Cy Young) and a group of fair-to-middling hurlers (David Wells, Mike Witt, and Tom Browning) who seem, well, less than perfect. In wonderfully succinct yet detailed chapters, Coffey provides a pre-perfection professional history of the pitcher, a historical overview of the time, a dramatic account of the game, and a synopsis of the pitcher's post-game career. The accounts are infused with a sense of wonder--from the author and often the pitcher, too--that perfection was achieved, even for one brief moment. Easily the best baseball book of the young season. Wes Lukowsky Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved