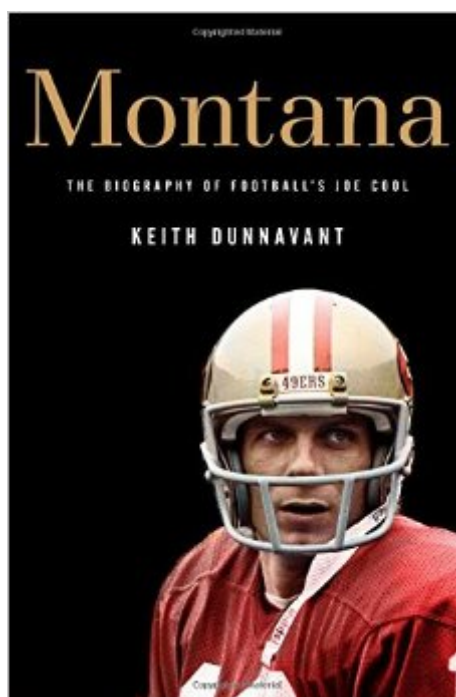


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Montana: The Biography Of Football's Joe Cool



Synopsis

As long as football is played, Joe Montana will be synonymous with the heart-pounding rally. Seemingly impervious to the pressure of a scoreboard deficit, the quarterback known as Joe Cool brought a steadying calm to every huddle, especially when the situation seemed especially dire. His reputation for miracles began to take root at the University of Notre Dame. In the 1979 Cotton Bowl, he overcame the flu, hypothermia and a 22-point deficit to lead the Fighting Irish to a stunning victory over Houston. This narrative continued in the NFL, as he engineered 31 fourth-quarter comebacks, including victories known in professional football lore as The Catch and The Drive, forever casting his career in a heroic glow. In MONTANA, acclaimed author Keith Dunnavant sketches the definitive portrait of a man who repeatedly defied the odds, on and off the field. While leading the San Francisco 49ers to four Super Bowl championships over a nine-year period, establishing a new standard for passing efficiency, and twice earning the league's Most Valuable Player award, Montana became the signature quarterback of the 1980s and one of the greatest ever to play the game. Overcoming his own limitations, which caused him to be underrated coming out of Notre Dame, he quickly mastered Bill Walsh's West Coast Offense, and thereby, helped reinvent offensive football. But it was rarely easy. Like the rallies he so often produced, his life was filled with the sort of tension that made his journey seem routinely dramatic: The father who pushed him. The high school coach who challenged his commitment. The college coach who very nearly squandered him. The back surgery that almost ended his career. The younger athlete who tried to take his job. Rich in anecdotal detail, insight and context, MONTANA is a powerful story about a man who was defined by his intense competitiveness, and how this intangibly helped him become one of the iconic figures in football history.

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Customer Reviews

For those of us of a certain age, 1981 does not seem all that long ago. In fact, it is a long time ago, and well beyond the memory of many pro football fans. While acclaimed sports author Keith Dunnavant's new work, *Montana: The Biography of Joe Cool* is a terrific look at perhaps the greatest of all quarterbacks, not merely giving us the nuts and bolts of a great career and four Super Bowl rings, what separates it is his telling exactly why and how Montana was great. Dunnavant is like a great baseball manager â " think Tony LaRussa or Joe Torre â " who presides over a team filled with superstars. But as those in the know . . . know, even if you pencil in names like Rickey Henderson or Derek Jeter, you can still screw things up. Just ask Butch van Breda Kolf, who managed to lose with a Lakers team featuring Jerry West, Elgin Baylor and Wilt Chamberlain, all in their primes. In Dunnavant's case, he has written of superstars: Bear Bryant, Bart Starr, now Joe Montana. He has not screwed it up. The highlight of *Montana* is the author's description of the 1981 season, and in this he has done what great writers do; he has taken us there. We can smell the eucalyptus trees at Golden Gate Park and the stale beer at good ol' Candlestick. We can hear the cheers and the background noise.

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