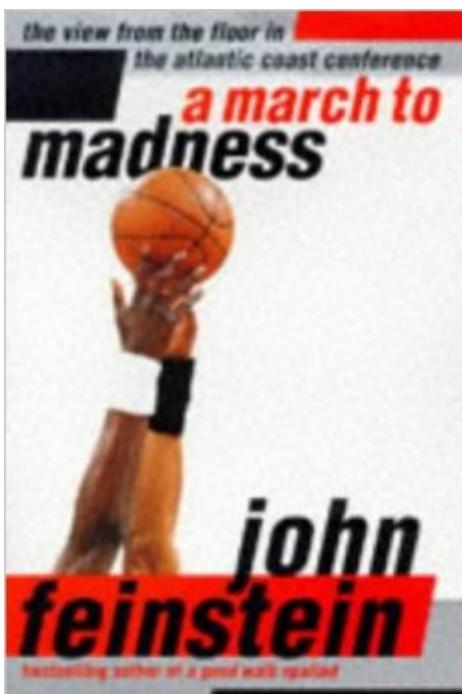


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A March To Madness: The View From The Floor In The Atlantic Coast Conference



Synopsis

From golf and football to tennis, basketball, and baseball, John Feinstein's incisive you-are-there portraits of players, coaches, and their games have set a new standard for sportswriting -- and become major national bestsellers. With *A March to Madness* Feinstein returns to the arena of his most successful book, *A Season on the Brink* -- and takes us inside college basketball's toughest league, the Atlantic Coast Conference, or ACC. This group of nine colleges is renowned for its championship teams -- one or more are almost always among the NCAA final four -- as well as for the top pros it has produced, including Michael Jordan, Grant Hill, and Kenny Anderson, to name just a few. Focusing on the personalities, the strategies, and the struggles of the conference's superlative coaches, Feinstein brings to life the dramatic 1996-97 season. With superstar Tim Duncan leading Wake Forest to unexpected heights and traditional favorite Duke benefiting from controversial victories, interest in the ACC has never been greater -- and Feinstein has never been more incisive. Taking us onto the courts and into the locker rooms, he gives us a vivid portrait of each team and each coach, revealing the rivalries and the friendships, the pressures and the joys, the victories and the defeats. Here is college basketball at its most exciting -- and John Feinstein at his best.

Book Information

Hardcover: 464 pages

Publisher: Little Brown & Co (T); 1st edition (January 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316277401

ISBN-13: 978-0316277402

Product Dimensions: 1.5 x 6.5 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (36 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #826,009 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 inÂ Books > Sports & Outdoors > Basketball > College & University

Customer Reviews

In terms of work ethic, John Feinstein is the sports equivalent of Stephen King: he's tireless, prolific, and multifaceted. With a past-performance line that includes *A Season on the Brink*, *A Good Walk Spoiled*, and *A Civil War*, he's regularly in the running for his genre's MVP. *A March to Madness*, which chronicles the 1996-97 Atlantic Coast Conference's ineluctable journey to March Madness,

continues his string. Exhaustively reported, and penned with as much poignancy as panache, it's the story of the most competitive college basketball conference in the U.S., filtered through the eyes--and complex lives--of its head coaches. Coaching young in-your-faces is never easy; it's even harder in a pressure cooker such as the ACC, where expectations are enormous, winning is essential, and an NCAA tournament bid is requisite for survival. Feinstein had remarkable access to his high-profile, high-strung subjects, such as Dean Smith, Bobby Cremins, and Mike Krzyzewski, and the drama he records is every bit as fast-paced and stunning as a close Duke-North Carolina game with the final seconds ticking off the clock.

The list of great sports books about anything but baseball is limited, but Feinstein (A Civil War, LJ 10/1/96) has increased it by one with this tour-de-force. Similar to his book about Indiana University Coach Bob Knight, *A Season on the Brink* (S. & S., 1988), Feinstein's latest covers one year with all of the teams in the perennially powerful Atlantic Coast Conference. After introducing each of the schools, their teams, their coaches, and their expectations for the 1996/97 basketball season, the book describes their progress week by week, culminating with Dean Smith's run to the NCAA Final Four. Such a detailed accounting of a sports season could seem interminable to readers, but Feinstein has again produced a narrative that is not only interesting but often exciting. He conveys the exhilaration of a road conference win and the gloom of a home loss. This book should appeal to all readers, not just to sports fans. Highly recommended for all libraries. ?William O. Scheeren, Hempfield Area H.S. Lib., Greensburg, Pa. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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