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Neil Leifer: Ballet In The Dirt: The Golden Age Of Baseball



Synopsis

Ballet in the Dirt: The golden age of America's favorite pastime "Neil's book has some of the greatest photos you'll ever see, even if you've seen them before." - Yogi Berra This superb collection of 60s and 70s baseball images commemorates the sport's finest moments via the lens of legendary sports photographer Neil Leifer Professional baseball of the 1960s and 1970s belongs to Neil Leifer, the premier sports photographer of his generation. In 1960, at age 17, Neil had the human drive to match his new Nikon motor drive and he was on his way. With gumption and an eye for the decisive moment, the baby-faced kid from Manhattan's lower east side was soon selling his photos to Sports Illustrated. This superb collection of images reflects the total access Neil had to the players on the ball field, in the dugout, and in the locker room. All the pathos, elation, disappointment, and celebration are etched upon the faces of the players and their mercurial fans. From the 1960 World Series between the Yankees and the Pirates - decided in the 9th inning of the 7th game by a Bill Mazeroski home run - to the 1977 Series between the Yankees and the Los Angeles Dodgers, Neil Leifer never stopped shooting. He was up in the nosebleed section of the grandstands in Yankee Stadium, in the rafters of the Astrodome in Houston, or a helicopter high above. Who won the games wasn't important - only how the game was played. The blood, sweat, and grace. It's all about the game, and Leifer's photographs create a topographical map to the very heart and soul of baseball. Featuring over 300 photos, the book is divided into four chapters: The Game; the Heroes - like Roberto Clemente, Mickey Mantle, and pitcher Sandy Koufax; the Rivalry (infamously, between the Yankees and the Boston Red Sox and the Giants and Dodgers); and the World Series championship. *This unlimited popular edition is for readers on a budget or who were unable to get their hands on the original limited Collector's Edition* Text in English, French, and German

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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If this is the autographed Justin Verlander baseball it's great. This was a gift of his no hitter ball. My Detroit Tigers fan has it displayed very proudly, in his library. It came without a hitch.

Love love love! Had a hard time giving it away to my son for Christmas! Very pleased with service

My Dad loved receiving this for Father's Day! I highly recommend it to any serious baseball lover. Great shots and the stories to back them up....consider giving this fabulous book.

Great book and perfect hostess gift

Great for nostalgic revisitation of the good old days of baseball when I was a kid. Too bad baseball is the way it is now...

The book is fascinating, with many pictures never seen before, more interesting the explanations behind the pictures, a collectors item

I read all the reviews for this book and decided to buy it for my dad. He is a big baseball fan and I thought this would be perfect. He complained the photos were not the best quality, book was

extremely heavy and the print was extremely small. I hate to say it, but I kind of agreed and was also disappointed. He is going to donate the book and I am sure there will be someone out there who will love this book. But hey, everyone is entitled to their own opinion!

It's mind-boggling to think that Neil Leifer was basically a kid when he took most of these pictures. Born in '42, Leifer had shot a great many of these images before he was even 21. (There's a great shot of him sitting with Stan Musial in which he doesn't even look old enough to be the bat boy, much less a professional photographer.) Clearly, however, he was a prodigy and a natural, because this book is full of incredible shots that rank right up there with his iconic photo of Ali standing over Liston. The narrative that goes along with the images isn't always illuminating; if you're a big enough fan of baseball history to be buying a book like this, then you will already know most of what it has to say. But the text is beside the point; it's the pictures that matter, and on that score Leifer is hard to touch in the history of sports photography. Most of the great players of the 50's, 60's, and 70's are represented, in a wealth of B&W images along with amazingly vibrant color shots that capture the sometimes balletic, sometimes violent beauty of this 'pastoral' game (to borrow the popular misnomer, undoubtedly coined by someone who's never seen a collision at the plate up close). For fans of baseball or photojournalism, this is worth every penny.

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