

The Sporting Stings

Dave Heeren

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Dave Heeren : The Sporting Stings before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Sporting Stings:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I want more!By CustomerThis book contains great stories of hustlers in many different sports but my favorites are the bowling stories. Sadly the era of the bowling hustler is all but over and the end of the book left me wanting more stories about these crazy guys. Still fun to read about such interesting characters whose antics made them larger than life.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Dave Heeren is

more than a statistician. By Mari Winn. The word "hustler" in sports or other human endeavor usually relates to energy, willingness, and other virtues physical or mental. But in "The Sporting Stings" (Black Rose Writing) veteran sports writer Dave Heeren uses a variety of examples in sports from baseball to bowling, basketball to tennis, to define the word more often as scammer, egoist, eccentric, entertainer or someone following the principle of how to succeed without really trying, or at least how to create a good public image without a lot of effort. The variety of sports figures in the book often come off not so much as criminals but as comic figures. Much of the early part of the one-time United Press International sports writer's diatribe to me is spent on former tennis player Bobby Riggs, a short, squat, outspoken and egocentric character on the court and off. He bet on himself, literally, before the days of big incomes from sports competition. Like many fellow hustlers in the book, he sometimes lost to make his bets turn out better. When he did this, he did not consider himself a hustler or a crooked athlete, he said. He believed he was simply adding entertainment value. The New York Yankees and famed manager Casey Stengel are noted for their showmanship, as is former Joplin Miner turned Yankee Mickey Mantle. The Commerce, Oklahoma native, it is observed, was not particularly liked by many; he was not known for his modesty or controlled tongue. Equally outspoken, and able to verbally twist officials and players at times, was famed football coach John Madden. Joe Namath, Reggie Jackson, Joe Louis and many other sports figures with differing styles and motivation also are in Heeren's sights. In one tale, a discussion of a Super Bowl victory is promised. You can bet on more stories like that in the book. Lovers of bowling--locally appreciating the sights and smells and sounds of earlier Joplin 10-pin palaces like the Modern or Fourth Street Bowl, or early-day TV network matches on Saturday mornings--will find several pages given to ways famed pro bowlers like Dick Weber and others made money through side bets or other maneuvers on the road, before bowling became a big-money enterprise with multiple sponsorships. Sports writing (columnist for USA Today) and storytelling, statistics (NBA analyst) and stings, have kept Heeren busy for many years. His coverage of sporting stings appears to focus more on human interest than than an expose of the sins of omission or commission. However, the verve, variety and color of these yarns should leave the reader amused, intrigued and not disappointed. Also widely popular is the book he wrote in 2011 with Pete Palmer entitled Basic Ball: New Approaches for Determining the Greatest Baseball, Football and Basketball Players of All-Time. Heeren retired from the South Florida "Sun Sentinel" in 2007. by Jack Kennedy - Complete review is in The Joplin Independent online 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Personality Plus By Dennis Hulick This has been a fun read. Dave has included a behind the bench look at sports that is interesting and mostly unknown to me, the world of hustling. The stories are of the famous and not so famous (to younger readers) but important figures nonetheless. If you have any interest in the headline makers of sports and want to know more about them then get this book. I wrote this today after reading in USA Today about Lee Trevino (who is featured in The Sporting Stings) and his "snake" stunt at the US Open in the early 70's. The sports hustling stories remind me of a Sam Snead biography I read in 1973 that wrote of how Sam would hustle golfers playing with just a branch he would break off a tree right in front of the unsuspecting mark. Stories like that and much more are addressed by Dave in this eye opening book. Thanks for putting these memories to paper for all of us to enjoy.

If you loved motion pictures like The Hustler and The Sting, and books on which they were based, you'll love The Sporting Stings. This book is full of amazing stories about prominent athletes and coaches like Muhammad Ali, Evel Knievel, Joe Namath, Pete Rose, John Madden, Red Auerbach, Lee Trevino, Casey Stengel, Bobby Riggs and Billie Jean King. These are just a few of the 365 people you will find featured in this Who's Who of sports hustling. You will also read about crafty bowling hustlers you may never have heard of but will never forget: Men like the frustrated bowler who did so poorly in a tournament that he dumped his balls one by one off a bridge...until one cannonaded onto a boat deck. Men like the anonymous guy who robbed a store at gunpoint to fund his bowling action, lost and lost again...after robbing other stores. Men like shrewd bowling hustler Iggy Russo, who had a knack for putting his life in danger and then acting his way out of it and escaping into the night. Men like the frustrated bowler who did so poorly in a tournament that he dumped his balls one by one off a bridge...until one cannonaded onto a boat deck. Men like the anonymous guy who robbed a store at gunpoint to fund his bowling action, lost and lost again...after robbing other stores. Men like shrewd bowling hustler Iggy Russo, who had a knack for putting his life in danger and then acting his way out of it and escaping into the night.