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The Riverton Rifle: My Story — Straight Shooting On Hockey And On Life



Synopsis

It all comes down to making the right life choices, says the NHL's legendary Reggie Leach, and this intimate biography lays bare the decisions that led him to become one of the best snipers in hockey history. Nicknamed the Riverton Rifle for his thrilling speed and deadly shooting skills, Leach overcame a childhood marked by poverty and racism to rise through the NHL, playing for the Stanley Cup-winning 1975 Philadelphia Flyers. Through Leach's own recollections, The Riverton Rifle traces his trajectory from humble beginnings to NHL stardom, and follows the dramatic fall caused by his drinking problem and his subsequent rebirth as a successful businessman, family man, and pillar of the Aboriginal community.

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Customer Reviews

The Rifle (as he was known to avid Flyers fans of the 70s & 80s) had an amazing laser snapshot that was unequalled during his heyday. Knew of his alcohol issues but not to this degree. The Bruins (and Golden Seals to lesser degree) regret losing him, especially to an already talent-laden team like the defending Stanley Cup Champs, the Philadelphia Flyers. The story was good but sidetracked once in awhile, would have liked more insight into his Flyers days which were too often broadstroked. He is right on thing - owes a ton of gratitude to his "brother" Bobby Clarke, with whom much of his success (both NHL & post NHL) was responsible for. Grew up attending many games of the LCB (Leach-Clarke-Barber) Line, was virtually unstoppable during its heyday. Ashame he only won the one Stanley Cup in '74-75. They had the talent for three-peat in '75-76 but losing Parent & other key players to injury tremendously hurt their chances vs strong Montreal Canadiens team.

A very well written account of a persistent, extremely talented, moral and successful small town Prairie boy/man/mensch and NHL player of aboriginal descent who overcame the odds against him, with the support of his community and his own talent and principles. Great read even for a female, haven't watched or done hockey or earlier figure skating since the 1970s when I "played" for Gimli against Riverton, and other towns on the first Gimli women's hockey team, coached by Brian Cook (Dale's brother). I watched Reggie play hockey when I was young and he was the Rifle. Bought the kindle edition, would have liked more pictures, but found them on google.

Great bio, especially for hockey fans. Also full of great life lessons, so it's not just for hockey fans. It's a great read for anyone.

It was an easy and enjoyable read.

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