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Keith Dunnivant

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#5533556 in Books 2016-06-28 2016-06-28 Formats: Audiobook, MP3 Audio, Unabridged Original language: English PDF # 1 6.75 x .50 x 5.251, Running time: 13 Hours Binding: MP3 CD | File size: 76.Mb

Keith Dunnivant : America's Quarterback: Bart Starr and the Rise of the National Football League before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised America's Quarterback: Bart Starr and the Rise of the National Football League:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Biography of Green Bay Packer Legend Bart Starr By C. Baker Biographies of sports heroes usually come in one of two forms. The first is a very shallow, quick, superficial look at the life and sporting career trying to earn a few dollars on the fame of a particular player. The other is a truly in-depth look and accounting of the life and times of that sports hero. This biography is clearly in the second category. It does a phenomenal job of bringing Bart Starr to life for the reader. Starr's early life was marred by the death of his brother and subsequently was estranged from his father. He became a star football player in high school but even there struggled with injuries but by his senior year was an All American. Unlike most star athletes, however, he was more introverted and self-reflective. Being an Alabama high school football star he wound up at the University of Alabama. There he was an on again off again starter and after a back injury his junior year he hardly played as a senior. His pro football prospects certainly seemed dim. With recommendations from Alabama's basketball coach Green Bay selected Starr in the 17th round of the 1956 NFL draft. Again Starr started out as a back-up and then as an on again, off again starter for the Green Bay Packers. When Vince Lombardi took over as coach of the Packers in 1959 it took some time for him to win over the coach's trust as the starting quarterback, but he eventually did. And the rest is a glorious history of championship football as the starting quarterback for arguably the greatest dynasty in NFL history. One of the best parts of the biography for football fans is of course Starr's role as the leader of the Green Bay Packers from 1960 to 1971, with five NFL championships, two of which were Super Bowls I and II. This is a superlative career in an era where quarterbacks called their own plays and defensive backs could mug receivers down the field. The book does a fantastic job of detailing Starr's early struggles and his overcoming those struggles to become the undisputed field general and leader of the team other than Lombardi. It also details his unique relationship with the tough minded Vince Lombardi who ultimately embraced Starr as his quarterback and trusted him in the most critical on-field situations. While there were a lot of great moments for the team the infamous Ice Bowl where Starr changed the play and called a quarterback sneak to win the NFL championship against the Dallas Cowboys in one of the coldest games every played was thrilling relayed in the book. And the pressure on the coach to win the first Super Bowl, and the second one is well told here. This biography also brings out Starr's

unique qualities as a human being. A very modest, honest, player who didn't curse or go carousing with the guys, he nevertheless earned the respect of the players around him. The biography really brings out this humble side of Starr and how it juxtaposed to that of his bombastic head coach and other players. But he was a very tough competitor on the field, demanding the respect of all around him, including that of his head coach. Another endearing quality to Starr's life is he married his high school sweetheart and love of this life Cherry Morton and remained a faithful husband. The love affair between these two is interwoven through the biography and is refreshing. After his career he jumped into coaching and broadcasting. He eventually became the head coach of a then struggling Green Bay Packers team from 1975 to 1983. Unfortunately his stint as a head coach did not go quite like his football career. He ended up with a 52-76-3 record as a head coach and the pressures of the job, especially after such a fantastic run as a player, was difficult. He even admitted he probably was initially in over his head but did not want to quit. And finally a tragedy. Starr lost his son to drug abuse in 1988 after Starr and his wife constantly did everything to help him overcome the demon. He eventually moved to Florida and fell back into his drug habit. After not hearing from his son Bart flew to Florida and found him dead in his house. This was obviously a very tragic and painful time in Bart Starr's life. The only quibble I have with the book is the claim that Bart Starr is the greatest quarterback in NFL history. With his five NFL championships and great record as a player, the author makes a great argument. I am not sure where I would place Bart Starr and he deserves to be mentioned as one of the greatest of all time but I would not place him at the top. But I did enjoy the statistics and arguments on his behalf. Any football fan will enjoy this well written and thoughtful biography of one of the greatest quarterbacks of all time, one of the winningest quarterbacks of all time, and one of the humblest and good natured athletes of all time.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Best of the Bart Starr Biographies By Bill Emblom There have been previous biographies of Bart Starr, but this effort by author Keith Dunnivant vastly exceeds the others. It contains 324 pages of text and gives interesting details covering all facets of his football career at all levels. Successful people can usually look back in their lives and point out individuals who have helped them during crucial periods in their development. Bart Starr was blessed with such individuals who believed in him. Starr didn't have the most talent among several quarterbacks throughout his career, but what led to his being successful was the self-discipline he possessed. Having come from a family with a father in the military Starr learned at an early age the price one needed to pay to achieve success. The book contains game details of the Packers' glory years in addition to the post-Lombardi years where Starr struggled both as a player and a coach. Tragedy strikes people in all walks of life and Starr experienced the loss of a son through drugs. The tragic loss of other family members by other teammates are related as well. A devoted family man Bart Starr always had time for others whether it was for signing autographs, a few minutes of conversation, or a worthy cause such as the Rawhide Boys Ranch. He was loved by the fans, but equally important, he loved them back. It was also refreshing to read a biography of a sports hero that isn't laced with profanities. A previous biography of Bart Starr came out a few years ago, but it quoted too much from David Maraniss's book entitled "When Pride Still Mattered." I did find one glaring misquote on page 250 where former coach Lombardi was in the Starr household outside of Green Bay in nearby DePere. Lombardi complimented the Starrs on their home, whereas Bart's wife Cherry says, "This house never would have been possible with you, because you believed in Bart and gave him an opportunity." Suddenly Lombardi's eyes welled up in tears. The quote should obviously have read, "This house never would have been possible without you." I found the book to be a refreshing read in reliving those glamorous years when the Packers ruled in the 1960s after those pathetic years during the 1950s. Although I no longer follow professional football it was great to read about so many of those names from that time period in addition to reviewing the other riveting events that took place during those turbulent sixties. You need not be a football fan or a fan of the Packers to enjoy this biography. I am neither, but I found it to be interesting having been a fan during this time period.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great behind the scenes story of one of the games greatest NFL quarterbacks By RSSWISI really enjoyed reading this book. Now I have to be honest with you and let you know I am a die-hard Packer fan from way back in the 60's. I used to wear Bart's jersey and helmet when my friends and I would play a game of football after the real game. So with that being said I know my opinion here is biased, but here goes. Kevin Dunnivant makes this book a very easy read. Kevin writes about Bart's entire life from his early years including his interaction with his father and brother, through his school years, then his NFL playing days, also his Packers coaching days and then post-coaching days. It was one of those books I could not put down. Kevin did a great job of bringing Bart's life alive for me. It is amazing how the 17th round draft pick out of Alabama (he played before the days of Bear Bryant and yes they did have 17 rounds then) would wind up on a struggling NFL team (some were questioning if the Packers should even be an NFL team anymore being in such a small market). You see how Bart's upbringing as a child drove him to excel at everything he did. All he needed was a leader to take him to that next level (i.e. step in Vince Lombardi). We all know how Bart excelled on the playing field winning 5 world championships and the book does an excellent job of portraying Bart in the rise to excellence. What I found fascinating was reading of Bart's coaching days at Green Bay. People don't give Bart enough credit for his coaching days even though his record doesn't indicate that he was a great coach. Kevin describes what Bart had to go through to get his Green Bay team back to the winning ways, which was very difficult after picking up the broken pieces left over from the Dan Devine coaching disaster. If Bart could have landed a quality player here or

there to add to his squad though out the years as he wanted to, I believe the Packers would have excelled in the 80's. The Green Bay Packers Board of Directors at times did not help the situation either. I have already lent the book to relatives who have also enjoyed reading the book. I believe Bart is one of the most underrated quarterbacks of all time. The glimmer of Johnny Unitas always overshadowed Bart's, especially back in the 60's and I believe it still does today. Bart showed what it takes to win championships that no other quarterback has ever replicated up to today. I don't think his record for championships will ever be broken. You add in Bart's great character and you have an even better individual. A few current NFL players could take a cue from Bart's behavior and character. The NFL needs more players like Bart Starr!!

A powerful biography of one of the greatest football players of all time, in the spirit of Johnny U and Namath. No one can touch Bart Starr's record setting 5 NFL Championships, including 3 straight. *America's Quarterback* tells the story of the man who helped create the legend of Vince Lombardi and the Green Bay Packers. Set against the changing landscape of the last half of the 20th century, this biography traces Starr's life from childhood in Alabama to stardom in Green Bay and beyond. Not a simple sports story, Dunnivant traces the story of one man reaching for the American dream while professional football emerged from the shadows to capture the nation's imagination. It's a story of the tension between a coach and a player as different as fire and ice, and how they came to trust and revere each other. It's a story of triumph tempered by tragedy, and the world-class athlete who quietly and persistently, achieved a level of greatness unsurpassed by any quarterback since. A remarkable blend of personal memory and historical narrative, *America's Quarterback* is a tribute to an American hero and the perfect companion to the classic *When Pride Still Mattered*.

"This is one of the best sports history books you will read. It's the story of a remarkable man and a fascinating time. Bart Starr and the Green Bay Packers led the way in the 1960s when pro football became America's favorite sport. But this is much more than a football story. Bart Starr is a great man who has handled adversity, triumph, and tragedy with unique dignity. Bart's story has a lot to teach us about life. You will enjoy spending time with this well-crafted book and getting to know Bart Starr in a whole new way." --NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell
"The Green Bay Packers -- a formative fable of the the National Football League -- would not have been possible without Bart Starr. But Keith Dunnivant has done more than restore the quarterback's place in the sport's history. This biography isn't merely definitive. It's an ode to stoicism, modesty and discipline -- the virtues that made the Packers' dynasty." --Mark Kriegel, New York Times bestselling author of *Namath and Pistol*
"Keith Dunnivant's bold, stirring biography argues that Bart Starr is the NFL's greatest quarterback ever. Allowing no room for debate, Dunnivant shows that Starr was the indispensable man in the creation of the Green Bay Packers dynasty." -- Dave Kindred, author of *Morning Madness: Inside the Washington Post*
"Dunnivant has written an absolute masterpiece. This is both a compelling and riveting tale of one of the nicest men who ever played the game, and also one of the most important and influential. Even though I have known Bart more than 20 years, having interviewed him countless times, I learned something new on nearly every page. Hands down, the best sports book of the year. It may be the best sports book I have read in many years." --Paul Finebaum, Radio Talk Show Host
"In *America's Quarterback*, Keith Dunnivant perfectly captures the essence and the understated elegance of the icon that is Bart Starr. But Dunnivant gives us much, much more. Through painstaking research and intimate detail, which are the hallmark of his books, Dunnivant gives us the uniquely American story of how a man, through the sheer force of his will and his dedication to excellence, rises from modest circumstances to reach the top of his profession. We learn that Starr has lived his life the same way that he played football: with a quiet dignity that allows him to survive and prevail when faced with both the good and the bad. If you liked *When Pride Still Mattered*, the great biography of Vince Lombardi by David Maraniss, you must read *America's Quarterback*. Dunnivant has another winner!" --Tony Barnhart, CBS Sports
"*America's Quarterback* is a well-researched, deeply personal account of a college and NFL icon. Luckily for us Keith Dunnivant chose Bart Starr as a subject. This is a fascinating read." --Dennis Dodd, CBSSports.com
"Keith Dunnivant is one of the most gifted writers and researchers in American book-writing. He brings depth and clarity to Bart Starr the same way he did with Bear Bryant in *Coach*. I love this book and will proudly display it next to *Coach Bryant*." --Jim Dent, author of *Courage Beyond The Game*

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