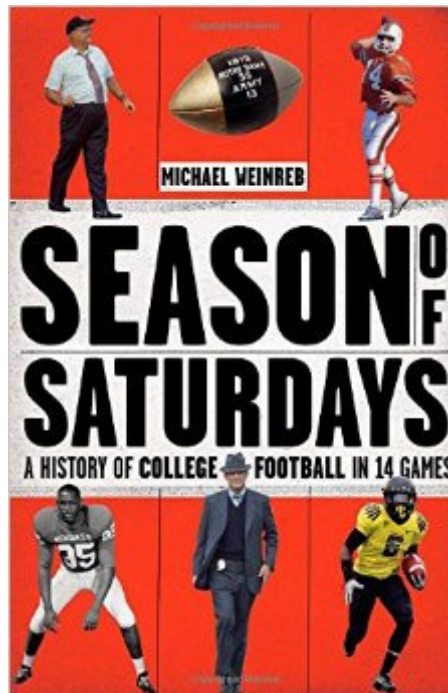


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# Season Of Saturdays: A History Of College Football In 14 Games



## Synopsis

From an award-winning writer, journalist, and college football expert: an entertaining cultural history that highlights the key moments, games, personalities, and scandals of the popular and controversial American pastime. Every Saturday in the fall, countless college students, alumni, and sports fans wake up filled with a particular kind of hope and excitement, ready for their team's game. Half of them finish the day in joyous celebration, and the other half in abject depression, but all of them are ever ready to do it over again the next weekend. College football is one of the unifying cornerstones of American culture. Since the first game in 1869, football has grown from a stratified offshoot of rugby to a ubiquitous part of our national identity. Today, as college conferences fracture and grow, amateur athlete status is called into question, and a playoff system threatens to replace big-money bowl games, we're in the midst of the most dramatic transitional period in the history of the sport. Michael Weinreb's *Season of Saturdays* examines the evolution of college football, from the moral and ethical quandaries that informed its past to the fascinating changes that may affect its future. Since its nascent days on elite Ivy League campuses, college football has inspired both school spirit and controversy. Weinreb explores the game's inherent violence, its early seeds of big-business greed, and its impact on institutions of higher learning. Filtered through the stories of such iconic coaches as Woody Hayes and Joe Paterno and Steve Spurrier, *Season of Saturdays* also celebrates some of the greatest games of all time while exploring their larger significance. Part popular history, part memoir—and always uniquely American—*Season of Saturdays* is both a look back at how the sport became so fraught with problems, and a look ahead at how the sport might survive another century.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you're like Michael Weinreb, the best days of the year are Saturdays watching your favorite college football team play. If they're not playing that day, watching other college games is a close second. If it's the off-season, you can watch your favorite games on YouTube, DVR, or even on an old VHS tape. If you're like Weinreb, some of your best childhood memories are going to a college football stadium, taking in the pageantry, the crowd, and, of course, the game. If you're like Weinreb, you will really like his new book, *Season of Saturdays: A History of College Football in 14 Games*. Weinreb grew up in State College, Pennsylvania, where he became a fan of Penn State. As he selects, for this book, the 14 games that best encapsulate the key moments in college football history, he tends to lean toward Penn State and Big 10 games. I won't fault him his bias; he makes a good case for each of the games covered. Each of them are important games, and most of them had a role in altering the game in key ways. It's actually a very clever and interesting way to track the history of college football. As he points out, college football is at a turning point. The BCS has given way to the playoff. Paying players--legally--looks to be a real possibility. Programs are bigger and more professional than ever. The "haves" (the Power 5 teams) and "have nots" (all the rest), seem to be separating more each year. Weinreb shows that these trends are not new, although they are coming together in an unprecedented way. As a true college football fan, Weinreb much prefers Saturday to Sunday. Even as a child, watching college football in his parents' basement, he began "to buy completely into the irrational faith that college football engenders."

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