



The Franchise: Building a Winner With the World Champion Detroit Pistons, Basketballs Bad Boys

By Cameron Stauth

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The winners of the NBA playoffs for the 1988-89 season were the Detroit Pistons, long a poor-to-mediocre team, but one that had come close to triumph in 1987-88. The story of how the Pistons became champions is told here by the author of *The Sweeps*, who concentrates on general manager Jack McCloskey but also pays close attention to the other officials, coaches and players involved. The victorious team was put together over a period of years, with the final player added during one of the most unpopular trades in Piston history, when Adrian Dantley was sent away. Stauth attributes McCloskey's success to choosing players with a passion to compete, and to his ability to assemble a squad with the proper balance of youth and experience. This examination of a franchise from top to bottom is conscientious and detailed. Photos not seen by PW. Author tour.

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From Library Journal

In much the same way John Feinstein chronicled Indiana basketball in *A Season on the Brink* (LJ 11/1/86), and Peter Golenbock detailed North Carolina State's program in *Personal Fouls* (LJ 8/89), Stauth uncovers the business behind the Detroit Piston's NBA championship in 1989. He traces the building of the winning team: the draft choices, signing of free agents, and timely trades, all adding up to the proper team chemistry, the vital key to any championship. The man behind the franchise is no-nonsense general manager Jack McCloskey. Stauth's narrative is the exceptional story of the Pistons and their rise to NBA success. He pulls no punches; much of his book reflects the attitudes of players and management as well as the media. Although many will question Stauth's condemnation of certain practices in professional basketball, this is one of the best books ever on professional sports. Recommended for most libraries.

- *Boyd Childress, Auburn Univ. Lib., Ala.*

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