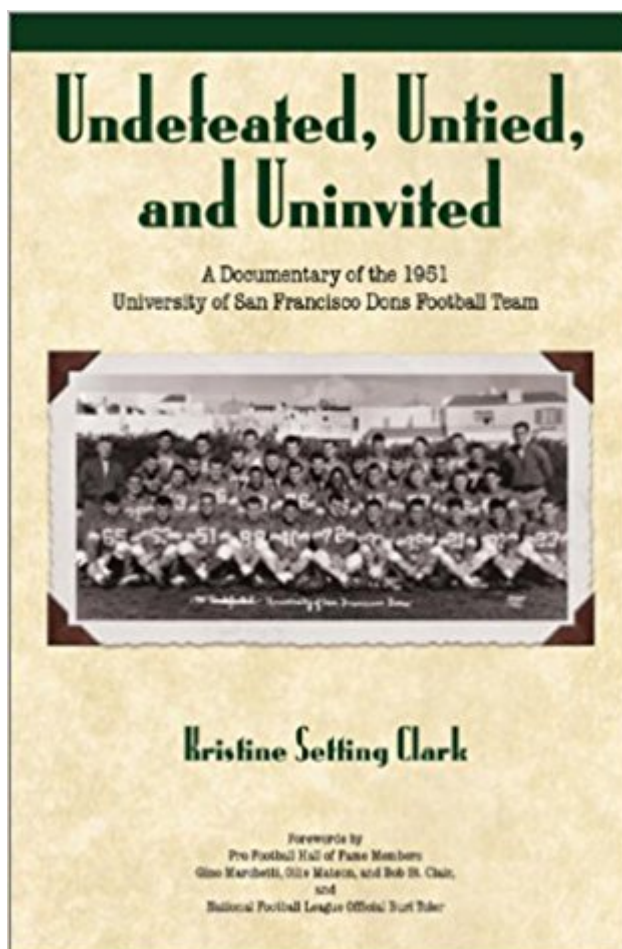


The book was found

Undefeated, Untied, And Uninvited



Synopsis

In 1951 the University of San Francisco football team (the Dons) went undefeated and untied. Yet, despite being among the best college football teams of all time, the squad was not invited to play in a post season bowl game because two of its players were African-American. The team was offered the chance to compete without the players, but they unanimously refused on principle. "The story of the 1951 University of San Francisco football team is a remarkable tale. I heard Pete Rozelle talk about it many times. It is a story that transcends football into the realm of the human spirit. I know it made a lasting impression on Pete, and the team clearly had a major impact on the NFL." -Paul Tagliabue - NFL Commissioner

Book Information

Hardcover: 184 pages

Publisher: Griffin Publishing Group (April 26, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1580001076

ISBN-13: 978-1580001076

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 6.2 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,270,206 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > Sports &

Outdoors > Basketball > College & University #2169 in Books > Sports & Outdoors >

Miscellaneous > History of Sports #2205 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Football (American)

Customer Reviews

"If we had Notre Dame written on the backs of our jerseys they'd still be writing books about us." -- Gino Marchetti, Baltimore Colts, NFL Hall of Fame
"If we had an expansion franchise, I would start it with just that team. They were so great!" -- Pete Rozelle, Former NFL Commissioner
"Once uninvited, undefeated and unsung, but no longer unappreciated." -Dave Anderson -- The New York Times
"The 1951 Don's team is an extraordinary story." -John McClain -- Houston Chronicle
"The USF team chose honor instead of glory." -Dwight Chapin -- San Francisco Chronicle
"The best team you never heard of." -- Ron Fimrite, Sports Illustrated
The book is well-researched and gets off to a good start with forewords by Marchetti, Matson, St. Clair and Toler. -- L.A. Times May 29, 2002

They were the "Magnificent 11" that no one had ever heard of. The team exhibited a roster of players and personnel that read like a "who's who" of gridiron heroes. *Undeclared, Untied, and Uninvited* goes behind the scenes to explore the successes and challenges as well as the unpredictable events that faced the Dons. Forewords by: Pro Football Hall of Fame Members Gino Marchetti, Ollie Matson, and Bob St. Clair, and National Football League Official Burl Toler

I was very excited to see read this book. I learned of the story of the the '51 Dons as a student at USF and I could not wait to read about this amazing team. I must say I was disappointed with what I received. The book is essentially a collection of newspaper articles recounting the games and other columns describing the team. I was hoping for some more insight to the players and the coaching staff during this golden age of college football. The story of the '51 USF Dons is an amazing story. In a time of racial inequality, these men were colorblind and worked together as a team to accomplish their goals. This story is begging to be told and while *Undeclared, Untied and Uninvited* does provide more insight into the true story of the Dons, it only begins to scratch the surface of the true story.

Very interesting story, but it was put together in kind of a disjointed, low budget, scrapbook kind of way. The story definitely needs to be told (I knew one of the members of the team). Enjoyable as long as you're not expecting a literary masterpiece.

A nice, historical account of this amazing team, as told through a great collection of newspaper articles. For what it is, it is a job well done! I was maybe expecting more personal insight into the players, but the book is not about individual players. It is about the team. I enjoyed the read, even though it was not what I anticipated.

As a native San Franciscan who grew up hearing stories of the fabled 1951 University of San Francisco (U.S.F.) football team, it was a special treat to be able to hear the whole story of that legendary team. The way in which the story was presented was also unique. Instead of being a "typical biography," the author utilizes newspaper clippings and other such media items to help convey the story of one of the finest, and the classiest, football teams in College football history

Good book

One of our family members was a member of this team, so it has a special significance for us. These men were ahead of their times. Hooray!!

Still a no fun allowed league. A good compliment to other books on Thorpe, Nagurski, and that starting era of the NFL.

I read this book in one sitting. I could not put it down. It covers the end of a forgotten and lightly regarded era of college football. In the 16 years between 1936 and 1951 five independent California colleges (Santa Clara, St. Mary's, College of the Pacific, University of San Francisco, and Loyola University of Los Angeles) ranked in the Associated Press top 20 a total of 11 times. Santa Clara won two Sugar Bowls, an Orange Bowl and was the only team to defeat Bud Wilkinson's 1948 Oklahoma juggernaut. The 1949 COP team had a backfield of 3 future pro players (Eddie Le Baron, Eddie Macon, and Tom McCormick), was undefeated over an 11 game schedule, and averaged 52 points a game. The 1950 Loyola team put 7 players into the pros including Gene Brito (a defensive end for the Redskins, Richard Nixon's favorite football player, and an NFL Hall of Famer). But the crowning achievement of the era was the 1951 USF team. And this book is about them. No other college team in history even comes close. Ten players made it to the NFL. Three are in the NFL Hall of Fame: Ollie Matson of the Cardinals and Rams and the only man other than Jim Thorpe to achieve All-American in football and win an Olympic Medal in Track and Field, Gino Marchetti of the Colts - the greatest defensive end of all time, and Bob St. Clair the greatest tackle in the history of 49er football. If this team had been named Oklahoma, Notre Dame, or Florida State they would still be singing songs about them. But the real story in the book is about courage and integrity. The football program at USF was in danger of being discontinued because the small Jesuit school could not afford the cost of maintaining a big time football enterprise. A bowl bid might have saved the program. But even though the team was undefeated and untied no bowl bids were going to be offered unless the two black players on the team stayed home. This involved the contemporary racial politics of the South. The school and the team declined the condition and the next year USF dropped the sport. Kris Clark has done an absolutely beautiful job putting this book together. It is well written, wonderfully researched, and engaging. I really recommend this book even if you are not much of a sports fan. The story and the characters will stay with you forever.

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