

The Steelers, The Cowboys, The 70s, and The Epic Battle for America's Soul

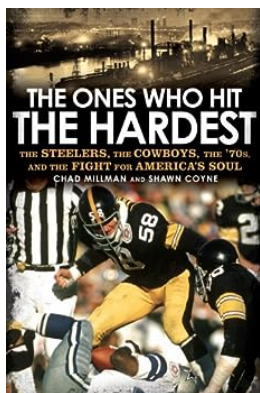


The 1970s: A Time of Turmoil and Football Glory

The 1970s were a decade of great social and political turmoil in America. The Vietnam War, racial tensions, and an energy crisis ignited heated debates and divided the nation. However, amidst this backdrop of conflict, another battle was taking place – a battle that transcended politics and united Americans like no other – the legendary rivalry between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Dallas Cowboys.

The Teams: The Steelers and The Cowboys

The Pittsburgh Steelers and the Dallas Cowboys were two football powerhouses that dominated the NFL in the 1970s. These teams represented more than just cities; they embodied different philosophies, cultures, and values, making their matchups legendary.



The Ones Who Hit the Hardest: The Steelers, the Cowboys, the '70s, and the Fight for America's Soul by Chad Millman (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 789 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 336 pages



The Pittsburgh Steelers: The Working-Class Heroes

The Steelers were the blue-collar team who embraced the gritty nature of Pittsburgh. Led by the iconic “Steel Curtain” defense, which included legendary players like Mean Joe Greene and Jack Lambert, the Steelers were known for their toughness and hard-nosed football style. They symbolized the hardworking spirit of the city they represented.

The Dallas Cowboys: America's Team

The Dallas Cowboys, on the other hand, represented glamour, grandeur, and the American Dream. Led by the charismatic Roger Staubach and coached by the

visionary Tom Landry, the Cowboys personified America's aspiration for success. With their cheerleaders, star-studded lineup, and state-of-the-art stadium, the Cowboys were a symbol of America's ambitious spirit.

Football as a Battle for America's Soul

The Steelers vs. Cowboys matchups ignited more than just a sporting spectacle; they became a metaphorical battle for America's soul. It was a clash between the hardworking, underdog spirit of the working-class Americans and the polished, aspirational image of success. The football field became the battleground where these contrasting ideals fought for dominance.

Super Bowl XIII: A Showdown of Titans

Super Bowl XIII, held on January 21, 1979, epitomized the Steelers-Cowboys rivalry and its implications on America. The game showcased both the tenacity of these teams on the field and the emotions of a nation wrestling with its identity.

A Spectacle of Bravery and Skill

The game was a spectacle of bravery and skill, featuring iconic plays from stalwarts like Terry Bradshaw, Lynn Swann, and the infamous "Hail Mary" pass from Roger Staubach to Butch Johnson. The players put their bodies on the line, mirroring the resilience and determination of the American people.

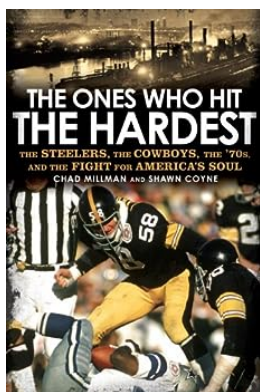
A Battle on Two Fronts

However, this Super Bowl was not just about football. The Steelers' victory represented the triumph of the underdog, the working-class spirit that believed in grit and hard work. It was a symbolic victory for those who felt left behind in a rapidly changing America.

Legacy and Lessons

While times have changed and new football dynasties have emerged, the Steelers-Cowboys rivalry of the 1970s left a lasting legacy. It highlighted the power of sports to capture the collective imagination of a nation, and how football can serve as a mirror reflecting a society's values, dreams, and conflicts.

Ultimately, the Steelers and the Cowboys represented much more than teams on a football field – they were embodiments of the American spirit, grappling with the challenges and aspirations of a nation at a critical juncture in history.



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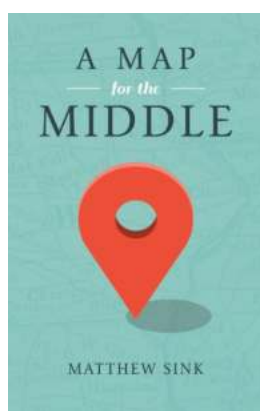
A stirring portrait of the decade when the Steelers became the greatest team in NFL history, even as Pittsburgh was crumbling around them.

In the 1970s, the city of Pittsburgh was in need of heroes. In that decade the steel industry, long the lifeblood of the city, went into massive decline, putting 150,000 steelworkers out of work. And then the unthinkable happened: The Pittsburgh Steelers, perennial also-rans in the NFL, rose up to become the most feared team

in the league, dominating opponents with their famed "Steel Curtain" defense, winning four Super Bowls in six years, and lifting the spirits of a city on the brink.

In *The Ones Who Hit the Hardest*, Chad Millman and Shawn Coyne trace the rise of the Steelers amidst the backdrop of the fading city they fought for, bringing to life characters such as: Art Rooney, the owner of the team so beloved by Pittsburgh that he was known simply as "The Chief"; Chuck Noll, the headstrong coach who used the ethos of steelworkers to motivate his players; Terry Bradshaw, the strong-armed and underestimated QB; Joe Green, the defensive tackle whose fighting nature lifted the franchise; and Jack Lambert, the linebacker whose snarling, toothless grin embodied the Pittsburgh defense.

Every story needs a villain, and in this one it's played by the Dallas Cowboys. As Pittsburgh rusted, the new and glittering metropolis of Dallas, rich from the capital infusion of oil revenue, signaled the future of America. Indeed, the town brimmed with such confidence that the Cowboys felt comfortable nicknaming themselves "America's Team." Throughout the 1970s, the teams jostled for control of the NFL—the Cowboys doing it with finesse and the Steelers doing it with brawn—culminating in Super Bowl XIII in 1979, when the aging Steelers attempted to hold off the Cowboys one last time. Thoroughly researched and grippingly written, *The Ones Who Hit the Hardest* is a stirring tribute to a city, a team, and an era.



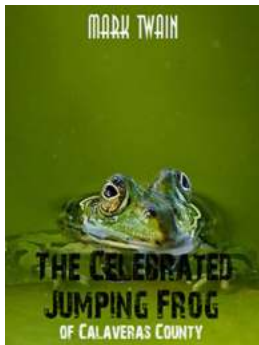
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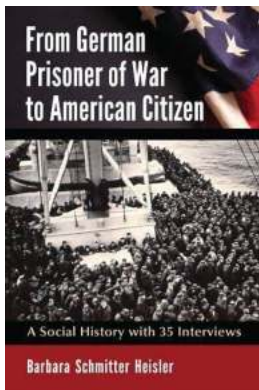
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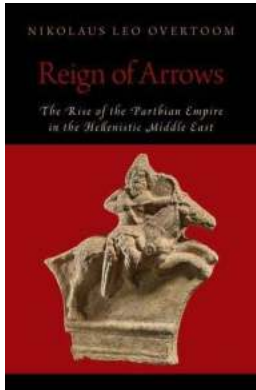
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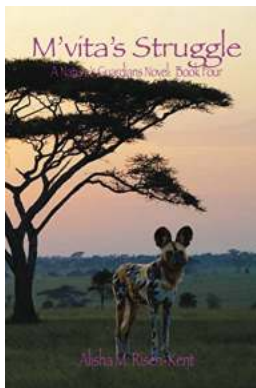
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