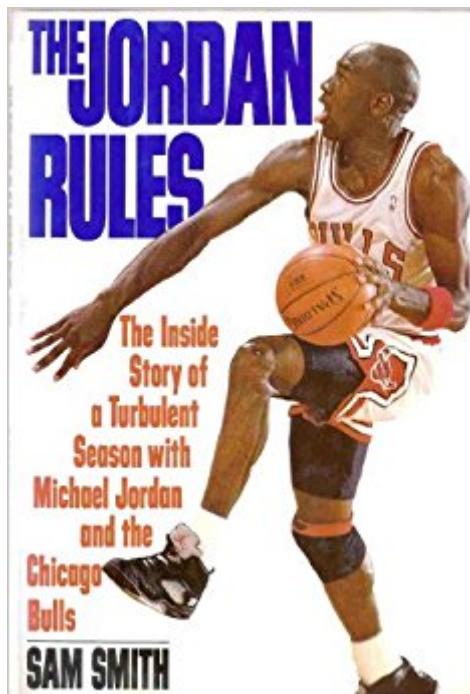


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The Jordan Rules



Synopsis

A SUPER TEAM...A SUPERSTAR...A SUPER EGO The most gifted athlete ever to play the game, Michael Jordan rose to heights no basketball player had ever reached before. What drove Michael Jordan? The pursuit of team success...or of his own personal glory? The pursuit of excellence...or of his next multimillion-dollar endorsement? The flight of the man they call Air Jordan had been rocked by controversy. In *The Jordan Rules*, which chronicles the Chicago Bulls' first championship season, Sam Smith takes the #1 Bull by the horns to reveal the team behind the man...and the man behind the Madison Avenue smile. Here is the inside game, both on and off the court, including: Jordan's power struggles with management, from verbal attacks on the general manager to tantrums against his coach Behind-the-scenes feuds, as Jordan punches a teammate in practice and refuses to pass the ball in the crucial minutes of big games The players who competed with His Airness for Air Time -- Scottie Pippen, Horace Grant, Bill Cartwright -- telling their sides of the story A penetrating look at coach Phil Jackson, the former flower child who blossomed into one of the NBA's top motivators and who finally found a way to coax "Michael and the Jordanaires" to the their first title A provocative eyewitness account, *The Jordan Rules* delivers all the nonstop excitement, tension, and thrills of a championship season -- and an intense, fascinating portrait of the incomparable Michael Jordan. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

New York Newsday An engaging, sometimes cruelly funny behind-the-scenes look at the Bulls' tantrum-and doubt-filled but finally triumphant journey to the NBA title. Chicago Sun-Times The *Jordan Rules*...might be the best sports book since *Season on the Brink* about Bob

Knight. Newsweek Jordan boasts a wicked tongue, and not just when it's hanging out as he dunks....[He] manages to blurt out enough in Smith's book to reveal his own narcissistic, trash-talking, obsessively competitive side. Associated Press The Jordan Rules entertains throughout, but the most fun comes from just hanging out with the players. Smith takes us into the locker room, aboard the team plane and team bus, and seats us on the bench during games. Sometimes, books reflecting on a team's success don't reach the personal level with the people who made it happen: The Jordan Rules does. Fred Barnes (The McLaughlin Group) The American Spectator A riveting account...what you want in a sports book: the behind-the-scenes stuff, a peek at the private side of the players, their hobbies and politics and religion, the way they get along or don't...It's fair to compare The Jordan Rules with the campaign books that appear after every presidential race....The difference is not only that The Jordan Rules explains more persuasively than most of the campaign chronicles how the winner was decided -- it's that it does so more interestingly and with more understanding of the human heart. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Sam Smith was a reporter for the Chicago Tribune during the Chicago Bulls' 1991 championship season. He is a Brooklyn, New York, native with degrees in accounting from Pace University and in journalism from Ball State University. He has worked for Arthur Young and Co., the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, and States News Service in Washington, D.C. This is his first book. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

In the spring of 1990, the Chicago Bulls fell to the Detroit Pistons in the NBA playoffs for the third consecutive season. But the Bulls had their strongest team ever going into the 1990-91 campaign and were looking to get over their past playoff failures and claim their elusive first championship. Sam Smith chronicles how the club attained its long-sought goal that year in "The Jordan Rules." Smith profiles coach Phil Jackson, superstar Michael Jordan, and the rest of the key players on the team throughout his account of the long campaign. The author notes some of the moves that the Bulls did and did not make to build their title team. Those who remember this book coming out in the winter of 1992 recall that most of the commentary about "The Jordan Rules" back then focused on Jordan's mistreatment of his teammates, and some of the vignettes on that score are indeed worse than just normal razzing. The 1991 Bulls were a great team but went through the inevitable rough patches during the season. Smith recalls the conflicts over the triangle offense and the infighting and dissension that went on, but the Bulls came together for the playoffs, finally having the

mental strength to get over the Pistons hurdle and then to beat the aging Lakers in the Finals. While "The Jordan Rules" is most famous for its lurid aspects, Smith's account is a good retrospective on the entirety of the Bulls' breakthrough season.

The alternative title could have been, "Why, Yes, Michael Jordan Really Was An Unpleasant Teammate." It's also a fascinating glimpse of Phil Jackson before he became the Zen Master, as it seems as if he was barely holding on to the reins of the team; and, even then, liked to play little mind games. It's crazy that they managed to be cohesive enough to be as successful as they were.

A very interesting book to read nearly 25 years after it was written. This book was a page turner for me as I grew up watching these Bulls teams while starting to pick up basketball. This was an insider's view and a great piece of sports journalism, how different this era is now. Reading this book made me realize how much Sam Smith wanted to write *Breaks of the Game 2*. The way the characters are laid out and what goes on in their lives is almost a carbon copy of David Halberstam. I would have gave this 5 stars if I hadn't read the classic by Halberstam. People will be more drawn to this because of Jordan, but do yourself a favor if you read this to go back and read *Breaks of the Game*.

I have been reading the book *Jordan Rules*. *Jordan Rules* is a book about the Chicago Bulls team over the Michael Jordan era. It gives great insight to the player widely accepted as the greatest ever, Michael Jordan. There were dark secrets revealed about him, about he was a jerk in the locker room, how he insulted his teammates and didn't pass to them. There are little stories about most of the other players, such as Scottie Pippen, Horace Grant, John Paxson, John Hopson, Will Perdue, and Bill Cartwright. There are also stories about the staff, like Phil Jackson, Jerry Krause, and Billy Reinsdorf, the owner. Michael Jordan wasn't the perfect guy, he was kind of mean, none of his teammates really liked him. One of the stories that I really enjoyed was about John Paxson, on how he was the most underpaid starting point guard in the league, but he still somehow hung in there, deferred to Jordan and played some gritty defense. I loved this book, it is great for basketball fans of all ages.

Good view of the backstage of the first Bulls championship. Fun to read in retrospect after all that happened afterwards. The digital edition brings an interesting afterword written more recently. At times it may become a little boring on the game by game of the regular season. It is very interesting

to read the doubtful and slow transformation that Jordan has - or tries to have - from an individual to a team player, and the role that Phil Jackson had on it. Probably my main discovery was about the smart personality of Jackson, it will probably get me to "Eleven Rings".

The writing is not exactly Hemingway (as most sports books are written by sportswriters, including this one) but the story told and the incredible level of access that Sam Smith was granted is unparalleled. I can't imagine anybody being closer to a team and thus being able to include so many of players' and coaches' thoughts, words, and actions behind the scenes. The beginning of the book is a little too focused on Sam Smith and his relationship with Jordan (and how that relationship changed after the book came out) but once the story really gets rolling it is hard to put down. Highly recommended for any sports fan with even a passing interest in the NBA and Michael Jordan. Hardcore NBA fans and Jordan aficionados will likely be even more fascinated. I certainly was.

Fantastic book. It documents the Chicago Bulls first three-peat and the chemistry issues they had. It points out the egos that were in the locker room and how on some nights those egos made their way out onto the court. If MJ played in today's game he may not be viewed in the same light he was back during his first run with the Bulls. I would definitely recommend this to any basketball fan, regardless of your fandom. As a fan who grew up in the 90's, I was conditioned to view MJ as the greatest thing since sliced bread however, this kind of put things into perspective.

An interesting read, but clearly laced with bias and seems to be overly perceptive of what players or personnel were thinking at certain times. As an NBA fan who didn't start watching until 2005, I was interested in the Jordan era of the NBA, but I found myself skeptical of Smith's account and ultimately decided to stop reading.

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