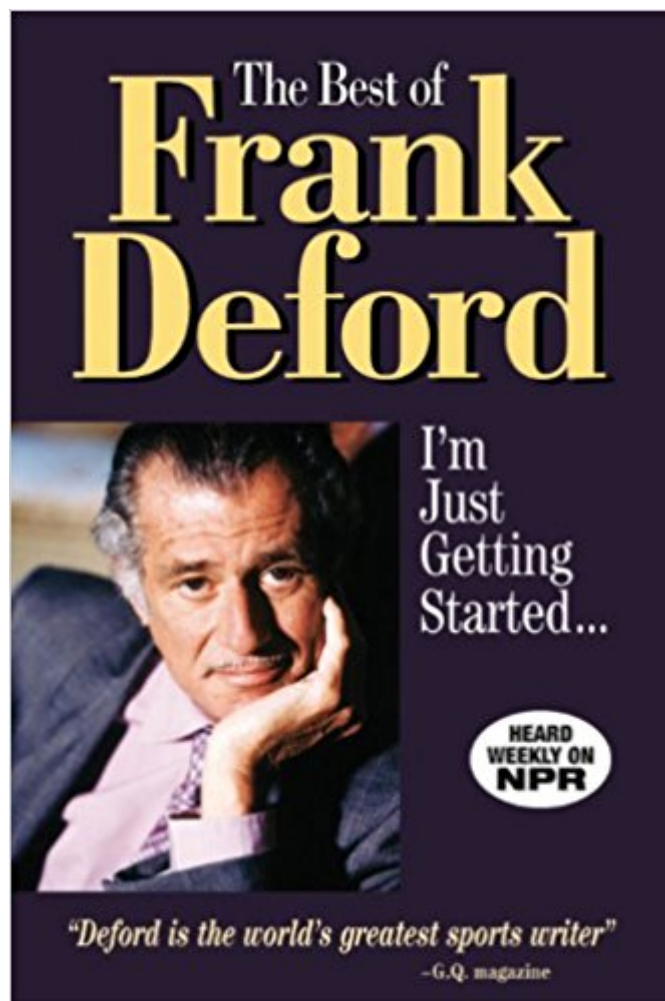


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# The Best Of Frank Deford: I'm Just Getting Started...



## Synopsis

Whether Frank Deford is the voice you hear on National Public Radio's Morning Edition or the name you see in the Newsweek byline, you are sure to be highly entertained with the irreverent musings of this much-acclaimed sports mind. Deford possesses a witty and poignant take on the world of athletics that has earned him a wealth of fans, from the most ardent sports enthusiast to the greenest novice. In this best of the best compilation, Deford creates insightful, richly drawn yarns on the human drama and the occasional high comedy of athletic competition. The Best of Frank Deford relates not only the specific and the spectacular events that make up great sports writing, but reflects through sports the larger world of American culture. This is a grand collection of his most vivid caricatures, colorful anecdotes, and out-of-left-field observations on the often humbling and humorous nature of sport. The Best of Frank Deford is a treasure of Deford's best writing and will make an instant fan of any reader.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

After nearly 40 years in the trenches, Frank Deford's niche in the pantheon of modern sportswriters is secure, making the subtitle--I'm Just Getting Started--of his latest collection (tongue-in-)cheekily optimistic. Irony has always been one of Deford's best weapons; by putting his award-winning magazine work from Sports Illustrated, Newsweek, and Vanity Fair beside his award-winning commentaries from National Public Radio, *The Best of...* shows how adeptly he's wielded it in two very separate mediums. Still, reading the recent magazine work along with selections from two decades of radio broadcasts--Deford insists the latter are really nothing more than written columns

read aloud--makes for an odd coupling that has you wishing for a lot more of the printed Deford. Not that there's anything wrong with the radio version. Deford's commentaries are timely, pithy, clever, opinionated, and insightful, but they're ultimately as ephemeral as the airwaves they were delivered on. His magazine journalism, on the other hand, is anything but ephemeral. It is work that is rarely less than elegant, and often just plain exquisite. His long looks at Bobby Knight, Bill Russell, and a former Connecticut high school football star who commits suicide at 24 are breathtaking. So is his exploration of University of Arkansas basketball coach Nolan Richardson, spun out by Deford as a play in four acts. His intertwined profile of Roger Bannister--the first four-minute miler--and Sir Edmund Hillary--the first to climb Everest--is a tour de force, as is his personal journey into the world of bowling. These are all pieces to be savored again and again for their expansiveness, circumspection, reportage, heart, style, and wit. They remind you what is Best about a writer of Deford's caliber in ways the constraints of radio can't pull in quite as clearly. --Jeff Silverman --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Frank Deford is a senior contributing writer for Sports Illustrated, an author, a commentator for National Public Radio, and a correspondent for Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel on HBO.

DeFord continues to offer fresh looks at sports on his weekly NPR feature. In this collection of essays, he reveals himself as a fine writer, as well as an outspoken observer of the sport scene. The selection presented here should have something of interest for fans of every sport. It covers the entire field. I am completely satisfied with this book; but I am in my 80s. I give it a satisfactory rating--rather than outstanding--because it is pretty dated. The topics and athletes it covers may not mean as much to the reader who is under 50. It really would sell better in a mass market edition.

In my opinion Frank Deford has long since been one of the preeminent sports journalists of our time. What keeps me from giving this book more of a rave is that most of the pieces contained within are transcripts of his short NPR pieces and as a result sound better than they read.

Good book to pick up occasionally and read a few articles by Frank Deford, a really good sportswriter.

about half way thru. Overall good read, but some of the sections are too long

Solid reporting and enjoyable.

Any fan of Deford's writing will enjoy this book. I bought it after reading his newest book and recommend them both.

I love listening to Frank Deford on NPR. He gets to the heart of the matter and uses such great vocabulary. I am not a sports fan but, as a High School teacher and Wife & Mother of 2 sports aficionados, I am interested in the History and modern day controversies that go on in sports, so I can periodically speak with some credibility with my constituents. I bought this book for my 15 year old son, who had never heard of Deford, but is a fan of Rick O'Reilly. He loved this book and could not put it down. He has added Deford to his list of favorite writers.

Favorite writer

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