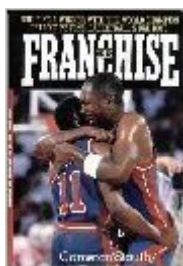


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# The Franchise: Building A Winner With The World Champion Detroit Pistons, Basketballs Bad Boys



## Synopsis

Book by Stauth, Cameron

## Book Information

Hardcover: 365 pages

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## Customer Reviews

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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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. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

At the beginning of the 1980s, the Detroit Pistons were terrible. They made progress, becoming a middle-of-the-pack playoff team by the middle of the decade. They were superb in 1987 and 1988, coming up just short in their brutal playoff defeats in those seasons. In 1989 they finally broke through, capturing the first of two consecutive NBA titles. In "The Franchise," Cameron Stauth takes the reader through the 1988-89 season from training camp to the NBA Finals, and along the way describes how general manager Jack McCloskey built the team over the course of the decade. There were many franchises in the NBA in the mid-Eighties that seemed on the edge of achieving greatness, but Detroit actually did--McCloskey relied on superior scouting, on being willing to trade more frequently than other teams, on an emphasis on depth and chemistry, and on fostering a team-first attitude to build a championship club. There were clear power relations on the team--Isiah Thomas and Bill Laimbeer were the leaders under coach Chuck Daly. The book lists the many trades that McCloskey considered over the course of the season, and recalls his wisdom and patience in waiting for the February blockbuster trade that did not wreck but instead enhanced the team's chemistry and structure and put the Pistons on the path to the championship. The 1988-89 season was Detroit's first in their new arena, The Palace of Auburn Hills. The Pistons won a league-best 63 games and had one of the best regular seasons any team had ever had, but longtime fans recall that the club spent much of the year behind the surprising Cleveland Cavaliers, and "The Franchise" recounts the Pistons' late-season surge that gave them the NBA's best record and home-court advantage throughout the playoffs. The Pistons won a championship without a dominant center, without any player averaging 20 points per game, and with a commitment to great defense and teamwork by the nine players who got regular playing time. Stauth recalls the playoff wins over the Celtics, Bucks, Bulls, and Lakers, the championship celebration that followed, and the team's depth being a stumbling block in the expansion draft that immediately followed the season. The book closes with appendices of statistics of the 1988-89 season. As well as being a strong recollection of an NBA franchise's first championship season, "The Franchise" is a great snapshot of the late-Eighties NBA with all of the names it mentions. It will stir a lot of memories in readers who followed the NBA closely a quarter-century ago.

If U wanna know what was a way of building incredible FRANCHISE of DETROIT PISTONS known as BAD BOYS, U must read this book. This is a book of building incredible idea of creating the winning team - the idea which unified the fantastic players : Isiah Thomas, Bill Laimbeer, Joe Dumars et cet, GM J.McCloskey and Coach C.Daly. Tha fascinate story about team chemistry, tensiot, motivation, power and LOVE to the basketball. True stroy of REAL BASKETBALL WORLD. very well told story. Everebody who loves Basketball has to read.....

I cannot express strongly enough how every NBA fan and especially every Pistons fan NEEDS to own this book. Even the mighty Bill "The Sports Guy" Simmons calls this a must-read in his own basketball opus, The Book Of Basketball. If you were interested in it enough to go so far as to read reviews on this book, BUY IT NOW. Trust me.

All is OK. Thanks for his amazing book about mi team of basket.

Cameron Stauth actually followed the Detroit Pistons around for two championship years, and it appears he didn't even get in their way! Instead of focusing on the drama of any one game, The Franchise follows the Pistons through their ups and downs over more than one season. From the draft rounds to the heartbreaking playoff losses, this book shows that running an NBA team is about much more than dribbling and shooting. This book is excellent for anyone with even moderate knowledge of the game of basketball. It includes several colorfully written characters, such as a (somewhat milder) Dennis Rodman, years before he became a Chicago Bull. The only reason I don't give this book a '10' is because it isn't for everyone. Most fans are interested in the story behind the game, but some aren't. Stauth also writes like a sports reporter, not a novelist. He details everything that goes on behind the scenes that fans never see. The many phone calls and callbacks that may or may not lead to a trade for a draft pick or a supporting player. The panicked decisions to find players to fill out the bench when a star goes down. He really does on excellent job of presenting the coach's and the GM's perspective: that NBA basketball isn't just about the superstars, it's about getting fans in the seats, giving them a good time, and using the money to put a COMPLETE and COOPERATIVE team on the court.

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