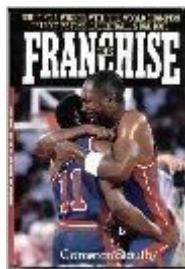


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The Franchise: Building A Winner With The World Champion Detroit Pistons, Basketballs Bad Boys



Synopsis

Book by Stauth, Cameron

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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.

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