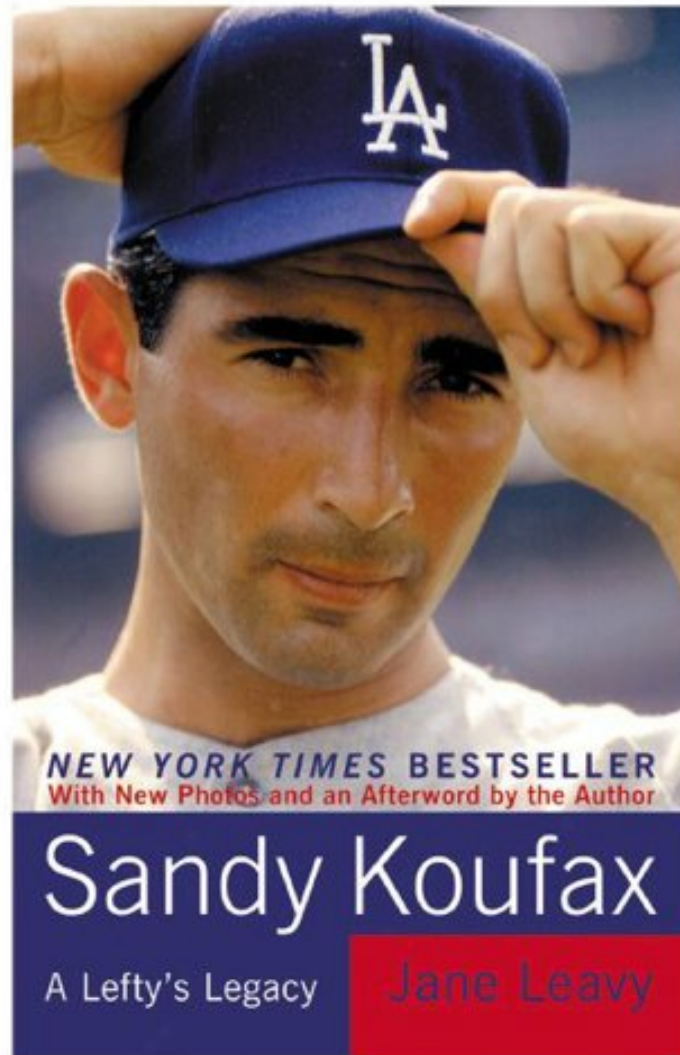


(Read free ebook) Sandy Koufax: A Lefty's Legacy

Sandy Koufax: A Lefty's Legacy

Von Jane Leavy

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Von Jane Leavy : Sandy Koufax: A Lefty's Legacy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sandy Koufax: A Lefty's Legacy:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Tip of the Cap to a Quiet Hero and His Memory!Von Donald MitchellSandy Koufax: A Lefty's Legacy is by far the best book about Mr. Koufax that I have read. My rating reflects that. Nevertheless, the book will be most meaningful to those who are interested on Mr. Koufax's effect on his fellow players and fans. A successful biography requires a sense of the subject's inner life, and Mr. Koufax's steadfast quietness about his thoughts makes that impossible. What's

new in this book are a large number of interviews with those who played with and know Mr. Koufax. These interviews help fill in his legacy for us all. The book has an unusual format and focus that you will either love or hate. The continuing story line is Mr. Koufax's perfect game on September 9, 1965 against the Chicago Cubs. The game is related in 10 chapters that alternate with the biographical/sociological material that forms the rest of the book. The end leafs of the book also portray a scorecard from that game. The first chapter of this material is called "The Pregame Show" and sets the stage. Every other chapter covers an inning. It's nicely done, including little known facts like how a little of the game ended up being recorded for posterity. However, no one would buy a book just to read the details of this game. So the book's appeal rests on its biography of Mr. Koufax, and the related material on how his life affected others. The beginning of the book stresses the biographical, because he was more visible then to those who knew him than after he became the Dodger superstar. I found that that material was fresh and interesting, and added meaningfully to my understanding of his formative influences and early life style. As his fame rose, Mr. Koufax became less visible as a person and his sociological impact increased. His legacy is treated more seriously than in other books. Basically, it comes down to having had a pioneer's advanced understanding of the mechanics of baseball pitching, performing at an extraordinary level during his career without resorting to underhanded tricks, behaving with modesty and decency, and setting a good example because it was his nature to do so. Some aspects of that legacy have echoed more loudly than others, such as his choice to sit out the opening game of 1965 World Series because it was on Yom Kippur. His observant example seems to have had a large impact on many Jewish people and increased awareness of the Jewish faith among non-Jews. You will read a lot about that. The book also fills in with what else people were thinking and saying at the time. As these days recede, this contextual information becomes more important in understanding Mr. Koufax and his legacy. The end of the book seemed to tail off slowly like a hanging curve for me. The material goes into his incredible pain at the end a bit too much, his holdout with Don Drysdale to get a raise, his post-playing baseball activities, his failed marriages, and his continuing search for privacy in a world where many are obsessed with him. To me, those aren't really part of the legacy I feel. I became a Dodger fan in 1955 when I watched my first World Series on television and fell in love with the team. I felt like my life was complete when they soon moved to Los Angeles, near my home in Southern California so I could see them play in person. During the greatest of Mr. Koufax's playing years, I scraped together a few dollars by working after school and on the weekends, begged or borrowed a ride to the ball park, and tried to see every one of Mr. Koufax's starts I could. The experience at the park was what I imagine being in Heaven must be like. Often having seats in weird spots (because we couldn't afford to buy tickets in advance), I came to reflect on his fast ball and curve from dozens of different angles and distances. The degree that the curve broke and how rapidly it broke were almost impossible to believe. Your breath would catch when it happened. The pop in the catcher's glove from his fast ball would still be echoing in the stands after the ball was back in Mr. Koufax's glove. And he was so serious and yet so serene on the mound. It was as though an angel had joined us for a brief time. To me, Mr. Koufax will always be the unassuming, decent, and quiet man who was a truly worthy baseball hero. We could use more like him today. I believe that's his broadest and most important legacy. He deserves much credit for keeping that legacy pristine. Thank you, Mr. Koufax!! I feel indebted to Ms. Leavy for extending my understanding of Mr. Koufax and how he has affected the lives of others. Her persistence and effort have added important nuances to our understanding of that quiet hero. I would like to specially compliment Ms. Leavy for her choice of photographs. If she had only added one showing the time-lapse flight of one of his curve balls, they would have been perfect. My family also comes in for special praise for giving this book to me as a gift. I'll treasure it (and them) always. After you finish this fine book, I suggest you think about what your contributions have been and legacy will be. What would Ms. Leavy have to say about you? How could you improve upon that?

Kurzbeschreibung The incomparable and mysterious Sandy Koufax is revealed. This is an absorbing book, beautifully written. Wall Street Journal Leavy has hit it out of the park A lot more than a biography. It's a consideration of how we create our heroes, and how this hero's self perception distinguishes him from nearly every other great athlete in living memory a remarkably rich portrait. Time The instant New York Times bestseller about the baseball legend and famously reclusive Dodgers pitcher Sandy Koufax, from award-winning former Washington Post sportswriter Jane Leavy. Sandy Koufax reveals, for the first time, what drove the three-time Cy Young award winner to the pinnacle of baseball and then just as quickly into self-imposed exile. From Publishers Weekly Sportswriter Leavy describes her book as not so much a biography of a ballplayer as a social history of baseball, with the former star pitcher's career as the barometer of change. While both a preface and an introduction spin Leavy's storytelling wheels, a compelling, literary social history does indeed get rolling. Koufax refused to participate in the project, so Leavy has spoken to hundreds of people with something to share on the former Brooklyn/L.A. Dodger Hank Aaron, Joe Torre, childhood friend and Mets co-owner Fred Wilpon and even the old Dodgers equipment manager among them and their testimonies make for a rich baseball pastiche and an engaging look at the game's more innocent period. Koufax capped off his first year by watching the 1955 World Series against the hated Yankees from the bench, and following the Dodgers' historic victory

headed from Yankee Stadium to class at Columbia University, where he studied architecture (in case the baseball thing didn't work out). Even when Leavy's historical anecdotes are quaint, they prove timely: she details Koufax holding out for a better contract with fellow star pitcher Don Drysdale in '66, paving the way for free agency. While Leavy's interest in Koufax's Jewish heritage at times seems to border on the obsessive, she delivers an honest and exquisitely detailed examination of a complex man, one whose skills were such that slugger Willie Stargell once likened hitting against Koufax to "trying to drink coffee with a fork." Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Sandy Koufax had the five greatest consecutive seasons of any pitcher in major-league history. From 1962 through 1966 he led the National League in earned-run average every year and won at least 25 games three times. In 1966, an arthritic pitching arm caused his retirement. Except for a brief stint as a broadcaster, Koufax shunned the spotlight after he stopped playing. Leavy, an award-winning former Washington Post sports journalist, brings us up to date on the "lefty's legacy," interviewing hundreds of Koufax's former teammates, opponents, friends, and family members. Their respect for the man is remarkable. The words most often associated with him are "gentle" and "integrity." This is a book about Koufax, but Leavy also uses his career to examine the changes baseball has undergone in the last four decades, noting that when Koufax and teammate Don Drysdale refused to work without better pay, they sowed the seeds for future collective bargaining. Koufax was a hero to a generation on the basis of his pitching accomplishments. This biography will earn him further respect for a life well lived. Wes Lukowsky Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved