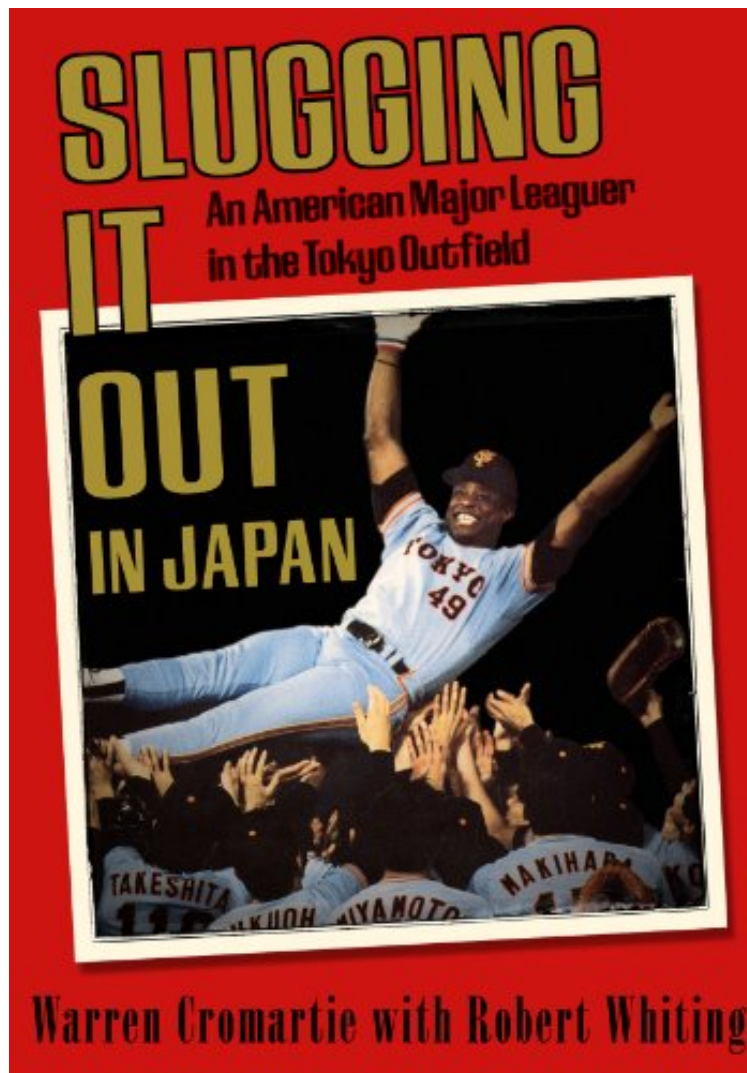


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## Slugging It Out in Japan: An American Major Leaguer in the Tokyo Outfield (English Edition)

Von Warren Cromartie, Robert Whiting  
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Von Warren Cromartie, Robert Whiting : Slugging It Out in Japan: An American Major Leaguer in the Tokyo Outfield (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Slugging It Out in Japan: An American Major Leaguer in the Tokyo Outfield (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. TOP: Ein amerikanischer Major Leaguer in Tokio Von Kai Leuner Doch, doch, ich habe dem amerikanischen Nationalsport Baseball eine Reihe von Chancen gegeben. Ich habe in New York die Yankees und die Mets besucht, diverse Minor-

League-Games im Umkreis von Washington, D.C. (lange, ehe die Nationals kamen) und sogar eine Partie der legendären Yomiuri Giants im Tokyo Dome. Dennoch ist mir Baseball immer - vorsichtig formuliert - fremd geblieben. Folgerichtig hatte ich auch den Namen Warren Cromartie nie zuvor gehört. Wenn ich an dieser Stelle dennoch seine Biographie "Slugging It Out In Japan" empfehle, dann deshalb, weil es ein hervorragendes Buch ist, obwohl sich alles um Baseball dreht. Denn Cromartie, zuvor Profi in Montreal, feierte seine größten Erfolge als Baseball-Legionär in Tokyo und erzählt in seinem Buch zuerst spannend auch und gerade von seiner Zeit als Gaijin. Nachdem der nie sonderlich diplomatische "Cro" 1983 in Montreal nicht mehr erwünscht war (er und der ihm in herzlicher Abneigung verbundene General Manager Jim Fanning waren sich bereits früher unter unerfreulichen Umständen begegnet), sondierte er als "free agent" zunächst Angebote verschiedener Major League Klubs. San Francisco war interessiert und auch Boston und Seattle, aber zu einem Vertragsschluss kam es nicht. Auf einmal meldeten sich die Yomiuri Giants, das japanische Pendant der New York Yankees, und boten "Cro" einen Dreijahresvertrag mit einem Gehalt von 600.000 \$. Wenige Wochen später landete der dunkelhäutige Outfielder in Tokyo. Eine Liebe auf den ersten Blick war es allerdings nicht: Cromartie berichtet vom gnadenlosen Drill im Vorbereitungslager und stundenlangen Besprechungen mit Videovorführungen, von Auswärtsspielen in gesichtslosen Betonstädten und im Bus kettenrauchenden Mitspielern (alle außer ihm rauchten!), von seiner Einsamkeit in seinem Apartment im Botschaftsviertel Hiroo und von seinen sportlichen Eingewöhnungsschwierigkeiten. Er beschreibt sein Verhältnis zum legendären Trainer Sadaharu Oh, zur mitunter aggressiven japanischen Boulevardpresse und zu taktierenden Funktionären. Höchst amüsant ist zu verfolgen, wie er ungeachtet immer neuer Ankündigungen, Japan "nach dieser Saison zu verlassen", seinen Vertrag doch stets wieder verlängert (zuletzt für 2 Millionen Dollar pro Saison). Er sollte insgesamt sieben Jahre in Tokyo bleiben und zu einem der prominentesten (und erfolgreichsten) Ausländer werden, die je in der japanischen Central League aktiv waren. Fazit: Sicher ist das Buch für eingefleischte Baseball-Fans von noch größerem Interesse. Aber auch wer einfach nur am Leben eines Gaijin im Tokyo der Mittachtziger teilhaben oder die Karriere eines amerikanischen Sportlers im Ausland verfolgen möchte, wird von "Slugging It Out In Japan" fasziniert sein.

Kurzbeschreibung At age 29, Warren Cromartie was a solid major league ballplayer who'd put in eight respectable years with the Montreal Expos. Moving to Japan was the last thing he had in mind when he tested the free-agent market. But when the Tokyo Giants outbid the San Francisco Giants for his services, Cro gulped-then went to work. And work he did under circumstances few would imagine, through ordeals that tested his foreign grit, with a stubbornness and a perseverance that surprised even him. Suddenly, in a script that he would have been crazy to write himself, he found himself on top of Japanese sports hero of the most unlikely sort. Slugging It Out in Japan is the remarkable story of a man who did exactly what the title says. He slugged the baseball, flirting with a .400 average in his best season. He slugged a pitcher, a shocking breach of etiquette which nearly caused a riot. And he has slugged it out with the benign indifference of Japan, holding court on the quality of the game, the quality of life, human relations, racism, sex, industry, even the tensions between the United States and Japan. From his childhood in a black ghetto in Miami where he first learned the game, to his turbulent years with the Expos where he shared center stage with the likes of Andre Dawson, Tim Lincecum, Gary Carter, and Steve Rogers to his arrival in Tokyo where he was proclaimed a messiah, this is the story of Warren Cromartie's life. He is outspoken, he holds nothing back, he aims to provoke. It is also the story of Cro's interracial marriage to a French-Canadian woman, his complex relationship with his father, and his friendship with Tokyo Giants' manager Sadaharu Oh, the great hitter who surpassed Hank Aaron's career home run record. Not only did Oh become Cromartie's mentor offering him invaluable lessons in batting but the two men developed a camaraderie (they were both heroes, both outsiders in Japan). They became lasting friends so much so that Cro's third child bears the name Cody Oh Cromartie. But if Cro is quick to hand it out, he also takes it. He earned his significant keep of that there is little doubt but he had to pay for its cost. When it was not adulation, it was humiliation, ridicule in the press, discrimination that was institutionalized, let alone separation from family, loneliness, and isolation. Still, out of this isolation, in this very different country Japan, Warren Cromartie found a place where he belonged. Funny, angry, as blunt as it is pointed, and insightful when one least expects it, Slugging It Out in Japan is the human portrait of a man grappling for identity and acceptance, struggling always to find his way, daring to take the chance. Kurzbeschreibung At age 29, Warren Cromartie was a solid major league ballplayer who'd put in eight respectable years with the Montreal Expos. Moving to Japan was the last thing he had in mind when he tested the free-agent market. But when the Tokyo Giants outbid the San Francisco Giants for his services, Cro gulped-then went to work. And work he did under circumstances few would imagine, through ordeals that tested his foreign grit, with a stubbornness and a perseverance that surprised even him. Suddenly, in a script that he would have been crazy to write himself, he found himself on top of Japanese sports hero of the most unlikely sort. Slugging It Out in Japan is the remarkable story of a man who did exactly what the title says. He slugged the baseball, flirting with a .400 average in his best season. He slugged a pitcher, a shocking breach of etiquette which nearly caused a riot. And he has slugged it out with the benign indifference of Japan, holding court on the quality of the game, the quality of life,

human relations, racism, sex, industry, even the tensions between the United States and Japan. From his childhood in a black ghetto in Miami where he first learned the game, to his turbulent years with the Expos where he shared center stage with the likes of Andre Dawson, Tim Lincecum, Gary Carter, and Steve Rogers to his arrival in Tokyo where he was proclaimed a messiah, this is the story of Warren Cromartie's life. He is outspoken, he holds nothing back, he aims to provoke. It is also the story of Cro's interracial marriage to a French-Canadian woman, his complex relationship with his father, and his friendship with Tokyo Giants' manager Sadaharu Oh, the great hitter who surpassed Hank Aaron's career home run record. Not only did Oh become Cromartie's mentor offering him invaluable lessons in batting but the two men developed a camaraderie (they were both heroes, both outsiders in Japan). They become lasting friends so much so that Cro's third child bears the name Cody Oh Cromartie. But if Cro is quick to hand it out, he also takes it. He earned his significant keep for that there is little doubt but he had to pay for its cost. When it was not adulation, it was humiliation, ridicule in the press, discrimination that was institutionalized, let alone separation from family, loneliness, and isolation. Still, out of this isolation, in this very different country Japan, Warren Cromartie found a place where he belonged. Funny, angry, as blunt as it is pointed, and insightful when one least expects it, *Slugging It Out in Japan* is the human portrait of a man grappling for identity and acceptance, struggling always to find his way, daring to take the chance. Synopsis Details how a headstrong American ball player became a hero playing for a Japanese team on which other American players had failed and explores his struggle to adjust to Japanese culture.