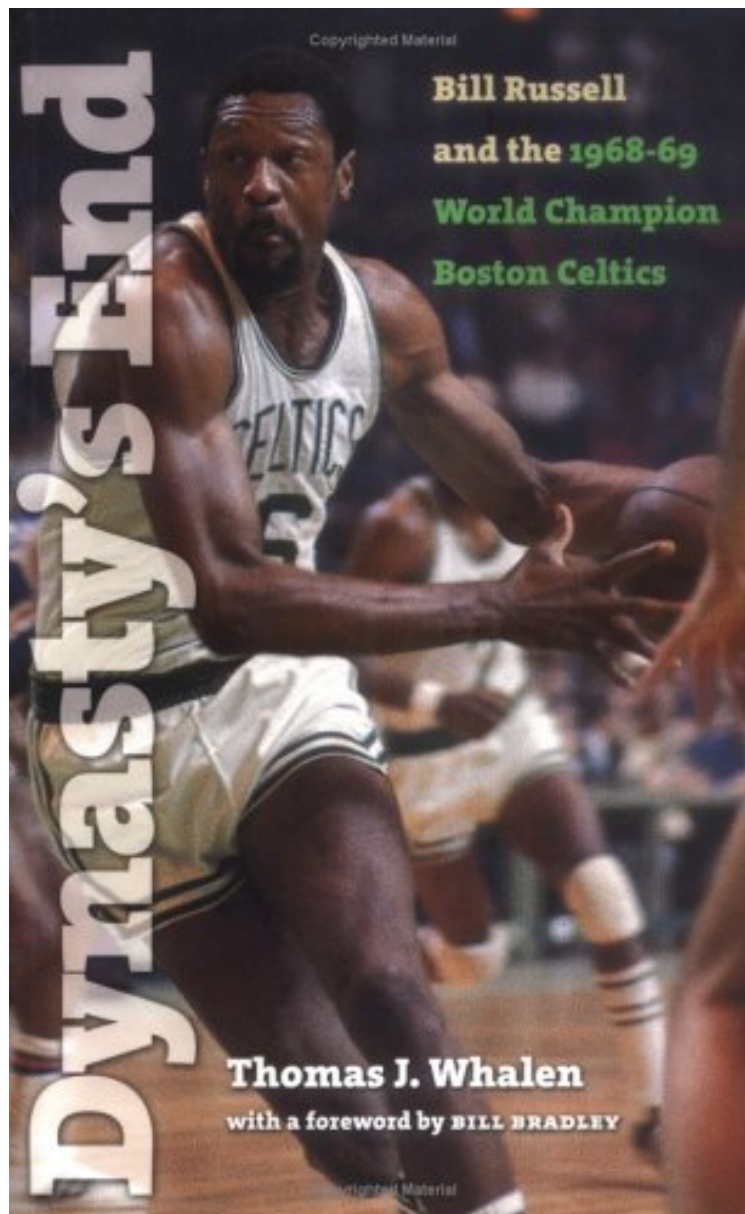


(Free download) *Dynastys End: Bill Russell and the 1968-69 World Champion Boston Celtics* (Sportstown Series)

Dynastys End: Bill Russell and the 1968-69 World Champion Boston Celtics (Sportstown Series)

Thomas J. Whalen

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#3794385 in Books Northeastern 2005-07-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 .88 x 5.59 x 8.971, .95 #File Name: 155536433304 pages | File size: 67.Mb

Thomas J. Whalen : Dynastys End: Bill Russell and the 1968-69 World Champion Boston Celtics (Sportstown Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Dynastys End:*

Bill Russell and the 1968-69 World Champion Boston Celtics (Sportstown Series):

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Team Appreciated More Now Than When They Played By Bill Emblom I feel the book's strength is that you receive in-depth portraits of many of the star's who played for the Boston Celtics in addition to their announcer Johnny Most. In addition we are also provided with descriptions of Wilt Chamberlain and other NBA stars during this time period. Chamberlain, by the way, acquired his nickname "The Big Dipper" by having to often duck when entering through a doorway. However, the title suggests a concentration on the 1968-1969 season, and only the chapters on the playoffs at the end of the book provide us with this information. I enjoyed the book, but I found much of the same information in Bob Cousy's book and Red Auerbach's recent book. In addition, former St. Louis Hawks' superstar, Bob Pettit, the first man to score 20,000 points, had his name spelled incorrectly both times it appeared in the book and also in the index. If you enjoy the Celtics I'm quite sure you will enjoy the book, but I found it to be repetitious in what I found in other books. It is, indeed, unfortunate that this great Celtics team often played before a half empty Boston Garden before fans who really didn't appreciate what they had representing their city. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Good Read for NBA History Buffs By tuqI heard about this book in a Sports Illustrated capsule. The subject matter has always fascinated me -- despite the fact they were defending champs and had won 10 of the previous 12 years, I still consider them the most unlikely (and for that reason compelling) champs in NBA history. The subject matter is no secret: the Celtics had won most improbably in 1968 by overcoming a 3-1 deficit against the defending champion Sixers - who still had Wilt, and were one year removed from their unbelievable 1967 season, which was arguably the greatest team ever assembled. In '69, the Celtics failed to win their division for the fourth straight year and were in fact the lowest seed in the playoffs. Not only were the Sixers still a force but Baltimore and New York were very much improved. Faltering down the stretch and injury-riddled, the team pulled together for one last run, culminating in an unthinkable game 7 win over Wilt, Jerry West, Elgin Baylor, and the Lakers in LA. Russell retired on top (and STAYED retired), as so few other athletes ever have. The book is well-written and the author does an excellent job of setting the tone of the era and the city, particularly its indifference to the Celtics and the racist environment that existed. Additionally, the principals' background information was interesting and informative. In short, if you are interested in NBA history in general or want to read an inspirational story of people working together to reach a common goal, get this book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Any Celtic fan that followed the Russell years will love this book By Lars Lundgren Any Celtic fan that followed the Russell years will love this book. The 1968-69 Celtics were one of their most interesting teams and certainly their most resourceful.

The Boston Celtics of the Bill Russell era were one of the greatest dynasties in sports history. During the thirteen years that Hall of Fame center Russell dominated the court, the Celtics won eleven world championships, including an unprecedented eight straight between 1959 and 1966. In the 1968-69 season, the aging and injury-riddled team finished in fourth place during the regular season, and sportswriters predicted an early defeat in the playoffs. Against all odds, player-coach Russell and his squad rallied to beat the heavily-favored Philadelphia '76ers and New York Knicks, and captured the championship crown in a dramatic upset of Wilt Chamberlain, Elgin Baylor, Jerry West and the Los Angeles Lakers in the closing seconds of the final game of the series. The following summer, Russell stunned the sports world by announcing his retirement, ending his and the Celtics' celebrated reign. In this vivid and lively account, Thomas J. Whalen chronicles Russell's memorable last season and the Celtics' dazzling triumph. Set against the backdrop of the tumultuous 1960s and Boston's own turbulent and bitter struggles with race, he tells the fascinating story of how an improbable championship team overcame poor health, indifferent fans, disruptive personnel changes, and internal morale problems. Whalen recounts how Russell transformed the game of basketball during his remarkable career and revisits the outspoken superstar's conflicted relationship with Boston. He also tells why the Celtics, the first team to break several NBA color lines, failed to attract a loyal following among the city's largely white sports fanatics and press corps.

From Booklist During Bill Russell's 13-year NBA career, his Boston Celtics won 11 championships, the last in the 1968-69 season. Whalen explores how Russell rallied his aging teammates for that one last run at glory. He sets the context by examining how the Celtics--the first NBA team to start five black players and to hire a black coach (Russell)--were almost an afterthought in Beantown among the city's largely white fan base. Through first-person interviews, Russell's two memoirs, and newspaper accounts, Whalen explores the team dynamic that made this aging, often-injured group much more formidable than it should have been. The Celts limped into the playoffs as a fourth-place team but pulled off upsets against highly favored New York and Philadelphia to reach the finals against Wilt Chamberlain, Jerry West, and the Los Angeles Lakers. Whalen misses the mark slightly in his analysis of Boston's ambivalent relationship with its championship team but scores big in his examination of the pride, determination, and mutual respect that propelled these nearly middle-age men to one more title. Wes Lukowsky Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "A complete portrait of one of the great success stories in team sports . . .

compelling portraits of both the players and the era that brim with colorful detail." --Sports Illustrated "A thoughtful and thorough account of the last, great days of the Celtics team led by Bill Russell."--Bill Littlefield, Boston Globe "[Whalen scores big in his examination of the pride, determination, and mutual respect that propelled these nearly middle-age men to one more title." --Booklist "Tom Whalen's book is a sweet and overdue corrective to anyone who thinks basketball began with Michael Jordan, who thinks basketball in Boston began with Larry Bird, and who doubts that there were giants ever in short pants. Gaze in awe--Bill Russell played here once." (Charles P. Pierce, author of *Hard to Forget: An Alzheimer's Story* and *Sports Guy*)