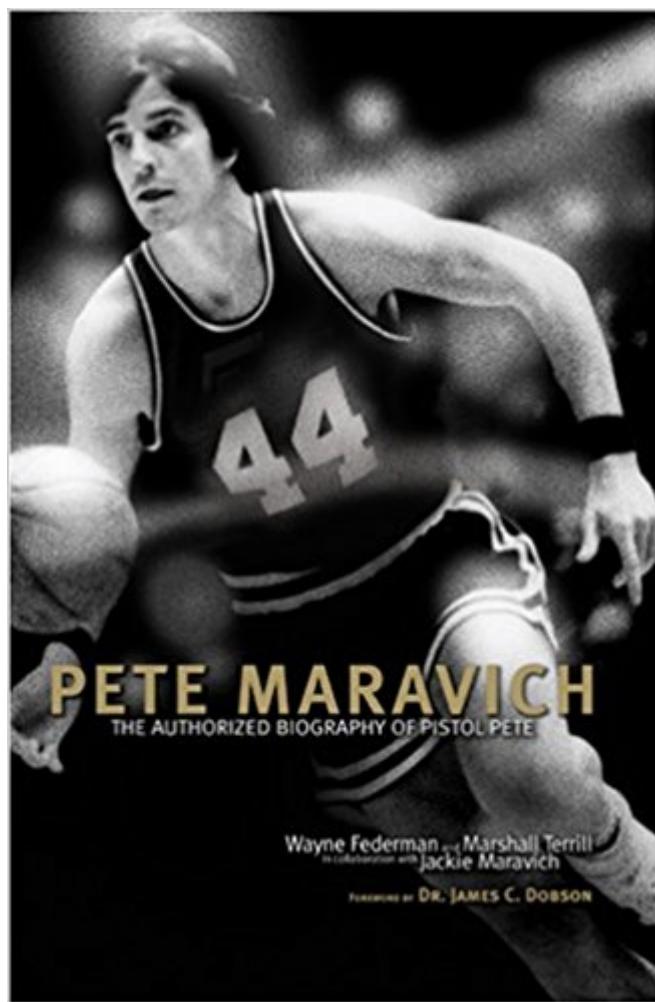


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Pete Maravich: The Authorized Biography Of Pistol Pete



Synopsis

The youngest person to be voted into the Basketball Hall of Fame, "Pistol" Pete Maravich is recognized by the NBA as one of the all-time top 50 basketball players. More than 30 years after he left Louisiana State University, his NCAA scoring record still stands. He enjoyed fame, wealth, and short of winning an NBA championship, achieved every possible success. But there was a price. Pete brought a childlike exuberance to the court that often masked a tortured and confused adult. Things changed dramatically and permanently, however, when Pete found Christ. At last he experienced peace and a purpose that extended beyond the basketball court. He became an avid student of the Bible and a tireless evangelist. Tragically, at age 40, Pete Maravich died. This is the first authorized biography.

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Customer Reviews

The late Pete Maravich is a basketball legend. He averaged more than 44 points a game in his career at Louisiana State University—before the advent of the three-point shot—and 24 during his NBA career. But more than his scoring was his passing. He was inarguably the most spectacular, creative passer in the history of the game. Pete was the son of a successful coach, Press Maravich, and neighbors recall young Pete hanging out of a car window, dribbling, while his dad drove slowly around the side streets, gradually picking up speed. Federman and Terrill recount Maravich's playing career in entertaining fashion, though the sheer number of game accounts is numbing. As for the personal Pete, they come to many of the same conclusions as Mark Kriegel did in his masterful 2006 biography, *Pistol*—that success on the basketball court did

not translate to happiness. It was only after his career was over that he found contentment in Evangelical Christianity and working with kids. This isn't quite the polished piece of work that Kriegel's book is, but it offers an evenhanded treatment of all aspects of Maravich's life. --Wes Lukowsky

Pete Maravich was undoubtedly one of the most talented basketball players ever. But he also was one of the unhappiest, most tortured and least appreciated players ever. Authors Wayne Federman and Marshall Terrill do an admirable job of chronicling Maravich's life in this authorized biography. If you have read *Pistol* by Mark Kriegel, you can still learn a lot from reading this biography. Federman and Terrill include more details about his career, taking the reader year-by-year. I think you can appreciate Maravich's talents even more in this book. Although Maravich's main goal was to play on a NBA championship team, it was one he never sadly never fulfilled. He began his pro career with the Atlanta Hawks as the NBA's Great White Hope after a storied college career at LSU. He was resented and ridiculed for his showmanship. After four frustrating years in Atlanta, he was traded to the New Orleans Jazz, an expansion team, where he was expected to be the savior. He finally ended his career with the Boston Celtics, where he didn't receive as much playing time as he expected. Perhaps Spencer Haywood, who played with Maravich, summed up Pete's career best: "Pete is my pick as the most talented guard and the most misunderstood soul ever to play the game. The rap on Pete is that he was selfish, wasn't a team player. Completely untrue. He had unbelievable skills, he could score on anyone. But he loved to pass the ball, too, to involve his teammates in the offense. He never played on a great team, however, so the scoring burden always fell on him--along with the reputation of being a gunner." Former teammate Lou Hudson reflected another opinion of Pete: "Raw-talent wise, he's the greatest who ever played the game. But always, no matter what he does, he will be a loser. That's his legacy." So much of Pete's pain came from his total investment in the game. "The only thing that ever mattered to me was basketball; I sold my soul to the game." When Maravich retired from the NBA after 10 seasons, there were no farewell tours or fan fare. He had become disenchanted with the game. He left quietly as the next generation of players like Magic Johnson, Larry Bird, Isiah Thomas and Dominique Wilkins were being embraced for their showmanship and flair, much of it learned from Pete. Pete's life turned around in November 1982, when he accepted Jesus Christ as his savior. For the first time, he was at peace. He gave away most of his trophies and awards, saying he would rather be known as a Christian than as a basketball player. He became the second youngest player inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1987 at age 39. He died in 1988 at the age of 40 after suffering a massive heart

attack while playing basketball in a gym at a church. In 1996, he was named to the NBA's Top 50 All-Time Team. When he died, Nick Charles of CNN described Pete as "so talented he made you gasp, so tortured he made you wince."

A wonderfully written book about one of the best basketball players ever. I don't read as much as I should but I have quickly read this story and have enjoyed each chapter and the story of Pistol Pete who was such a unique player in his time. A must read for any old school fan like me or anyone fond of biographies of sports figures in general. I had previously read Mark Kreigal's biography on Pete and enjoyed it also. That book was excellent and this one is just as good or better. I highly recommend this book and have nothing but good things to say about it. What a great read!

Excellent book to read about the greatest basketball player ever. The author details exact moments in Pete's life and leaves out nothing. I've read other books about Pete and this is the best about telling how Pete worked harder than anybody in basketball and dedicate himself to the sport. He deserves to be a true legend.

The story is well told and engages your interest. I did get the feeling that the authorized nature of the biography interfered with the telling of the whole story. There is little mention of Pistol's drinking problems and occasional wild behavior. Aside from a feeling of not receiving the entire story, the book was quite enjoyable.

I read this book in high school and forgot what a great book it is especially for those of us who are basketball enthusiast. Book as described, fast shipping, reasonable shipping cost will buy again

Really interesting book. Well done. Highly recommended.

I have been a big fan of Pete Maravich as we are ;the same age, and I loved his work ethic and his father's too

Great read of a great person!!

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