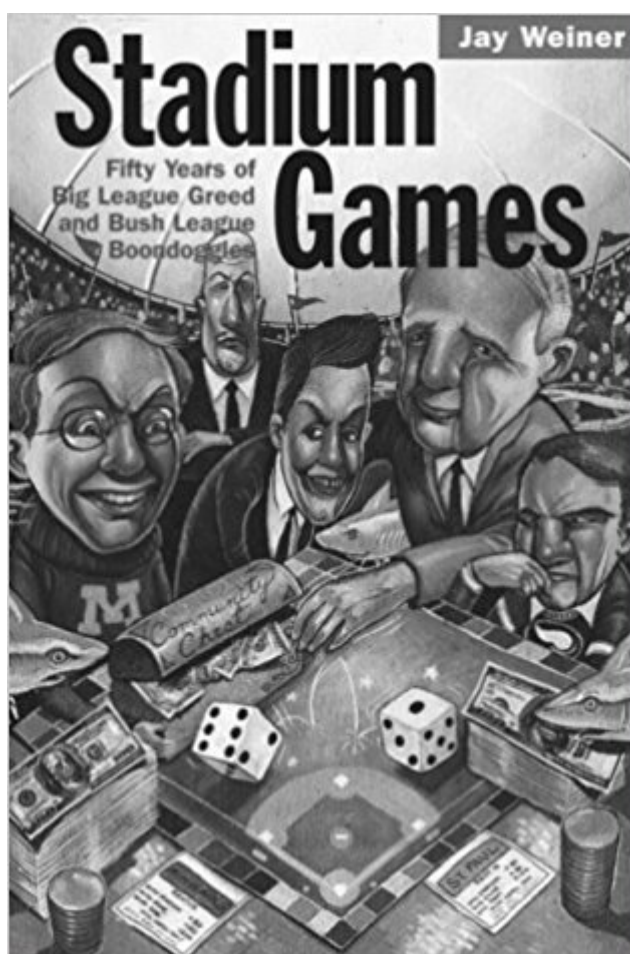


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Stadium Games: Fifty Years Of Big League Greed And Bush League Boondoggles



Synopsis

From Seattle to Houston to New York, governments and taxpayers are grappling with how to pay for new major league sports facilities. Support for public funding is down -- sports fans feel alienated in the face of team owners' demands, threats to leave, and spiraling player salaries. In *Stadium Games*, veteran Minneapolis Star Tribune reporter Jay Weiner zooms in on Minnesota's fifty-year history with pro sports and the issues contributing to the bid for a new stadium for the Minnesota Twins, along the way providing a big-picture evaluation of national sports economics. *Stadium Games* begins with the events leading to the arrival of the Twins and Vikings to the state in 1961 and traces subsequent controversies about professional sports in the region up to the present. Weiner discusses the factors that make Minnesota the poster child for the nation's stadium debates -- the recent departure of the North Stars hockey team, the near departure of the Timberwolves, the strong opposition of taxpayers, and the apparent greed of team owners. In an account full of stories, scandals, and colorful personalities, Weiner reveals the behind-the-scenes deals and inside scoop on what went wrong in the unsuccessful 1997 campaign for a new ballpark, divulging how public relations experts failed and how government leaders conspired to fake out Minnesota's citizenry. Weiner concludes with a "call to reason" -- a manifesto on how Minnesota and other small markets can take back pro sports and begin a new kind of conversation about what stadiums and teams can mean to their communities.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A spectacular creation. As the Star Tribune's main reporter of Minnesota's protracted, internecine stadium wars, Weiner brings a unique perspective. -- Minneapolis Star Tribune
Jay Weiner is my new role model as a thoughtful, precise and idealistic fan. -- Robert Lipsyte, New York Times
Stadium Games has some enlightening lessons for people and government officials around here. . . . interesting. -- Long Island Business News
Stadium Games should be required reading in the front office of the Cardinals, at City Hall and the Missouri Capital. -- St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Tells how former Governor Carlson created the threat of Twins selling the team to gain support for funding a stadium. -- Washington Times
The longtime Minneapolis Star Tribune reporter unreels a history of Twin Cities ballpark shenanigans that put George Steinbrenner's to shame. -- Village Voice

Excellent piece of journalism that is very readable. Huge amount of factual historical material that is highly relevant to local communities, taxpayers and sports franchise owners alike.

Jay Weiner caught hold of an idea that has plagued Minnesota sports for almost 50 years: the fight for stadiums. Minneapolis/St. Paul just can't keep teams in their respective areas, and apparently build ugly, uninteresting stadiums for professional sports teams to play in. Jay Weiner could've made this book great, but he, like the city of Minneapolis, couldn't keep the fans coming back for more. He tends to drag along and introduces some irrelevant players in the games for Minnesota sports stadiums. There are some very good sequences, but he tends to build some of them up with mindless dribble. He did seem to have the inside track on all stadium related information, and used that to his advantage. He also kept someone not from the state of Minnesota or a non-fan of the Minneapolis sports scene interested in the teams. But, in the end, Mr. Weiner just can't keep me entertained. The story just doesn't get you excited to turn the page, and I tended to skip pages of useless information. I'm sure somebody out there would enjoy this book, but they would probably have to be a fairly bland person.

New York and most every major city has been through some sort of stadium game of late. But no state has such a rich history of sports hijinks as Minnesota. Weiner does both an entertaining and informative case study of that would be interesting and enlightening for any fan, reporter or elected official in any city that has a franchise or is trying to lure one. Weiner shows that the games off the field are as fun to watch as the ones on.

This 500 page book could easily have been half as long, and twice as effective, with a good editor. Weiner is a newspaper reporter that obviously became drunk on the idea of not being held to time & length limitations as he usually is in the newspaper. He is very repetitive and it takes away from some of the very sound ideas that he proposes. Skim this one.

This book is a primer for preservationists. Pittsburgh lost Forbes Field, Oakland--a classic baseball only venue..Pitt just demolished Pitt Stadium, & 3 Rivers stadium, a 'cookiecutter' of Cinn., Ohio will be gone..for TWO! more such. Only major city to lose 3 stadiums

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