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## Book reveals 'inside story' of Bulls' winning season



*The Jordan Rules*  
by  
**Sam Smith**

Simon & Schuster, © 1991  
333 pages  
Hardcover price: \$22

★ ★ ★

... throw it away. ... a real disappointment.  
... worth the time. ... a real page-turner.

Perhaps it was too good to be true: Michael Jordan, elevated by the adoring media and many basketball fans to demigod status, defies all odds by heroically taking a young, struggling Chicago Bulls team to NBA championship glory.

According to *The Jordan Rules*, a controversial new book about the Bulls' championship season by *Chicago Tribune* reporter Sam Smith, the trip to the finals was neither glorious nor brightened by Jordan and his winning ways.

In fact, Michael Jordan is far from being the hero of this "inside story." He is portrayed as a talented but egotistical ball hog who refused to pass to certain teammates and ignored the strategy and advice of a long line of coaches. Then there's the charge that Jordan's ego got in the way of winning, that he refused to shoot at the end of important games, letting the team lose to demonstrate his importance.

*The Jordan Rules* leaves no doubt that Jordan may not be the prince the media make him out to be. His treatment and disrespect for his teammates is at times shocking.

But Smith apparently omits some vital parts of the story. If the season was really as tumultuous as he claims, how did the

Bulls ever manage to win 61 games last year? Or the title? Smith doesn't elaborate.

This is where *The Jordan Rules* falls short. It claims to be "the inside story of a turbulent season," but it is lacking. Winning teams are made of winners, and this book portrays the Bulls as anything but.

They whine about their salaries, they complain about playing time, and, at the center of it all, they gripe about Jordan. The book does not adequately explain how the Bulls managed to fit winning basketball in the picture.

Despite any flaws, the book should be required reading for any NBA fan, or for that matter, anyone who follows professional sports. Smith buys us a courtside seat at NBA games, and what we see is both amazing and disillusioning.

We see adjusted rims and overinflated basketballs that give a home team an advantage. We hear players on the court challenging each other to fights after games and get a good look at the Bulls' crummy locker-room atmosphere. And it's important to realize that infighting could be happening anywhere — in Detroit, San Antonio or even in beloved Portland.

A society that idolizes men who throw leather balls through hoops needs a book like this now and then. Smith, in his closing comments, says it best.

"Frankly," he writes, "it's unnatural to take 12 young men united only by their athletic ability, put them together for about eight months, pay them varying fortunes of money, give them one ball to play with, and then expect them to maintain some sort of storybook, harmonious relationship."

That says it all, not just about the Chicago Bulls or the NBA, but about all of the sporting world as well.

By Christopher Blair  
Emerald Editor

## Runners honored for academics

Three Oregon women and two men were named to the Pacific-10 Conference's first-team all-academic cross country squad last week.

Heading the list was Oregon's Lisa Karnopp, who captured the individual Pac-10 women's title before finishing third in the NCAA championships a week ago. The Bend senior has already completed requirements for an undergraduate degree in urban planning with a GPA of 3.56.

Also named to the first team were the Ducks' Lucy Nusrala and Carol Holmen. Nusrala, who finished eighth at the national meet, has a 3.00 in science, and Holmen, a junior in chemistry, has a 4.01.

Oregon junior Erika Klein made the honorable mention list with a 3.25 in psychology.

Named to the men's first team were juniors Alan Foster and Tye Van Schoiack. Foster has a 3.26 in physical education and Van Schoiack holds a 3.31 in English.

Sophomore Andy Maris made the second team with his 3.00, and sophomores Coley Candaele and John Dimoff made the honorable mention list. Candaele has a 3.15 and Dimoff has a 3.80 in economics.

To be eligible, runners must be a starter or prominent reserve with an overall GPA of 3.00 or better.

## AIA

Continued from Page 8

Patterson was ineffective in the first half and watched most of it from the bench. Monson put in the original five to start the second half, and Patterson responded by dumping in 12 and grabbing four rebounds in the last 20 minutes.

Patterson's inside play opened up Jordan and Johnnie

Reece, who both nailed three-pointers to lead Oregon on a 9-0 run that closed it to 66-59. But again, the Ducks could get no closer, and Romar hit two long jumpers to extend the lead.

Despite losing, Monson said he liked what he saw.

"We hung in there defensively," he said. "Andre made better decisions, and we shot better."

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