

PLAYING THROUGH THE WHISTLE S. L. PRICE

READ BY JOE BARRETT

Aliquippa, Pennsylvania is famous for two things: the Jones and Laughlin Steel mill, an industrial behemoth that helped win World War II; and football, with a high school team that has produced numerous NFL stars including Mike Ditka and Darrelle Revis. But the mill, once the fourth largest producer in America, closed for good in 2000. What happens to a town when a dream dies? Does it just disappear?

In *Playing through the Whistle*, celebrated sports writer S. L. Price tells the story of this remarkable place, its people, its players, and through it, a wider story of American history from the turn of the twentieth century. Aliquippa has been many things—a rigidly controlled company town, a booming racial and ethnic melting pot, and for a brief time, a workers' paradise.

Price expertly traces this history, while also recounting the birth and development of high school sports, from a minor pastime to a source of civic pride to today, when it sometimes seems like the only way out of a life of poverty, drug abuse, and crime. *Playing through the Whistle* is a masterpiece of narrative journalism that will make you cry and cheer in equal measure.

"I would say this is some of the best sports writing I read this year, except that it's some of the best writing I've read this year."—David Epstein, author of *The Sports Gene*

S. L. Price, a senior writer at *Sports Illustrated* since 1994, is the author of *Heart of the Game*; *Pitching around Fidel*, which was a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize; and *Far Afield*, which *Esquire* named one of the top five reads of 2007. He lives in Washington, DC, with his family.

Joe Barrett has appeared both on and off Broadway as well as in hundreds of radio and television commercials. He has earned multiple AudioFile Earphones Awards and has been nominated for the prestigious Audie Award. He has narrated books by such authors as Trevanian, Brian Freeman, Don Winslow, and James W. Huston.

Running Time: 15½ Hours • Unabridged

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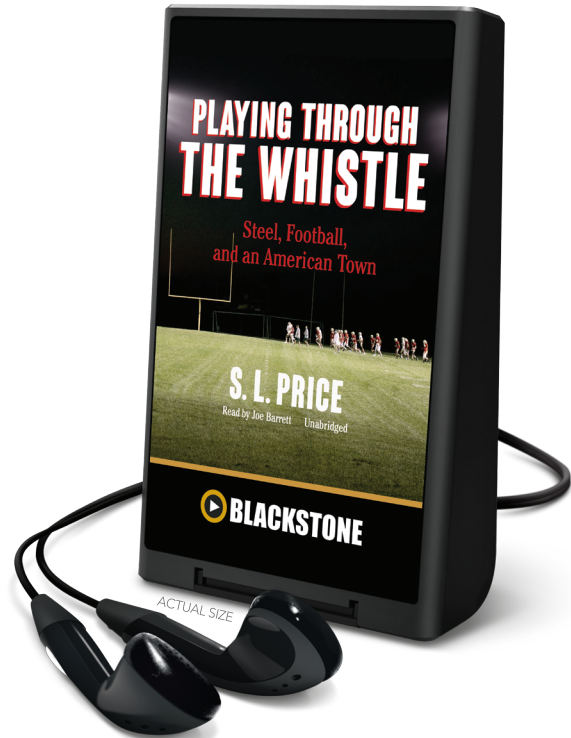
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