

RAISE A FIST, TAKE A KNEE


JOHN FEINSTEIN
READ BY THE AUTHOR

Commentators, coaches, and fans alike have long touted the diverse rosters of leagues like the NFL and MLB as sterling examples of a post-racial America. Yet decades after Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised their fists in a display of Black power and pride, and years after Colin Kaepernick shocked the world by kneeling for the national anthem, the roles Black athletes and coaches are expected to perform—both on and off the field—can still be determined as much by stereotype and old-fashioned ideology as by ability and performance.

Whether it's the pregame moments of resistance, the lack of diversity among coaching and managerial staff, or the consistent undervaluation of Black quarterbacks, racial politics affect every aspect of every sport being played—yet the gigantic salaries and glitzy lifestyles of pro athletes often disguise the ugly truths of how minority players are treated and discarded by their white bosses. John Feinstein crisscrossed the country to secure personal interviews with quarterbacks, coaches, and others, revealing the stories none of us have heard (but all of us should know).

Seventy-five years after Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color line, race is still a central and defining factor in America's professional sports leagues. With an encyclopedic knowledge of professional sports, and shrewd cultural criticism, John Feinstein uncovers not just why but how pro sports continue to perpetuate racial inequality.

John Feinstein is the author of forty-five books, including two #1 *New York Times* bestsellers: *A Season on the Brink* and *A Good Walk Spoiled*. Fourteen of his books are young adult mysteries. One of them, *Last Shot*, won the Edgar Allan Poe Award for mystery writing in the Young Adult category. He is a member of five Halls of Fame and currently contributes to the *Washington Post*, *Golf Digest*, *Golf World*, and the Black News Channel. Feinstein is also the TV color analyst for UMBC basketball.

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TAKE A KNEE



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THE ILLUSION
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IN MODERN
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