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Southern League: A True Story of Baseball, Civil Rights, and the Deep South's Most Compelling Pennant Race

Larry Colton

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"Birmingham is probably the most thoroughly segregated city in the United States. Its ugly record of brutality is widely known. Negroes have experienced grossly unjust treatment in the courts. There have been more unsolved bombings in Negro homes and churches in Birmingham than in any other city in the nation."

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Letter from a Birmingham Jail
1963

Anybody who is familiar with the Civil Rights movement knows that 1964 was a pivotal year. And in Birmingham, Alabama - perhaps the epicenter of racial conflict - the Barons amazingly started their season with an integrated team.

Johnny "Blue Moon" Odom, a talented pitcher and Tommie Reynolds, an outfielder - both young black ballplayers with dreams of playing someday in the big leagues, along with Bert Campaneris, a dark-skinned shortstop from Cuba, all found themselves in this simmering cauldron of a minor league town, all playing for Heywood Sullivan, a white former major leaguer who grew up just down the road in Dothan, Alabama.

Colton traces the entire season, writing about the extraordinary relationships among these players with Sullivan, and Colton tells their story by capturing the essence of Birmingham and its citizens during this tumultuous year. (The infamous Bull Connor, for example, when not ordering blacks to be blasted by powerful water hoses, is a fervent follower of the Barons and served as a long-time broadcaster of their games.)

By all accounts, the racial jeers and taunts that rained down upon these Birmingham players were much worse than anything that Jackie Robinson ever endured.

More than a story about baseball, this is a true accounting of life in a different time and clearly a different place. Seventeen years after Jackie Robinson had broken the color line in the major leagues, Birmingham was exploding in race riots....and now, they were going to have their very first integrated sports team. This is a story that has never been told.

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From reader reviews:

Ruben Martin:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day every day to reading a e-book. The book Southern League: A True Story of Baseball, Civil Rights, and the Deep South's Most Compelling Pennant Race it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book offers high quality.

Traci Daniels:

Southern League: A True Story of Baseball, Civil Rights, and the Deep South's Most Compelling Pennant Race can be one of your basic books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to set every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing Southern League: A True Story of Baseball, Civil Rights, and the Deep South's Most Compelling Pennant Race nevertheless doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can drawn you into new stage of crucial pondering.

James Soltero:

This Southern League: A True Story of Baseball, Civil Rights, and the Deep South's Most Compelling Pennant Race is great guide for you because the content which can be full of information for you who all always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This particular book reveal it facts accurately using great organize word or we can state no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only will give you straight forward sentences but tough core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having Southern League: A True Story of Baseball, Civil Rights, and the Deep South's Most Compelling Pennant Race in your hand like obtaining the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no publication that offer you world within ten or fifteen second right but this reserve already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt this?

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