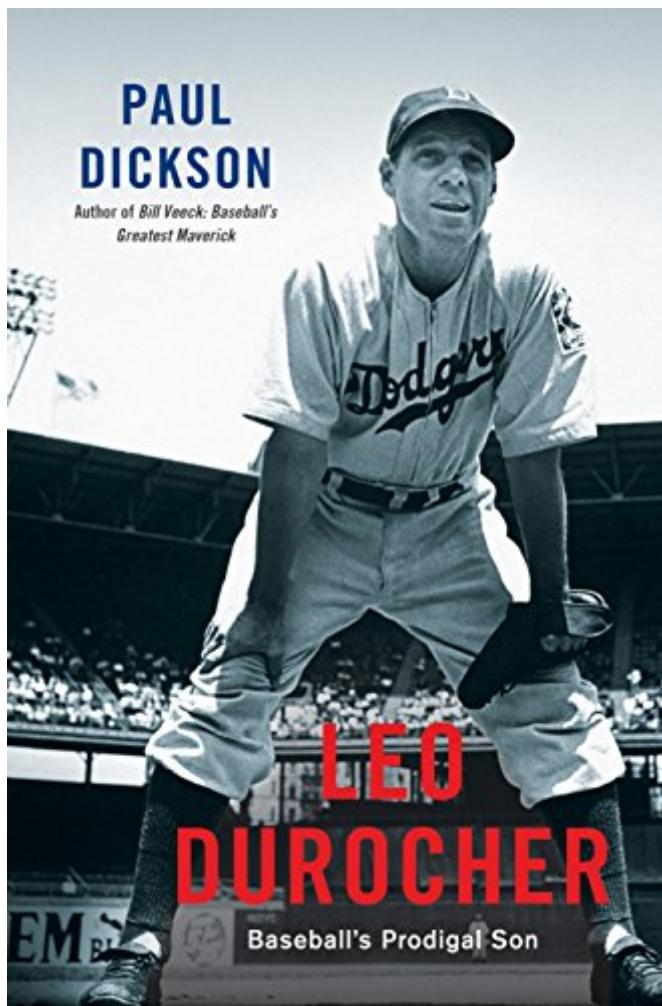


The book was found

# Leo Durocher: Baseball's Prodigal Son



## **Synopsis**

From Paul Dickson, the Casey Award-winning author of Bill Veeck: Baseball's Greatest Maverick, the first full biography of Leo Durocher, one of the most colorful and important figures in baseball history. Leo Durocher (1906–1991) was baseball's all-time leading cocky, flamboyant, and galvanizing character, casting a shadow across several eras, from the time of Babe Ruth to the Space Age Astrodome, from Prohibition through the Vietnam War. For more than forty years, he was at the forefront of the game, with a Zelig-like ability to be present as a player or manager for some of the greatest teams and defining baseball moments of the twentieth century. A rugged, combative shortstop and a three-time All-Star, he became a legendary manager, winning three pennants and a World Series in 1954. Durocher performed on three main stages: New York, Chicago, and Hollywood. He entered from the wings, strode to where the lights were brightest, and then took a poke at anyone who tried to upstage him. On occasion he would share the limelight, but only with Hollywood friends such as actor Danny Kaye, tough-guy and sometime roommate George Raft, Frank Sinatra, and his third wife, movie star Laraine Day. As he did with Bill Veeck, Dickson explores Durocher's life and times through primary source materials, interviews with those who knew him, and original newspaper files. A superb addition to baseball literature, Leo Durocher offers fascinating and fresh insights into the racial integration of baseball, Durocher's unprecedented suspension from the game, the two clubhouse revolts staged against him in Brooklyn and Chicago, and Durocher's vibrant life off the field.

## **Book Information**

File Size: 12830 KB

Print Length: 334 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury USA; 1 edition (March 21, 2017)

Publication Date: March 21, 2017

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01M8MBYSX

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #118,758 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #20  
inÃ  Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoor > Baseball #22  
inÃ  Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Sports > Baseball > History #69 inÃ  Books >  
Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Baseball

## Customer Reviews

This is a very fine biography of one of baseball's prodigal sons, Leo "the Lip" Durocher. Between playing and managing, he lived in the eras of Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb up through Willie Mays, Mickey Mantle, and Ernie Banks. He managed three teams for fairly long stretches--Dodgers, Giants, and Cubs. As a manager, he won over 2,000 games--rating him very high on the list of winningest managers. But it's not so much the statistics; his persona also grabbed attention. The book takes a look at Durocher's life from his birth (he was born as French Canadian--his name would have been pronounced De-rochay) to his death. In between, a lot of things happened! A brouhaha with Babe Ruth over a watch (did Durocher steal it from the Babe or not?), acrobatic fielding as a shortstop--and a rather weak stick (career batting average=.247), represented his league in the All-Star game as a player, time as a player-manager (as his playing career wound down). He was a scrappy player who could get under other players' skin with his bench jockeying and aggressive performance. As a manager, he was no less scrappy and aggressive. As one reads the book, one is struck by how many games he was ejected from and his suspensions for being a "bad boy." Arguments with umpires were the stuff of legends, with kicking dirt on them, screaming at them, sometimes hitting them. He would fight to the very edge of the rules to win a game (and may have gone across the line a time or so!). He was hard on his players, and there were occasional revolts against his manner (Dodgers and Cubs). He could rip players to shreds (it is almost shocking to read of him trying to ride Ernie Banks (Mr. Cub) out of baseball. While he won a lot of games, he could blow it, too. His performance as manager with the Cubs is often looked at as a not so great job--overplaying the team in the miserable hot summers in Illinois, burning them out perhaps? He was also an early supporter of allowing African-Americans play major league baseball. We also learn of his personal life--his four marriages, his friendship with George Raft, his heavy involvement in gambling, his involvement with a Hollywood Crowd, including Frank Sinatra. All in all, an even handed look at Durocher, warts and all. The reader gets a sense of the best and the worst of the man.

A very well-balanced portrayal of a man who had his obvious strengths -- and weaknesses. My

initial thought was that Durocher was already in the Hall of Fame. At a point that point was brought up as Durocher's career lengthened. It was probably fair to him and the game that he didn't live to accept the honor as his moral standing in the game was always in question. Obviously (and under-appreciated by me) he was an outstanding fielding shortstop, good enough to man the position on many accomplished Major League teams. I didn't think I would enjoy reading about his career, but Dickson's research and fine writing made it "a keeper."

This is a very well written account of the life of Leo Durocher, a man who was not universally loved but who could not be ignored due to his forceful personality. The author succeeds in giving us a picture of the inner Durocher, as well as presenting us with a factual narrative of his life. He was a complex man with theatrical abilities to make himself noticed, even when his baseball career was not going well. He was one of the pioneers of racial integration in the major leagues but, after taking Robinson in, did not treat him well. Still, together with Casey Stengel, Durocher is one of the most colorful characters of baseball and reading this volume is a good way to get to know the man in his multiple facets.

Interesting stories and tales about Leo Durocher that I never knew. Book would probably appeal more to those of the age that could remember the 1950 era of baseball. However even the young baseball fan would be able to read how many papers were in existence and how many writers were assigned to cover a major league team.

I was born in Brooklyn to a Dodger loving family. The ten years before they had children my parents were at Ebbets Field rooting for our "Beloved-Bums" almost every weekend. Our family actually moved from New York to Los Angeles the same year as the Dodgers. Leo "The Lip" exploits with Brooklyn were before I was born but along with stories of Jackie Robinson from the time I could understand there were just as many stories about "The Lips" antics handed down to me from my Father AND Mother. From the minute I could read I read everything printed about not only the Dodgers but the entire history of baseball. I learned pretty quickly about the hatred the bean balls the flying spikes and fists between my heroes and the crosstown rival Giants. Though I've read other Durocher biographies over the years this new one by Paul Dickson (though perhaps perhaps time

ÃƒÂ¢Ã  ¬Ã  Ã“buddyÃƒÂ¢Ã  â  ¬Ã  â„¢sÃƒÂ¢Ã  â  ¬Ã  Â| whether you believe Leo actually stole the BabeÃƒÂ¢Ã  â  ¬Ã  â„¢s watch or not. And the author also has the intimate details when years later when Ruth was a coach on the Brooklyn DodgersÃƒÂ¢Ã  â  ¬Ã  Â| and in a private clubhouse meetingÃƒÂ¢Ã  â  ¬Ã  Â| Leo knocked Ruth against a locker)ÃƒÂ¢Ã  â  ¬Ã  Â| his time on the World Champion ÃƒÂ¢Ã  â  ¬Ã  Ã“Gashouse GangÃƒÂ¢Ã  â  ¬Ã  Â• St. Louis CardinalsÃƒÂ¢Ã  â  ¬Ã  Â| and of course when he became the player-manager for the Brooklyn Dodgers. IÃƒÂ¢Ã  â  ¬Ã  â„¢m sure many younger fans donÃƒÂ¢Ã  â  ¬Ã  â„¢t realize Durocher not only made the All-Star team multiple timesÃƒÂ¢Ã  â  ¬Ã  Â| but he was also considered one of the greatest fielding shortstops of the era. When he went from the Yankees to the RedsÃƒÂ¢Ã  â  ¬Ã  Â| despite all his unsettling problemsÃƒÂ¢Ã  â  ¬Ã  Â| the then owner of the Reds Sidney Weil became one of the greatest friends in LeoÃƒÂ¢Ã  â  ¬Ã  â„¢s life. Off the field his personal travails with marriageÃƒÂ¢Ã  â  ¬Ã  Â| moneyÃƒÂ¢Ã  â  ¬Ã  Â| gamblingÃƒÂ¢Ã  â  ¬Ã  Â| mobstersÃƒÂ¢Ã  â  ¬Ã  Â| and other undesirables is covered from A-Z and integrated as seamlessly as a 6-4-3 double play with his ball playing.

relationship with all the greats from Ruth to the Dean Brothers. Frankie Frisch to the  
People to the Cherce. Jackie to the Say Hey Kid. Ron and Billy and everyone in  
between are shown with precise detail regardless how long ago it took place. His  
link with not only big name entertainers and

undesirables but also with guys named Memphis  
Engleberg Connie Immerman and you can't forget  
Sleep-Outside. The fights on the field in the  
runway in the clubhouse in an ally with  
players fans fans umpires and  
reporters provide an absolute old-school-baseball-fans dream come true. Books  
like this don't just show up like the sun on a new day. For me this was like eating candy delicious enjoyable  
addicting. There were fights on the field that got small suspensions and fines today there would have been perhaps lifetime bans (of course that on top of his season long ban in 1947 for hanging around with the wrong people and losing that season) deprived him the historical chance to manage Jackie  
Robinson (a rookie year) but could you imagine the suspensions in today's game for pushing an umpire and after being ejected refusing to leave the field and throwing a wet towel in the umpire's face??? Leo the Lip was  
baseball's problem child. He routinely attracted adjectives for aggressiveness: combative, fierce, feisty, bellicose, pugnacious, cheeky, contentious, truculent and scrappy. He was one of the fiercest bench jockeys of all time. And everywhere he went. The attendance rose! I miss you Leo.  
P.S. Here are a couple of my Leo Durocher memorabilia from over  
SEVENTY-FIVE-YEARS-AGO!  
P.S. When my youngest granddaughter BROOKLYN was going  
through a ranting raving stage between one and two-years-old. I used to lovingly call  
her LEO-THE-LIP! The attendance rose! I miss you Leo.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Leo Durocher: Baseball's Prodigal Son Baseball Defense Mastery: Fundamentals, Concepts & Drills  
For Defensive Prowess (Baseball Defense, Baseball Book, Baseball Coaching, Baseball Drills,

Outfield, Infield) Baseball Hitting Mastery: Art of the Line Drive Swing (Baseball Book, Baseball Hitting Mechanics, Baseball Hitting Drills, Baseball Swing) Prodigal Son: Dancing for Ballanchine in a World of Pain and Magic Prodigal Son (Dean Koontz's Frankenstein, Book 1) Prodigal Son: A Novel The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming (Coaching Youth Baseball) INSIDE A COACH'S MIND: THE BASEBALL BIBLE (Coaching Baseball) He's Always Been My Son: A Mother's Story about Raising Her Transgender Son The Preacher's Son and the Maid's Daughter 2 (Preacher's Son, Maid's Daughter) My Son...My Son : A Guide to Healing After Death, Loss, or Suicide Son of a Son of a Gambler: Winners, Losers, and What to do when you win the Lottery (Wealth Without Wall Street) Some Assembly Required: A Journal of My Son's First Son Keep My Son: A Mother's Unprecedented Battle and Victory Over her Son's Mental Illness The Explorer's Son (The Inventor's Son Book 3) The Scientist's Son (The Inventor's Son Book 2) Son of a Grifter: The Twisted Tale of Sante and Kenny Kimes, the Most Notorious Con Artists in America: A Memoir by the Other Son The Prodigal Rogerson: The Tragic, Hilarious, and Possibly Apocryphal Story of Circle Jerks Bassist Roger Rogerson in the Golden Age of LA Punk, 1979-1996 (Scene History) The Prodigal Comes Home: My Story of Failure and God's Story of Redemption Deathlands 100 Prodigal's Return

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)