



The Best of Peter Finney, Legendary New Orleans Sportswriter

By Peter Finney

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Five times each week over the past several decades, sports fans in New Orleans began their mornings by reading local sportswriter Peter Finney. Finney's newspaper columns -- entertaining, informative, and inspiring -- connected New Orleans readers to the world of sports, for nearly 70 years. From a career total of 15,000 articles, this book offers a prime selection of the very best of Finney's writing as well as an introduction from Peter Finney, Jr.

Beginning his writing career as a college freshman at Loyola University, Finney added his distinctly poetic voice to the sports pages of the States-Item (1945--80) and the Times-Picayune (1980--2013). This impressive time span placed the reporter on the sidelines of the most iconic moments in Louisiana sports history. This collection includes Finney's account of Billy Cannon's 89-yard punt return against Ole Miss in 1959; Tom Dempsey's 1970 NFL-record 63-yard field goal; and the Saints' 31-17 victory over the Indianapolis Colts in the 2010 Super Bowl. His interviews and profiles covered nearly every major sports figure of his time: Ted Williams, Jesse Owens, Joe DiMaggio, Muhammad Ali, Joe Namath, Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Arnold Palmer, Billy Cannon, Pete Maravich, Lee Trevino, Rusty Staub, Archie, Peyton, and Eli Manning, Eddie Robinson, Doug Williams, Dale Brown, Billy Martin, Brett Favre, Nick Saban, Shaquille O'Neal, Mike Ditka, Sean Payton, Drew Brees, Sugar Ray Leonard, Skip Bertman, Les Miles, and Tom Benson, among many others.

The riveting moments and fascinating characters portrayed in this volume will delight both hardcore sports enthusiasts and casual fans, in stories told with Finney's characteristic grace, humility, and wit.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Back in the days of the *Daily New Orleans States Item and Picayune* newspapers, sports fans eagerly read the colorful writings of Peter Finney. Now, we can enjoy again the best of them. . . . Sports nostalgia at its best."--*Acadiana Magazine*

"Peter Finney's career chronicled the greatest sports happenings in New Orleans and Louisiana for nearly seven decades. . . . Louisiana sports fans will no doubt cherish the opportunity to relive the good and the bad moments through Finney's eyes and his incomparable writing."--*Baton Rouge Advocate*

"A magical history tour of the most memorable events and unforgettable figures in Louisiana's long, proud sporting history. . . . Each column is delivered in Finney's snappy prose and elegant verse, trademarks of his inimitable writing style. . . . *The Best of Peter Finney* is a treasure, a must-read for anyone who loves sports and great story-telling, the greatest hits of Louisiana's greatest, most gifted and iconic sports writer."--*Times-Picayune*

"[Finney] witnessed and, more importantly, chronicled most of the state's illustrious sports history from the second half of the 20th century to the present. And it's all here in the book. Every stylish word artfully crafted with just enough detachment to stay credible, as often as not with a light dose of humor."--*Lake Charles American Press*

"A must-read for any Louisiana sports fan. Finney's inimitable prose and keen insight are on display throughout the collection, which essentially covers every major event and personality in the history of modern Louisiana sports." --*Times-Picayune*

About the Author

Peter Finney is a 17-time winner of the Louisiana Sportswriter of the Year Award from the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association. He is the author of *The Fighting Tigers, 1893-1993: One Hundred Years of LSU Football* and *Pistol Pete: The Story of College Basketball's Greatest Star*.

Peter Finney, Jr., former sportswriter for the *New York Post* and *New York Daily News*, is the recipient of the St. Francis de Sales Award from the Catholic Press Association. Since 1993, he has served as the executive editor and general manager of the *Clarion Herald*, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

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