

Fastball to Victory

Introduction

Fastball to Victory: The Seattle Mariners' Quest for a Championship is a comprehensive look at the history, legacy, and future of one of baseball's most beloved teams. From their humble beginnings as an expansion team in 1977 to their recent resurgence as a playoff contender, the Mariners have captured the hearts of fans throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

This book tells the story of the Mariners' greatest moments, from Ken Griffey Jr.'s iconic home runs to Ichiro Suzuki's record-breaking hits. It also delves into the team's challenges, from the heartbreak of playoff losses to the struggles of rebuilding years.

Through interviews with players, coaches, and fans, Fastball to Victory provides a unique insider's

perspective on the Mariners' journey. It explores the team's unique culture, its passionate fan base, and its impact on the city of Seattle.

Whether you're a lifelong Mariners fan or just curious about one of baseball's most fascinating teams, *Fastball to Victory* is the perfect book for you. It's a celebration of the Mariners' rich history, a look at their present, and a glimpse into their future.

As the Mariners continue to chase their first World Series title, *Fastball to Victory* is a must-read for any fan who wants to learn more about this beloved team.

Book Description

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Chapter 1: The Birth of a Team

Founding Fathers

The Seattle Mariners were born in 1977, the result of a long and passionate campaign by a group of local businessmen and civic leaders. Led by William Daley, this group had been working for years to bring a Major League Baseball team to Seattle.

In 1976, their dream finally came true when the American League awarded Seattle an expansion team. The Mariners were one of two new teams to join the league that year, along with the Toronto Blue Jays.

The Mariners' first general manager was Lou Gorman, who had previously worked for the California Angels and the Chicago White Sox. Gorman was tasked with building a team from scratch, and he did so by signing a mix of veteran players and young prospects.

Among the Mariners' first signings were outfielder Ruppert Jones, infielder Lenny Randle, and pitcher

Floyd Bannister. These players would form the core of the Mariners' first team.

The Mariners played their first game on April 6, 1977, at the Kingdome. They lost to the California Angels 7-0, but the game marked the beginning of a new era for baseball in Seattle.

The Mariners struggled in their early years, but they gradually improved, and by the early 1990s, they were a perennial contender. In 1995, they won their first American League West division title, and they went on to reach the American League Championship Series.

The Mariners have never won a World Series, but they have come close on several occasions. They lost the ALCS in 1995, 1997, and 2001.

Despite their lack of a World Series title, the Mariners remain one of the most popular teams in baseball. They have a passionate fan base, and they have been a major part of the Seattle sports scene for over 40 years.

Chapter 1: The Birth of a Team

Expansion to Seattle

In 1977, Major League Baseball expanded to Seattle, bringing the city its first professional baseball team. The Mariners were one of two new teams added that year, along with the Toronto Blue Jays.

Seattle had a long history of supporting baseball, dating back to the late 1800s. The city had been home to several minor league teams over the years, and fans were eager to finally have a major league team to call their own.

The Mariners' first home was the Kingdome, a multi-purpose stadium that was also home to the NFL's Seattle Seahawks. The Kingdome was a unique venue, with a domed roof that kept fans dry from the elements.

The Mariners struggled in their early years, finishing with a losing record in each of their first four seasons.

However, the team began to turn things around in 1982, when they finished with a winning record for the first time.

The Mariners' success in the early 1980s was led by a group of young players, including Ken Griffey Jr., Alvin Davis, and Jay Buhner. Griffey Jr. quickly became one of the most popular players in baseball, and he helped to put the Mariners on the map.

In 1995, the Mariners made their first playoff appearance, but they were swept by the Cleveland Indians in the ALDS. The Mariners would return to the playoffs in 1997, 1999, and 2000, but they were unable to advance past the first round.

Despite their playoff struggles, the Mariners have remained one of the most popular teams in baseball. The team has a passionate fan base, and they have consistently drawn large crowds to their home games.

In 2019, the Mariners moved into a new stadium, T-Mobile Park. The new stadium is a state-of-the-art facility that has been praised by fans and players alike.

The Mariners are still searching for their first World Series title, but they have a bright future. The team has a young and talented roster, and they are poised to make another run at the playoffs in 2023.

Chapter 1: The Birth of a Team

Ken Griffey Jr.: A Local Legend

Ken Griffey Jr. was born in Donora, Pennsylvania, on November 21, 1969. His father, Ken Griffey Sr., was a four-time All-Star outfielder for the Cincinnati Reds. Griffey Jr. grew up playing baseball and quickly developed into one of the best prospects in the country.

In 1987, Griffey Jr. was drafted first overall by the Seattle Mariners. He made his major league debut in 1989 and quickly became one of the most popular players in the league. Griffey Jr. was a five-tool player who could hit for power, speed, and average. He also had a strong arm and was a good fielder.

Griffey Jr. helped lead the Mariners to their first playoff appearance in 1995. He also won the American League Most Valuable Player Award that year. Griffey Jr. was a key member of the Mariners team that won 116 games in 2001, which is still a franchise record.

Griffey Jr. was traded to the Cincinnati Reds in 2000. He returned to the Mariners in 2009 and played his final season in 2010. Griffey Jr. was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2016.

Griffey Jr. is one of the most popular players in Mariners history. He was a key member of the team's first playoff appearance and helped lead the Mariners to their only division championship. Griffey Jr. is also one of the most decorated players in baseball history, having won 10 Gold Glove Awards, 13 Silver Slugger Awards, and 10 All-Star Game selections.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

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