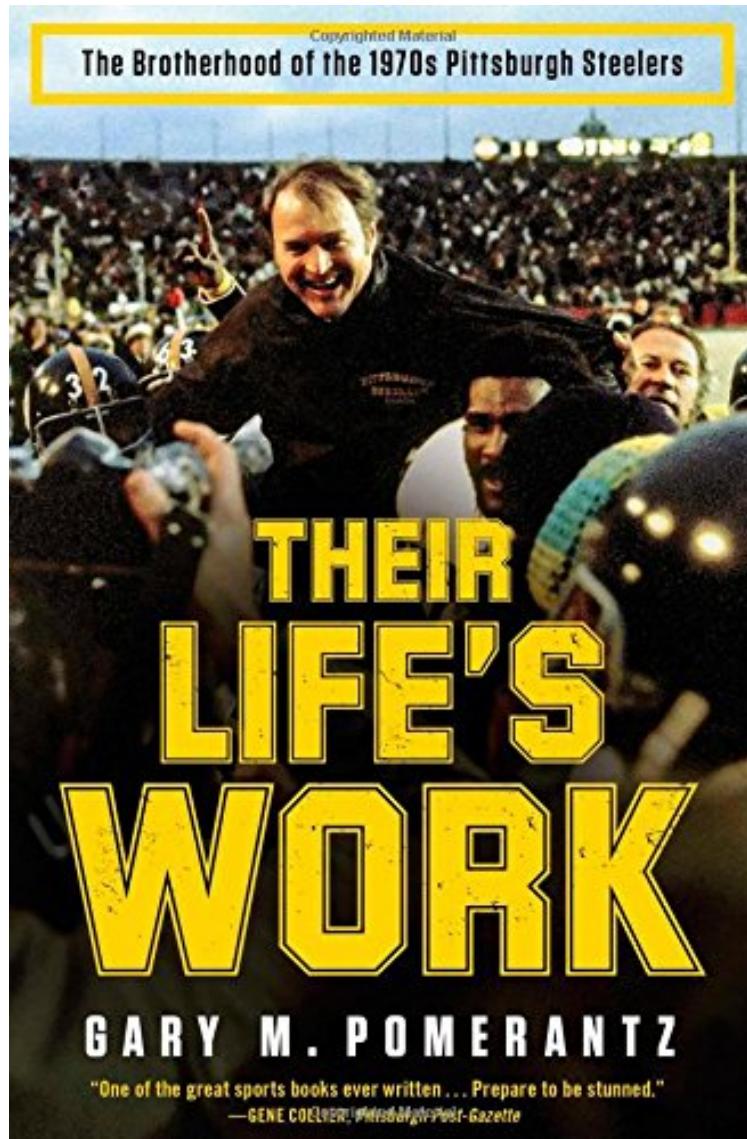


[Get free] Their Life's Work: The Brotherhood of the 1970s Pittsburgh Steelers

Their Life's Work: The Brotherhood of the 1970s Pittsburgh Steelers

Gary M. Pomerantz

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Gary M. Pomerantz : Their Life's Work: The Brotherhood of the 1970s Pittsburgh Steelers before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Their Life's Work: The Brotherhood of the 1970s Pittsburgh Steelers:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best NFL book ever? By Peter I am a fan of the NFL, think it is a great sport filled with wonderful athletes who provide viewers like myself with countless hours of entertainment and

memories. It is very easy to look at these stars as untouchable men who are impervious to pain and on the occasion when they get hurt, they can miraculously overcome the injuries and play on (Ben Roethlisberger is a prime example). The reality is that they may be extraordinary athletic specimens but they are human and do get injuries that affect them for the rest of their lives. In this book, Gary M. Pomerantz gives us a view of the 1970's Steelers and how they became perhaps the greatest team in NFL history. It is stirring stuff to read about these legends but it is also very sobering as the author gives us a real glimpse into their lives, warts and all. The stars of yesteryear paid a tough price for the fame and the 4 Super Bowl rings, their bodies were sacrificed and some have paid the ultimate penalty for this abuse. This is a brilliant book, along with *America's Game* by Michael McCambridge, one is shown the NFL and its players in a very clear and objective light. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. One of the finest works of football history I've ever read! By Paul E. Hoiland Hands down one of the very best books on football I've ever had the privilege of reading! As a child of the 70s, I too was drawn to this team of the decade. With the innocence of believing that this team of champions were all friends and cared deeply for each other, I expected to learn of locker room rivalries, racial tensions and other discord that reveal themselves in most adult environments. Imagine my surprise to learn that indeed, the players on this great team truly did love and care for each other, and still do so to this day. Sure, Bradshaw had his challenges finding his comfort zone with the fans and Coach Noll; something that continues to distance him from the team and his teammates to this day, but his story and circumstance prove to be the exception rather than the rule. Yes, we examine the full scope of Mike Webster's career, from his sensational rookie year in 1974 all the way up until the day Chuck Noll advised him to get on 'with his life's work', and then through his heartbreaking decline, eventual death and post-mortem finding of CTE. It's all here: The good, the bad and the tragic, based upon extensive interviews with the players, the Rooney family and the wives, ex-wives, children and widows of those who were blessed to be Steelers during a time when Pittsburgh became the city of champions. Like Roger Kahn's 'The Boys of Summer', Gary Pomerantz's work here is a labor of love, an in-depth account of life on the Steelers teams of this era and superior sports non-fiction. A must-read for any Steelers fan, NFL fan, football fan, or those longing to reconnect with that wild and crazy decade of the 70s, this book will take you back! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I have to give this book it's due. As ... By Boulanger I have to give this book it's due. As a kid who grew up in Pittsburgh during the Steelers' dismal existence of the 60's, I remember when the "Stillers" were synonymous with losing. Pomerantz pulls no punches about the dark days while delivering the goods on the turnaround of what is now one of the most respected organizations in the NFL. While I have read quite a few books about the glories of the 70's Steelers, there is much fresh material here. Just as noteworthy are the specific chapters on some of the leading figures in creating and sustaining the dynasty. A definite "thumbs up", particularly for Steeler fans.

"The definitive book of the 1970s Pittsburgh Steelers" (Scott Brown, ESPN): A unique literary sports book that—through exquisite reportage, love, and honesty—tells the full story of the best team to ever play the game. The Pittsburgh Steelers of the 1970s won an unprecedented and unmatched four Super Bowls in six years. A dozen of those Steelers players, coaches, and executives have been inducted into the Hall of Fame, and three decades later their names echo in popular memory: "Mean" Joe Greene, Terry Bradshaw, Franco Harris, Mike Webster, Jack Lambert, Lynn Swann, and John Stallworth. In ways exhilarating and heartbreaking, they define not only the brotherhood of sports but those elements of the game that engage tens of millions of Americans: its artistry and its brutality. Drawing on hundreds of interviews, *Their Life's Work* is a richly textured story of a team and a sport, what the game gave these men, and what the game took. It gave fame, wealth, and, above all, a brotherhood of players, twelve of whom died before turning sixty. To a man, they said they'd do it again, all of it. They bared the soul of the game to Gary Pomerantz, and he captured it wondrously. "Here is a book as hard-hitting and powerful as the 'Steel Curtain' dynasty that Pomerantz depicts so deftly. It's the NFL's version of *The Boys of Summer*, with equal parts triumph and melancholy. Pomerantz's writing is strong, straightforward, funny, sentimental, and blunt. It's as working class and gritty as the men he writes about" (The Tampa Tribune, Top 10 Sports Books of 2013).

From Booklist*Starred * As a young reporter in 1981, Pomerantz was assigned to ask key members of the Pittsburgh Steelers, especially those remaining from the 1970s dynasty, if the glory days (three Super Bowl wins in the 1970s and another in 1980) were over. Those interviews later became the first stage of this book. He begins with a history of the franchise and its colorful founder, Art Rooney, but moves quickly to 1972, when the team began to gel under taciturn coach Chuck Noll. Pomerantz conducted more than 250 first-person interviews to escort readers through the glory years—the camaraderie, the anguish of losing, and the exhilaration of winning and glory. He emphasizes two themes: the personal bonds forged among these men, and their lives after football. Melancholy infuses the second half of the book as an unusual number of players passed away much sooner than expected. *Their Life's Work* will be compared to Roger Kahn's *The Boys of Summer* (1972), a nostalgic look back at the 1950s Brooklyn Dodgers. As good as *Boys* is, this is better. It's less sentimental and more harshly objective in its portrayal of the toll sports extracts from its players. A wonderful book. --Wes Lukowsky "I've been waiting for a book, written in an exhilarating and cogent and intelligent way, on the best football team of my adult life, and now it's here. I loved the Steelers way back when, and

now that I know them in their middle age and beyond, I love their story. That's not just because Joe Greene and Terry Bradshaw and Jack Lambert are compelling figures. It's because Gary Pomerantz wrote it the way Roger Kahn wrote 'Boys of Summer.' This book will be 'Men of Fall' for my football generation." (Peter King, senior writer, Sports Illustrated.)"What sets Their Life's Work well above other books that tell us about teammates in their glory and their dotage, is that Gary Pomerantz not only brings such flair to the Steelers' glory days, but he also instructs us so vividly how, in football, teammates don't just grow old, they grow in pain and fear." (Frank Deford)"What has become of the best team ever? Pomerantz has the story, the lowdown and the afterglow. A wealth of prime Steeler stuff." (Roy Blount Jr., Author of About Three Bricks Shy of A Load)"Their Life's Work is that rare book that is brutally authentic, vigorously reported, smoothly written, and hauntingly sympathetic all at the same time. Sport, coach, team, city, sensibility all powerfully rendered." (David Maraniss, Author of When Pride Still Mattered: A Life of Vince Lombardi)"Their Life's Work is a behind the scenes and revealing look at what I consider one of the three greatest NFL football teams since World War II. Having competed against the 1970s Pittsburgh Steelers, I didn't think it was possible to learn more about this team, but Gary Pomerantz has uncovered so many intriguing details on how this great ball club was masterfully put together, along with fascinating new insights into the great characters who played on these championship teams, I see them in a new light. This is one great football book." (Ernie Accorsi, Former General Manager of the New York Giants, Cleveland Browns, Baltimore Colts)"This is a special book about a special moment in a special town. You cannot understand one of America's great cities today without understanding the special place the Steelers hold in Pittsburgh—and, unless you have season tickets, you cannot fully understand Pittsburgh without Their Life's Work." (David M. Shribman, Executive Editor, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and The Pittsburgh Press)"[Pomerantz] goes beyond straight-ahead sports writing to achieve intricate storytelling.... By describing the players' unique on-field and off-field relationships, Pomerantz reveals a brotherhood that transcends wins and losses." (Publishers Weekly)"Their Life's Work will be compared to Roger Kahn's The Boys of Summer (1972), a nostalgic look back at the 1950s Brooklyn Dodgers. As good as Boys is, this is better. . . A wonderful book." (Booklist (starred))"Gary Pomerantz's Their Life's Work: The Brotherhood of the 1970s Pittsburgh Steelers is the vessel in which the current generation can travel back to those days and immerse itself in the history of this franchise.... [A] dramatic, inspiring and wondrous tale of brotherhood, camaraderie and spirit.... It's the text book for Steelers 101. It's the Bible for Steelers Spirituality 201. It's the reading material necessary to pass a citizen's test for entry into Steeler Nation, and all residents should be issued it upon their arrival." (Neal Coolong Behind The Steel Curtain)About the Author Gary M. Pomerantz is a nonfiction author and journalist and has served the past seven years as a visiting lecturer in the Department of Communication at Stanford University. His work has appeared in The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and The Washington Post. Pomerantz has written four books, including Their Life's Work and the New York Times Notable Book of the Year, Where Peachtree Meets Sweet Auburn.