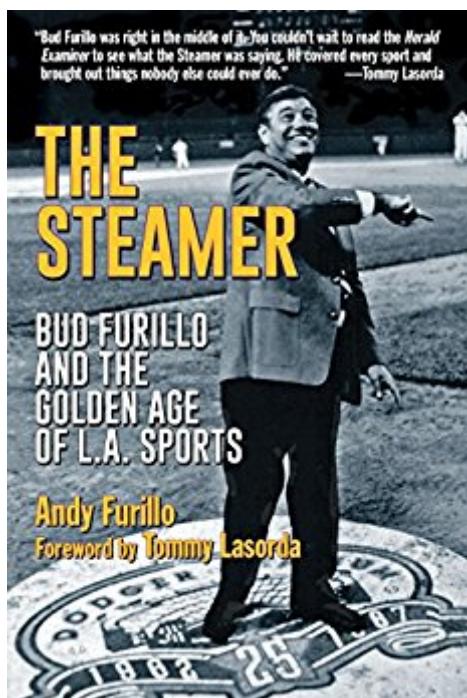


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# The Steamer: Bud Furillo And The Golden Age Of L.A. Sports



## Synopsis

For nearly sixty years, Bud Furillo wrote and talked about sports in Southern California. For fifteen of those years, he authored a popular column for the Los Angeles Herald Examiner called The Steam Room, which gave him the nickname that lasted him for the rest of his life: "the Steamer." As a reporter, columnist, editor, and pioneer of sports talk radio, the Steamer dished out insight and understanding to Southern California sports fans while Los Angeles grew into a sports empire. On his watch, L.A. acquired the Rams from Cleveland, the Dodgers from Brooklyn, and the Lakers from Minneapolis. He covered them all while they won championships for the city. In *The Steamer: Bud Furillo and the Golden Age of L.A. Sports*, Furillo's son, Andy, himself a longtime newspaperman, uses his father's lens to give focus to the city's rise as a sports empire. The Steamer is a history of a great sports town at its most dynamic, told from the point of view of a legendary reporter who used his phenomenal access to reveal the inside story of the greatest athletes and teams to ever play in Los Angeles.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you grew up playing every kind of ball—every single day—and grew up being involved in some kind of fisticuffs every other week—and grew up—reading everything available about sports—whether in the newspaper or in books—then you were extremely lucky to have your formative ages—of childhood through young adulthood—spent in Los Angeles—from the late 1950s through the 1980s. I must immediately clarify right here that I grew to young adulthood—but very much like this book—subject Bud “The Steamer” Furillo—sportswriter—“par excellence”—I never truly reached “maturity” adulthood. “The Steamer” was so named in homage to his column “The Steam Room” performed on a literary stage in Los Angeles—that had a full roster of really good sportswriters. Of them all—there were two—“The Steamer” and Jim Murray—who was literally the poet laureate of the sports writing field. Murray could make you cry at the drop of a hat—he could make you truly feel—with the deepest of emotion—and make you think—as either the tears or laughter—were emoted from your soul—as a byproduct of his written word. And then there was “The Steamer” if your family came from nothing—without even a place to live—and you were taught by your Father that sports was the great equalizer—that the most memorable quote from your Father—“LET YOUR PLAYING DO YOUR TALKING—PUT UP OR SHUT UP”—TALK IS CHEAP—PERFORMANCE COUNTS!—“The Steamer” was your writer. He was where the kids—teenagers—young adults—from the wrong side of the tracks wanted to be. In the bars—in the backrooms—in the alleys—in corners and shadows of the clubhouse. You wanted to share the air—with the guys who didn’t drink with their pinkies in the air.

Strictly shots and beersÃ¢Â€Â“ or just shotsÃ¢Â€Â“ or just beers. He was everywhere that matteredÃ¢Â€Â“ all the timeÃ¢Â€Â“ all the seasons. When the Rams came to Los AngelesÃ¢Â€Â“ when the Dodgers came from Brooklyn (along with me and my family)Ã¢Â€Â“ when the Lakers came. He was at the Coliseum (for football and baseball)Ã¢Â€Â“ the Sports ArenaÃ¢Â€Â“ Dodger StadiumÃ¢Â€Â“ The ForumÃ¢Â€Â“ and he was at some of the same fights my Dad and I were atÃ¢Â€Â“ at the one and only Olympic Auditorium. I guess you could say Jim Murray was Laurence OlivierÃ¢Â€Â“ and Furillo was Jimmy CagneyÃ¢Â€Â“ and my Dad and I always watched Cagney together! Ã¢Â€Â“The SteamerÃ¢Â€Â“ a son does an unbelievable job taking the memoir his Dad was working on before he diedÃ¢Â€Â“ combining it with excerptsÃ¢Â€Â“ reprintsÃ¢Â€Â“ and summarizations of his career workÃ¢Â€Â“ with the seamless careÃ¢Â€Â“ of the worldÃ¢Â€Â“ a son does greatest heart surgeonÃ¢Â€Â“ performing a transplant that will live on for eternity. No punches are pulled by the sonÃ¢Â€Â“ and why should theyÃ¢Â€Â“ when the Father never pulled punches in print. After allÃ¢Â€Â“ what greater compliment is thereÃ¢Â€Â“ thanÃ¢Â€Â“ Like FatherÃ¢Â€Â“ Like Son!Ã¢Â€Â“ Every essential character from every angle passing through Los Angeles is coveredÃ¢Â€Â“ from Bo BelinskyÃ¢Â€Â“ to Cassius ClayÃ¢Â€Â“ George AllenÃ¢Â€Â“ AFLÃ¢Â€Â“ NFLÃ¢Â€Â“ DodgersÃ¢Â€Â“ AngelsÃ¢Â€Â“ USCÃ¢Â€Â“ UCLAÃ¢Â€Â“ and some intimate discussions with the greatÃ¢Â€Â“ solitaryÃ¢Â€Â“ Sandy KoufaxÃ¢Â€Â“ that has not been often seen. Through it allÃ¢Â€Â“ The SteamerÃ¢Â€Â“ gets close to everyone from Mantle to McKay. A million drinksÃ¢Â€Â“ in innumerable watering holesÃ¢Â€Â“ and many timesÃ¢Â€Â“ perhaps a few too manyÃ¢Â€Â“ Such as the night an AngelÃ¢Â€Â“ a relief pitcher broughtÃ¢Â€Â“ home to his familyÃ¢Â€Â“ over his shoulderÃ¢Â€Â“ passed out coldÃ¢Â€Â“ dropped him on the couchÃ¢Â€Â“ and saidÃ¢Â€Â“ HE HAD TOO MUCH TO EAT!Ã¢Â€Â“ If this book was made into a movieÃ¢Â€Â“ Furillo could only be played by Jimmy CagneyÃ¢Â€Â“ or perhapsÃ¢Â€Â“ Jack Nicholson in his prime. If you are from the place and time I wasÃ¢Â€Â“ or if in retrospectÃ¢Â€Â“ you wish you wereÃ¢Â€Â“ this book is an absolute must for you!

I'm so glad I pre-ordered this wonderful book, and got a head start on everyone else when it arrived. Just couldn't put it down! "The Steamer," Bud Furillo, is well remembered among those of us who lived in Southern California during his heyday, but he wasn't such a home-towner that his writings won't also fascinate folks in New York, Chicago, or anywhere else lovers of great sports stories and/or lovers of fun writing happen to live. Bud's son Andy has organized the book by sport theme, so that just when you wish there was more about pro football in L.A., you're off with great stories about college basketball. Using Bud's own words and Andy's unique and important perspective as Bud's son, Andy has put together a wonderful read, all the better because notwithstanding that Andy is himself a great journalist and writer, he's very careful to make sure that the book is not about him, but about the father he loved so much. And what if you aren't a fan of hockey, basketball, baseball, football, horse racing, or even soccer? Not to worry. Andy's telling of Bud's stories about life in Southern California, about the business of pro and amateur sports, and about the amazing characters who became Bud's close friends, will entertain you even if you don't know the difference between a double play and a double Scotch (served up at one of the many neat L.A. watering holes Bud frequented). This is a fun book for everyone. Don't miss it!

Bud would have been deeply honored with how his son, Andy, chronicled his life. This book was so artfully written and so interesting to read. Anyone curious about the evolution of sports in the times that Furillo covered would/will love this book. Including the Steamer's columns really gave this tome punch and heart. Well done! A must-read for the sports enthusiast who loves a hefty helping of backstory along with an easy-to-learn history lesson. This author's work is reminiscent of the style and tone of the subject he writes about. The apple doesn't fall far....

Good read. Rekindles memories of not only a great era of LA sports but those of national interest. Lakers, UCLA basketball, USC football, Kofax and the Dodgers among others. A colorful son writing, editing and structuring great stories about his very colorful father.

Furillo's book is a must-read, especially for anyone who either grew up or lived in greater Los Angeles when "The Steamer" was at his peak. Bud Furillo was a complex individual, and his son draws this out magnificently, the good, the not-so-good, the bad and the warts. The strength of this book is its honesty, captured amidst the elder Furillo's "life is for living" philosophy.

I was so lucky to grow up not only in this era of LA sports...but would buy 5-out of the 7-editions of

the Herald-Examiner every day to get the latest sports from probably the best sports section of any newspaper in the country! Bud Furillo was a beast in the world of sports.....The Herald sports section had the best writers, the best horse race coverage, the latest results and those guys had the most fun with the Dodgers, Rams, Angels, Lakers, Kings, USC, UCLA, boxing at the Olympic, wrestling....on-and-on it goes, in this very complete book on the golden days of LA sports. Great job by Andy and a "must-read" for an inside look at the glory days of Los Angeles sports, through the eyes of the incredible Steamer.....!!!

This book is fantastic! The chapter on Ali alone is worth the price of the book. The early history of The Steamer's family brings some laughs and surprise. Fascinating. Andy Furillo is a good writer. You don't have to be a sports nut to enjoy this book. It has something for everybody. And I'm pretty sure you will enjoy sports more after you read it anyhow.

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