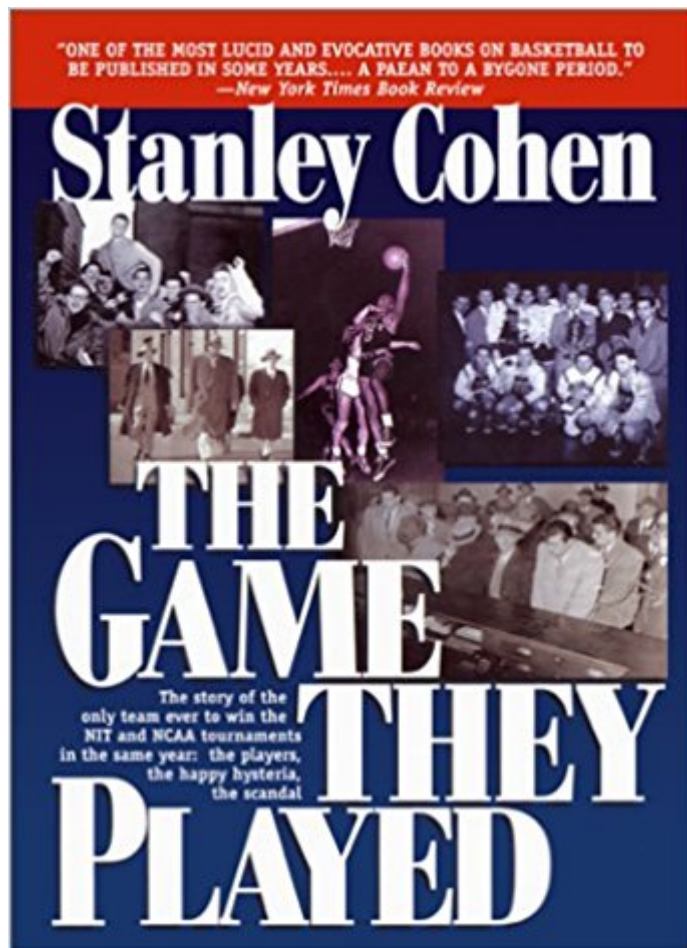




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# The Game They Played



## Synopsis

It happened in the 1949-50 college basketball season. The unranked City College team ("five street kids from the City of New York; three Jews and two blacks") outstripped the competition from the Midwest to take the titles in both the NCAA championship and National Invitation Tournament. The feat was unprecedented, and never again duplicated. Sadly, the scandal that followed it; and ended with the indictment of twenty players (for shaving points) as well as fourteen fixers; left New York bereft of big-time college basketball. Cited by Sports Illustrated as one the twenty-five best literary sports books ever published and the basis for the award-winning HBO documentary City Dump, which has been optioned for a major film, *The Game They Played* comprises both a history of the fixed and dumped college basketball games from the late 1940s to the early 1960s and a morality tale that contemplates the nature of justice in America. It poignantly tells the story, too, of dreams that were lost, illusions broken, and kids betrayed by the sad truths of greed and corruption.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Why would anyone betray and corrupt something they loved more than anything? That's exactly what happened in the early 1950s when dozens of college basketball players fixed games for the benefit of sleazy gamblers who tossed them a few bucks for their efforts. Many of the players were arrested, scandal followed and college basketball was almost reduced to the level of artificial sports like roller derby. In *THE GAME THEY PLAYED*, one of the earliest and best books about the point shaving scandal of the early fifties, Stanley Cohen details how the gamblers got to the players and

how the players fixed numerous games. Focusing on the Beavers of CCNY, the only team in history to win both the NIT and the NCAA championships in a single season, Cohen discusses, not just the nuts and bolts of the fixes, but also the broader implications of the scandals in American life and how much the scandal ruined college basketball in New York for a generation. Having researched and written a lot about sports in the 1950s (HOOP CRAZY: COLLEGE BASKETBALL IN THE 1950S), I found this book to be an excellent, enjoyable read on a dark subject.

A treat for baseball fans who still follow their teams and involve their families. His personal experiences bring back memories for us all.

Lived through this era. Familiar with players & big bb fan. Was Looking for accurate details--this book provided them

So so...too long actually for the story that was being told

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