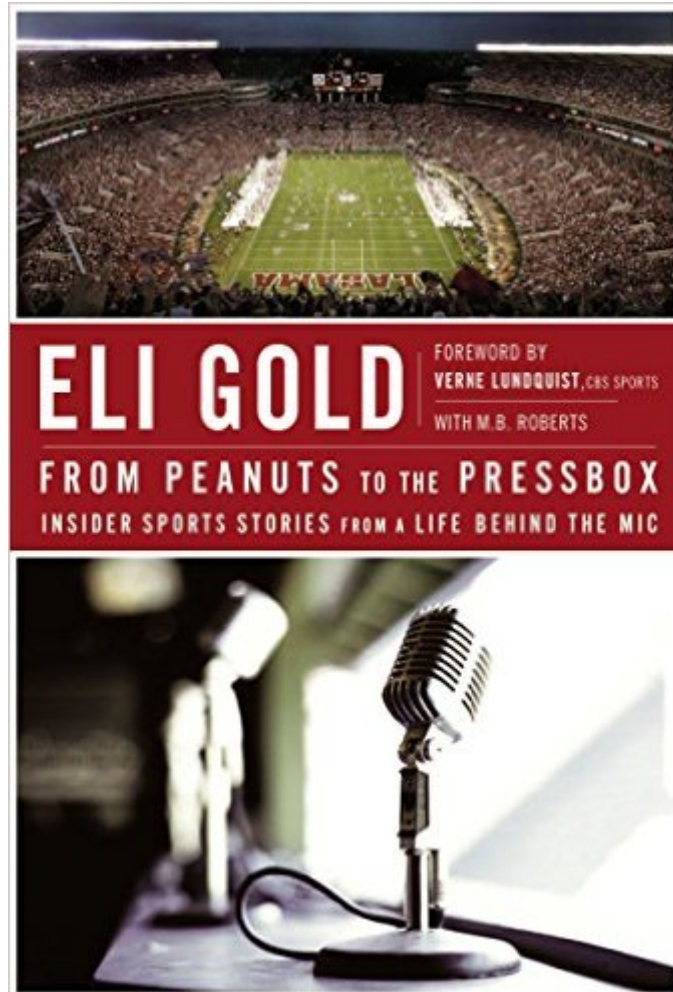


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From Peanuts To The Pressbox: Insider Sports Stories From A Life Behind The Mic



Synopsis

In this behind-the-scenes look at sports broadcasting Eli Gold tells how a kid from Brooklyn, New York, went from selling peanuts at Madison Square Garden to being one of the most recognizable voices in all of radio sports broadcasting. From Peanuts to the Pressbox is an intimate walk down memory lane, reliving some of the greatest moments in Alabama sports (basketball and football) and NASCAR. Gold also shares stories from his early days with Yankees broadcaster Mel Allen and Red Barber and other broadcasting greats, such as Bob Costas, Tom Hammond, Verne Lundquist, Kevin Harlan, Ron Franklin, and Mike Tirico.

Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Thomas Nelson; First Edition edition (September 14, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1401604366

ISBN-13: 978-1401604363

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 0.9 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (54 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,040,456 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #52 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Sports Broadcasting](#) #5197 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors](#)

Customer Reviews

Recently, as part of the Thomas Nelson Blogger Reviewer Program, I received a copy of Eli Gold's "From Peanuts to the Pressbox: Insider Sports Stories from a Life Behind the Mic". The work is an autobiography looking back at the life of a kid from NYC who skipped most of high school to watching sporting events that found himself in the right place in the right time many times over who advanced up the ranks of sportcasting. I give the work three stars. It was an easy read; something to read while trying to fall asleep at night. For me, a sign of a great autobiography is one that the subject shares not only the events of his life, but why those events were important enough to recall as well as the lessons learned. Overall, this work is a feel-good retelling of Eli's favorite stories, without much added depth. Eli's work has been overall contained to hockey, NASCAR, Alabama football and basketball. If you're familiar with any of these sports, there will be many stories that will be quite enjoyable and fun to read. If you're not, but have some idea of the benefit of sport, there

are stories that will make you laugh, or make you stop to think for a moment. All in all, a fine book.

I would by no means count myself a sports fanatic. I enjoy seeing sports on TV and occasionally I will catch a live event. I picked up Eli Gold's book "From Peanuts to the Pressbox" not really knowing what to expect. I can tell you that after the first chapter I was hooked and by the end I had been reminded of what I love about sports. The events themselves, Eli is a fan and it shows in this book. Eli tells the story of his life by recalling events he has seen on the court and the experiences that got him to each of those events. Told in a refreshing conversational style I often had to remind myself that I was not sitting around the table with him having coffee swapping stories. Starting from his childhood selling peanuts to be close to the action he shows us all what we can do if we only hold on to our dreams. Realizing his through his dedication and hard work he has done everything he wanted to and truly lived his life the way he chooses to. From Peanuts to the Pressbox is a must read.

I was interested in this book because I had listened to Eli Gold broadcast many University of Alabama basketball and football games. In the book he relates his almost unquenchable desire to be a radio broadcaster. He is to be admired for his determination to reach his goal. Education was of no importance to him as he felt he only needed to gain the opportunity to obtain experience. Much of the book is related to broadcasting of NASCAR and hockey games. Therefore I was somewhat disappointed in the book as my sports interest is mainly confined to football and basketball. Broadcasting enabled him to meet quite a number of interesting, well known people, particularly in the sports and broadcasting fields. I believe anyone with an interest in a wide range of sports would find the book to be to their liking.

Eli Gold, a veteran of some 30+ years at broadcasting, has written a wonderful book on his life from literally selling peanuts at Madison Square Garden (just to get into the events free) to being the voice of the Crimson Tide and NASCAR Today. Gold describes a world of journalism that spans from the hard-wired mic days and no cell phones to the digital-remote days of today. His book is filled with detailed, often humorous, stories of some of the more colorful sports personalities with whom he's crossed paths. For instance, one exciting story describes the dangers of reporting the 1982 Pocono Winston Cup and having Dale Earnhardt's fender coming flying up to almost decapitate Gold in the broadcast tower. But more importantly, his book is filled with how to take the "fire in the belly" need to broadcast sports and become tops in the field of radio and television

broadcasting. Gold worked at whatever, whenever to get the experience he needed to do what he does today. His stories prove that although the road isn't easy, the journey is worth the sweat, tears and hardships of flea-ridden motels, non-airconditioned buses and too-much time away from home. This book is perfect for sports fans (especially NASCAR, arena football, hockey and college football and basketball), sports historians, broadcast/print journalism enthusiasts and those just interested in reading about one man's journey from being a Brooklyn high school peanut-stand seller to the Voice of the Crimson Tide! This is all great stuff. I do have one small quibble. The book doesn't flow as well as it could -- some jokes and comments are repeated as if the chapters were separate articles strung loosely together and the text can be a bit rambling. All in all though, this is a great read and one I'm saving for my seven year old son who loves to practice "sports broadcasting" all the time.

My latest review is Eli Gold's autobiography...memoir...I'm not sure what to call it. Anyways, *From Peanuts to the Pressbox: Insider Sports Stories from a Life Behind the Mic* (Thomas Nelson, 2009) is about what you could expect from a C-list sports announcer. I wasn't very familiar with the guy before this book, since I rarely watch NASCAR and college football isn't really relevant to a Baylor grad born during the Reagan administration. His book is okay. The stories are interesting, mostly light and good-humored. He does give a few heavier accounts of the NASCAR tragedies that have hit home for him. This book would be interesting to any Alabama fans, at least those from the past 20 years or so he has been involved with Crimson Tide football. Anyone with a special interest in the voices of sports would likely be interested and find it an enjoyable read. It's not a great piece of writing, however. It's pretty shallow without a whole lot of salient elements that the average non-sports junkie. And you have to be one of the bigger junkies to really, really appreciate the figure behind this account, one that is into NCAA football, NASCAR or NHL. If you're interested in anecdotal sports accounts that are also good pieces of writing, check out the books of Howard Cosell, Bob Costas, and Jack Buck.

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