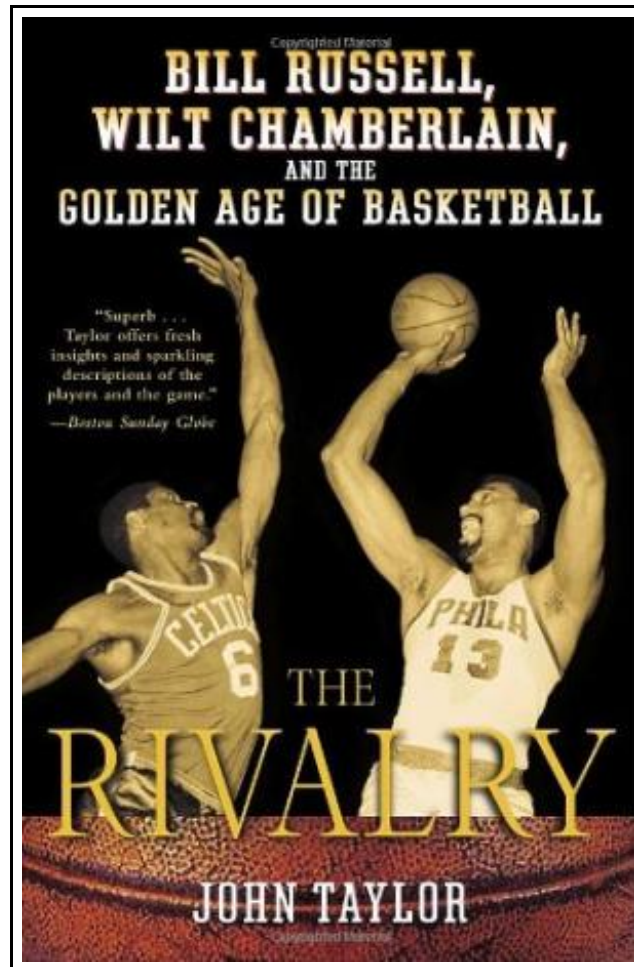


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Reviews

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(Marlin Bergstrom)

THE RIVALRY: BILL RUSSELL, WILT CHAMBERLAIN, AND THE GOLDEN AGE OF BASKETBALL (PAPERBACK)



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Ballantine Books, United States, 2006. Paperback. Book Condition: New. annotated edition. 201 x 127 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. A BRILLIANTLY WRITTEN ACCOUNT OF THE NBA S GLORY DAYS, AND THE RIVALRY THAT DOMINATED THE ERA In the mid-1950s, the NBA was a mere barnstorming circuit, with outposts in such cities as Rochester, New York, and Fort Wayne, Indiana. Most of the best players were white; the set shot and layup were the sport s chief offensive weapons. But by the 1970s, the league ruled America s biggest media markets; contests attracted capacity crowds and national prime-time television audiences. The game was played above the rim and the most marketable of its high-flying stars were black. The credit for this remarkable transformation largely goes to two giants: Bill Russell and Wilt Chamberlain. In *The Rivalry*, award-winning journalist John Taylor projects the stories of Russell, Chamberlain, and other stars from the NBA s golden age onto a backdrop of racial tensions and cultural change. Taylor s electrifying account of two complex men as well as of a game and a country at a crossroads is an epic narrative of sports in America during the 1960s. It s hard to imagine two characters better suited to leading roles in the NBA saga: Chamberlain was cast as the athletically gifted yet mercurial titan, while Russell played the role of the stalwart centerpiece of the Boston Celtics dynasty. Taylor delves beneath these stereotypes, detailing how the two opposed and complemented each other and how they revolutionized the way the game was played and perceived by fans. Competing with and against such heroes as Jerry West, Tom Heinsohn, Bob Cousy, John Havlicek, and Elgin Baylor, and playing for the two greatest coaches of the era, Alex Hannum and the fiery Red Auerbach, Chamberlain...

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