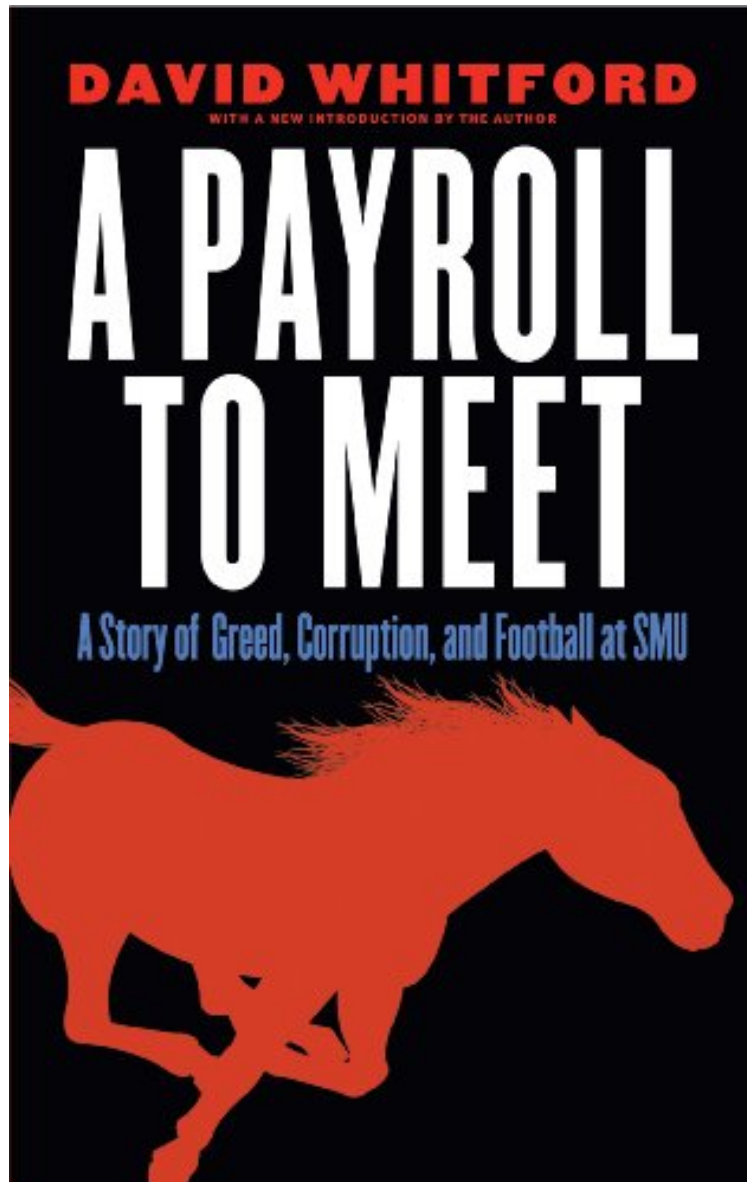


[Ebook pdf] A Payroll to Meet: A Story of Greed, Corruption, and Football at SMU

A Payroll to Meet: A Story of Greed, Corruption, and Football at SMU

David Whitford

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David Whitford : A Payroll to Meet: A Story of Greed, Corruption, and Football at SMU before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Payroll to Meet: A Story of Greed, Corruption, and Football at SMU:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A rollercoaster of events; enjoyable look at the glory days and the mighty fall
By Kenny
As a resident of the Dallas/Fort Worth area, I know plenty about SMU as an academic institution,

as well as met many friends of mine who are SMU alums. However, I never knew how great the SMU Football program was back in the 80s. After watching Pony Express on 30 for 30, the wheels were set in motion to find something, anything, that was written about that time of football in this area. Whitford's book truly painted a picture of "The Wild, Wild West" in the way money and other perks were all over the horizon and luring kids to SMU. Granted, other schools do it, so this is no indictment on what SMU did. It is fun watching SMU football now in the sense that the effort and the results of hard work are coming to the surface. That may be tough for some people to understand, but one only has to do their homework of where SMU came from to understand where they are today. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, excellent detail of the scandal @ SMU By James Thomas Reams Being a young person and football lover in the early 80's, I was drawn into the glamour and excitement of the Pony Express. At a time when I was too young to understand why the 'death penalty' happened this book opened the door to the whole ball of wax. Terrific read! Also, if you think any of this could not or does not happen today in big time college athletics, I've got news for you... 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fairly good account of the infamous scandal By Patrick L. Randall Anyone who watched college football in the 80's, or watched the ESPN '30 for 30' episode "Pony Excess", is familiar with the scandal at Southern Methodist University (SMU) Mustangs football team was found guilty of repeatedly engaging in pay-for-play schemes in flagrant violation of NCAA rules. The end result was that the one-time Southwest Conference powerhouse had its football team shutdown for two years (the so-called 'Death Penalty'). David Whitford's book "A Payroll to Meet" provides a good chronicle of that scandal, as well as a hefty portion of the source material used by ESPN. In Whitford's book, you get all the feel of the runaway train power of the boosters who threw money around without a care in the world in trying to bring a National Championship to Dallas. You also get the understanding of the hornet's nest SMU found itself in being in the middle of the of highly competitive newspaper city of Dallas, and the double-standard of how SMU got nailed for the same scams all SWC schools were running. What I definitely found interesting in Whitford's book is how overwhelmed the administration, especially the Athletic Director and school President, seemed it trying to bring this scandal under control. While you knew they were contending with powerful boosters and establish board members (including Texas Governor, Bill Clements), you got the sense of just how debilitating it was for these men to try and deal with a problem that they had absolutely zero power to do anything about. Their struggle is only hinted at in the ESPN documentary, but Whitford drives it home in his narrative.

Southern Methodist University in Dallas is one of numerous prestigious universities in Texas. The school's football team was the pride of the university and the city. Before the late 1970s, however, the relatively small school had trouble recruiting and struggled to keep up with the big-time football universities that were often more than double its size. Under pressure to compete, the SMU football program engaged in ethics, rules, and recruiting violations for years. When the corruption came to light, the NCAA handed out its most serious punishment in the history of college sports--the "death penalty"--which cancelled the team's entire 1987 schedule. In *A Payroll to Meet*, author David Whitford details the Mustangs' descent into corruption and the fallout when it was discovered. Most egregiously, the football program ran a huge slush fund that was used to pay players from the mid-1970s through 1986. Bill Clements, chairman of the SMU board and soon to be reelected governor of Texas, knew all about the slush fund before the NCAA did. He opted, however, to phase out the payments rather than stop them immediately, for fear that angry players might go public and create still more problems for SMU. Clements and the athletic director Bob Hitch decided that the football program had "a payroll to meet."

From *Publishers Weekly* Southern Methodist University is the pride of Dallas, and the pride of SMU in the early '80s was its football team. The school's board of governors, who were mostly local business leaders and included Bill Clements, two-time governor of Texas, played a major role in the recruitment of athletes, offering cash bonuses and monthly payments to many students. Long since out of the control of the Methodist Church, SMU had a history of recruiting violations, but it was not until the advent of flamboyant coach Ron Meyers in 1976 that the system of payoffs became institutionalized. After an investigation by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (and much lying by college officials and businessmen), the truth was exposed in 1987 and severe sanctions were imposed on SMU. Whitford, contributing editor for *Sports* magazine, is a diligent researcher and his well-documented expose is impressive. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal* Exhibiting admirable sympathy for innocent fans and boosters, a contributing editor of *Sport* magazine makes engrossing, even suspenseful, the story of recruiting violations and cover-ups that to the 1987 termination of Southern Methodist University's football program by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Combining the histories of Dallas, college football, SMU (chartered in 1911), and the NCAA, Whitford explains how athletics became attached to institutions of higher learning--from the 1830s, when English sports entered the curriculum, to present-day America, where sports coaches often earn higher salaries than college presidents. Due to an extensive roster of characters, read in a very few sittings.-- Kim Holston, American Inst. for Property and Liability Underwriters, Malvern, Pa. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. [Whitford's] well-documented expose; is

