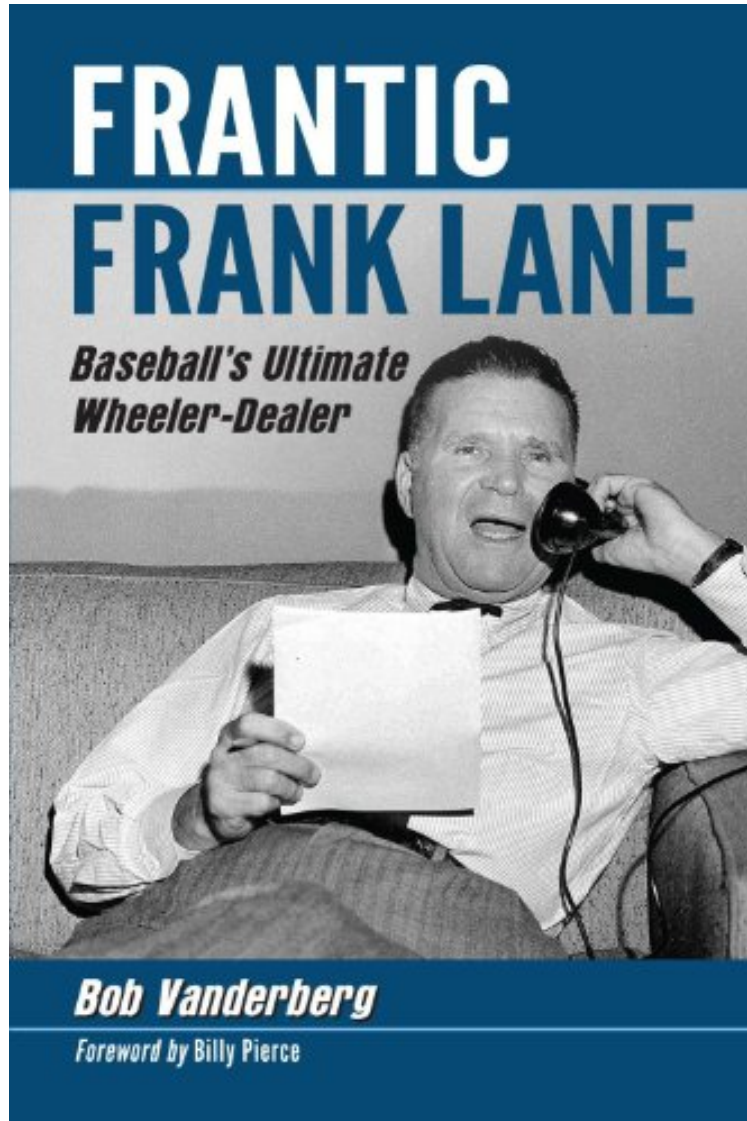


(Online library) Frantic Frank Lane: Baseball's Ultimate Wheeler-Dealer

Frantic Frank Lane: Baseball's Ultimate Wheeler-Dealer

Bob Vanderberg

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Bob Vanderberg : Frantic Frank Lane: Baseball's Ultimate Wheeler-Dealer before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Frantic Frank Lane: Baseball's Ultimate Wheeler-Dealer:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Wheeler-Dealer Extraordinaire By Bill Emblom If you are a baseball fan old enough to remember the career of Frantic Frank "Trader" Lane you need to read this book. It will bring back memories of one of baseball's legendary general managers. To say that Lane ruffled feathers would be a gross understatement. Sportswriters loved him because he always gave them something to write about, usually his latest trade made to shake things up. Players often had negative opinions regarding Lane because his acidic tongue was often

used to describe their shortcomings. Frank Lane's career brought him to a number of different baseball addresses beginning with the Chicago White Sox in 1949 where he engineered two of the best trades of his career. He first dealt catcher Joe Tipton to the Philadelphia Athletics for future Hall of Fame second baseman Nelson Fox. Lane followed that trade up by dealing catcher Aaron Robinson to the Detroit Tigers for pitcher Billy Pierce. St. Louis was the next stop on Lane's itinerary where he angered Cardinals' fans by dealing Red Schoendienst to the New York Giants, and then entertained an offer from the Philadelphia Phillies of Robin Roberts for Stan Musial. Owner "Gussie" Busch stepped in and put a stop to that possibility. As the Indians' general manager Lane engineered a steal of a deal that sent an aging Larry Doby to the Tigers for Tito Francona. Lane states that if he could achieve a 65% rate in getting what he wanted he would consider that to be successful. A trade that blew up in his face was the blockbuster that dropped on Easter Sunday of 1960 when he sent matinee idol and 1959 co-home run leader Rocky Colavito to the Tigers in exchange for 1959 batting champ Harvey Kuenn. He also authored the deal that sent future 1961 batting champ Norm Cash to the Tigers in exchange for Steve Demeter who went 0-5 times at bat with the Indians. Frank Lane also found employment with the Kansas City Athletics, Baltimore Orioles, and Milwaukee Brewers. He even ventured into the N.B.A. with the then Chicago Packers who became the Chicago Zephyrs prior to moving to Baltimore to become the Baltimore Bullets. The book also includes a list of Frank Lane's trades throughout his career along with his five rules of trading. This book includes a great deal about his career in baseball as a wheeler-dealer, but what would you expect in a biography about Frank Lane? Thank you author Bob Vanderberg. My only complaint is that I wish the book was available in hard cover. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Someone needs to write a better bio of this man. By Virginia music lover I've made it through half of this book, but honestly it's disappointing. The book recounts Frank Lane's trades, and the where's and when's of his baseball life, but there are no insights on the man himself. Compared to the better biographies (and autobiographies) of Stengel, Veeck, and Durocher, this pales by comparison. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Expected More. By Andy the Actuary Easy reading though substantially a rehashing of seasons for teams where Lane was GM. Not enough about motivation for making deals, the joy he took in making trades, or his personal life. Could have benefited from more interviews with players that were part of Lane's domino set. Only real treatment of Lane so book was welcome but was disappointed.

The book follows the colorful career of Frank Lane, who as baseball's busiest general manager during the 1950s made the deals that turned the Chicago White Sox, St. Louis Cardinals and Cleveland Indians from losers into pennant contenders almost overnight. He also worked—or tried to—as general manager of the Kansas City Athletics (Lane lasted eight months in 1961 under first-year owner Charlie Finley) and for the Milwaukee Brewers, where his boss was Bud Selig. He is best known for having traded 1959 American League home run champion Rocky Colavito to Detroit for the AL's 1959 batting champ, Harvey Kuenn, and for trading Indians manager Joe Gordon to Detroit for Tigers manager Jimmy Dykes. During his brief absence from baseball (1962–1964), he signed on as general manager of the National Basketball Association's second-year expansion team, the Chicago Zephyrs. He became a "superscout" for the Baltimore Orioles for several years and, after leaving Milwaukee, had the same job with the Texas Rangers and, finally, the California Angels. He completed well over 500 major- and minor-league transactions in his career. Joe Garagiola put it best: "They used to say that the toughest job on any club Frank Lane was running belonged to the guy who had to take the team picture."

About the Author Bob Vanderberg, retired after nearly 37 years on the sports staff of the Chicago Tribune, has written three books on the Chicago White Sox. He lives in Lemont, Illinois.