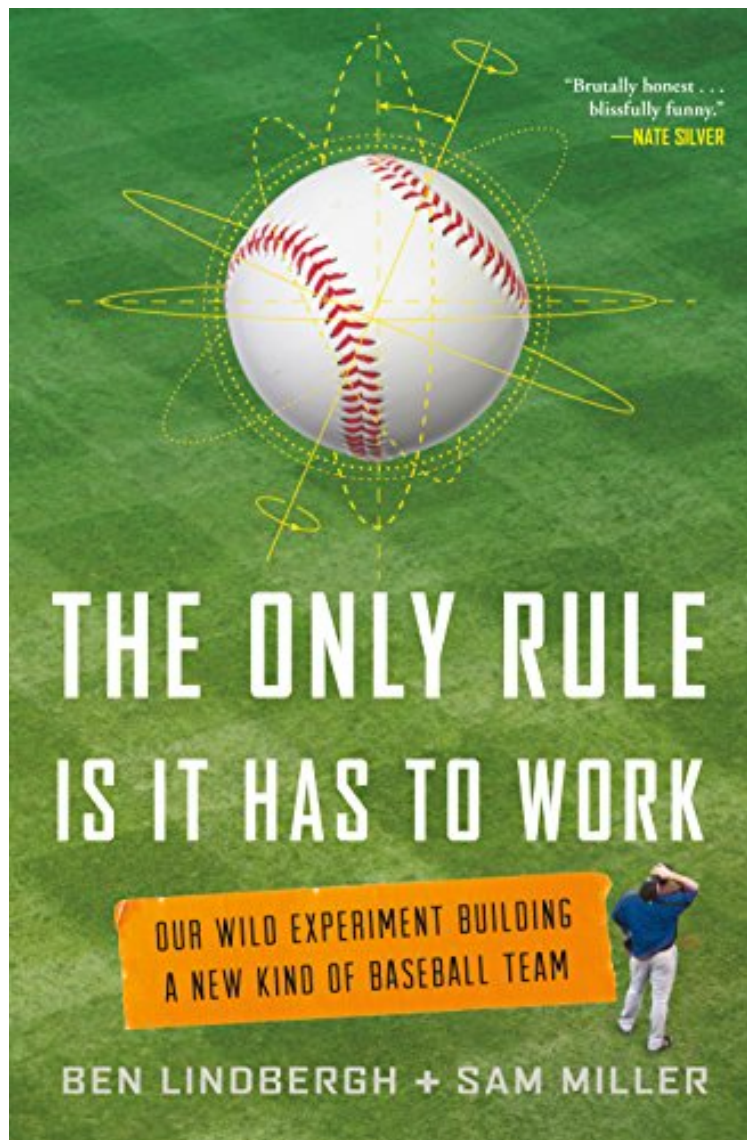


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## The Only Rule Is It Has to Work: Our Wild Experiment Building a New Kind of Baseball Team

*Ben Lindbergh, Sam Miller*

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**Ben Lindbergh, Sam Miller : The Only Rule Is It Has to Work: Our Wild Experiment Building a New Kind of Baseball Team** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Only Rule Is It Has to Work: Our Wild Experiment Building a New Kind of Baseball Team:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. The best book I've read this yearBy Patrick WilsonI absolutely loved this book. It reads like a top-flight novel, is packed with interesting stories and details, and brings the game to life.

Many of us are armchair coaches and general managers, always making recommendations and second-guessing our teams' decisions. We have the dream and we put it on a pedestal. Ben and Sam explain just how difficult it is. Sam's note and prepared speech especially hit home. But even more interesting than the baseball parts are the psychological undertones: how Ben and Sam's relationship changes during the season, the effect the season has on players, the toll it all takes on you. If you are a baseball fan or know a baseball fan, give them this book. They will find multiple stories in it that they can relate to. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Favorite Baseball Read This Year By Customer This is the best baseball book I've read this year. I immediately felt connected to Ben, Sam and the Stompers go from pre-spring training signings throughout the season. Anyone with any interest in baseball should pick this up immediately. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Must-read book for baseball fans, young and old. By S. J. Anderson This is quite possibly the perfect book for anyone who gets a kick out of sports statistics. Apart from a brief appearance by Jose Canseco, you won't see any big names in this true story. To me though, that makes it all the more endearing. Sam and Ben took the sabermetrics approach to a tiny, independent league team in Northern California. Think Moneyball on a shoestring budget. The book is well-paced, well-written, and has great information without boring the reader in the minutiae of how stat-heads operate. This is a great read for any and all baseball fans. It even got me to take a trip to Sonoma to watch the Stompers play a game. Can't say a book has ever done that for me before!

The New York Times bestseller about what would happen if two statistics-minded outsiders were allowed to run a professional baseball team. It's the ultimate in fantasy baseball: You get to pick the roster, set the lineup, and decide on strategies -- with real players, in a real ballpark, in a real playoff race. That's what baseball analysts Ben Lindbergh and Sam Miller got to do when an independent minor-league team in California, the Sonoma Stompers, offered them the chance to run its baseball operations according to the most advanced statistics. Their story in *The Only Rule is It Has to Work* is unlike any other baseball tale you've ever read. We tag along as Lindbergh and Miller apply their number-crunching insights to all aspects of assembling and running a team, following one cardinal rule for judging each innovation they try: it has to work. We meet colorful figures like general manager Theo Fightmaster and boundary-breakers like the first openly gay player in professional baseball. Even Jose Canseco makes a cameo appearance. Will their knowledge of numbers help Lindbergh and Miller bring the Stompers a championship, or will they fall on their faces? Will the team have a competitive advantage or is the sports folk wisdom true after all? Will the players attract the attention of big-league scouts, or are they on a fast track to oblivion? It's a wild ride, by turns provocative and absurd, as Lindbergh and Miller tell a story that will speak to numbers geeks and traditionalists alike. And they prove that you don't need a bat or a glove to make a genuine contribution to the game.

"[F]un, breezy, and moving read." ---Jonah Keri, author of *Up, Up, and Away* About the Author Ben Lindbergh is a staff writer for FiveThirtyEight and, with Sam Miller, cohost of *Effectively Wild*, the daily Baseball Prospectus podcast. He is a former staff writer for Grantland and a former editor in chief of Baseball Prospectus. He lives in New York City. Sam Miller is the editor in chief of Baseball Prospectus, coeditor of Baseball Prospectus's annual guidebook, and a contributing writer at ESPN The Magazine. He lives on the San Francisco peninsula with his wife and daughter. Kirby Heyborne is an accomplished actor, musician, and comedian who has received a number of AudioFile Earphones Awards for his audiobook narrations. He has had starring roles in over a dozen features and many short films. Kirby is also a cofounder and director of the Los Angeles-based improv comedy group The Society. John Pruden is a professional voice actor who records audiobooks, corporate and online training narrations, animation and video game characters, and radio and TV commercials. An AudioFile Earphones Award winner, John has a solid creative foundation from which to draw for his intelligent audiobook narrations.