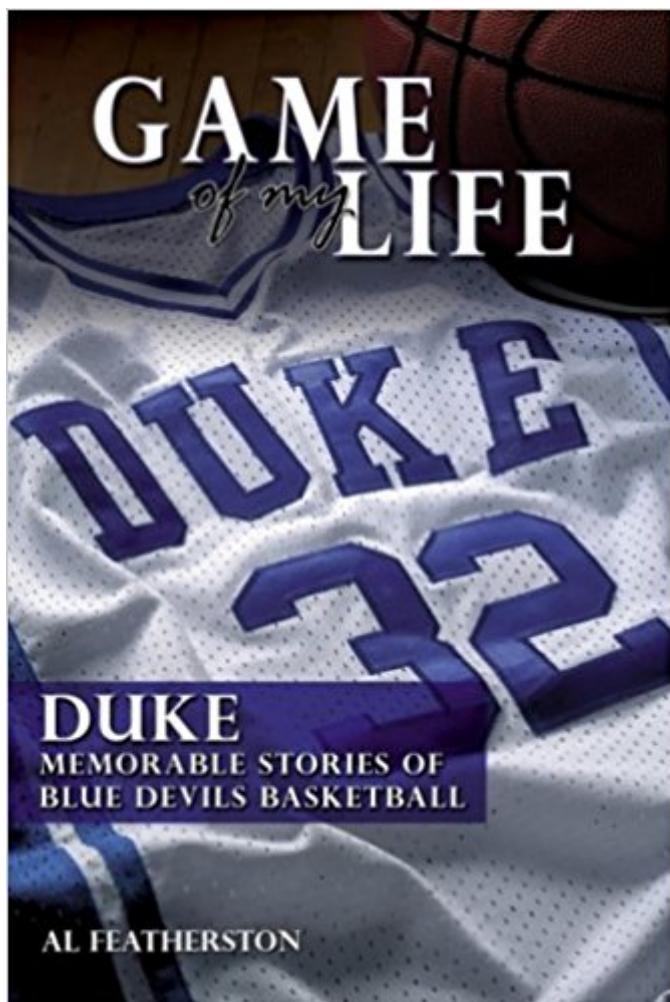


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# Duke: Memorable Stories Of Blue Devil Basketball (Game Of My Life)



## **Synopsis**

Former Blue Devil basketball players single out the game that to him is the most defining of his Duke career. Included are stars like Dick Groat, the two-sport player who later became a National League MVP shortstop, eight national players of the year, future NBA All-Star Grant Hill, future NBA general managers, future Fox commentator Mike Gminski, and future ESPN commentator Jay Bilas. It provides an in-depth look at the men and games that helped shape the legendary Duke tradition.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Al Featherston has covered Duke and ACC sports since 1970. He joined the sports staff of the Durham Sun in 1974 and served as the assistant sports editor of that paper from 1975-91. He then worked for the new Durham Herald-Sun from 1991- 2005. He won numerous press awards, including the 2001 National Association of Sports Writers first-place award for game coverage, as well as four top awards from the North Carolina press association. Featherston is a regular columnist for Basketball Times. He resides in Durham, NC. Past titles include Battle for Mortain: The 30th Infantry Division Saves the Breakout, August 7-12, 1944 (Presidio Press, 1993 and 1998) and Tobacco Road: Duke, Carolina, N.C. State, Wake Forest and the History of the Most Intense Backyard Rivalries in Sports (Lyons Press, 2006).

There are multitudes of Duke basketball fans and Featherston is considered by many one of the

classic sportswriters, especially when it comes to Duke. The book is well-designed with intros to some of the best Duke players ever, then first person accounts are presented of the most memorable game by the particular player. I recall many of these as some of the greatest games in Duke basketball history. I can't believe this book received no marketing. Surely if some current Blue Devil fans are not super-interested in past Duke stars, there are thousands of long-time fans who would love a book like this.

Good book by Al Featherston, but I doubt other fans will appreciate it. Of course being a Duke alum, I don't care. For Duke fans that have a sense of the long history of Duke basketball, it is an interesting read. Featherston has one of the better writing styles of the writers that follow the Devils. With many other books, I often feel like I am reading a sports page column. Featherston usually puts more into his writing, and it shows again here. The book is made up of chapters, each one done by a former Duke player. There is no linking between chapters, each one is about 10 pages and is inclusive within itself. There is a Featherston summary of the player, then a lead up to the game of their lives. There is a first person section about the game, then it goes back to Featherston with an aftermath and small write up of where the player is now. The first person accounts are fairly short, never more than a couple of pages, and some just a few paragraphs. Most of the major Duke stars over the past ~50 years are here. Some notable exceptions are Tate Armstrong, Steve Vacendak, Vince Taylor, JJ Redick, Tommy Amaker, Grant Hill and Elton Brand. Being an '85 grad, I would have loved to have read the account by Taylor of the '82 game vs. Clemson (Duke won in 3 OTs, led by Taylor). But then again, it's not like anyone in the book isn't worthy of inclusion. In any case, here is a list of the players and their games: Wojo - vs. UNC, 28 Feb 98 Marin - vs. Kentucky, 18 Mar 66 (the only loss in the book, I believe) Heyman, vs. UNC, 4 Feb 61 (the fight game) Mullins, vs. 'Nova, 13 Mar 64 Melchionni, vs. Maryland, 3 Feb 73 Banks. Guess. You're right. Dawkins, vs. Miss. Valley State, 13 Mar 86 Alarie, vs. UNC, 10 Mar 84 Ferry, vs. Miami, 10 Dec 88 Battier, vs. Arizona, 2 Apr 01 Laettner. Guess. You're right. Gminski - vs. UNC, 14 Jan 78 Groat - vs. UNC, 29 Feb 52 Lind. Guess. You're right. King - vs. Temple, 26 Mar 88 Sheldon Williams - vs. Maryland, 11 Jan 06 Hurley - vs. UNLV. Guess which one. You're right. Carrawell - vs. NC State, 19 Jan 00 Jason Williams. Guess. You're right.

Sorry, this was a dull, self serving diatribe by a sports writer obviously catering to Coach K.

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