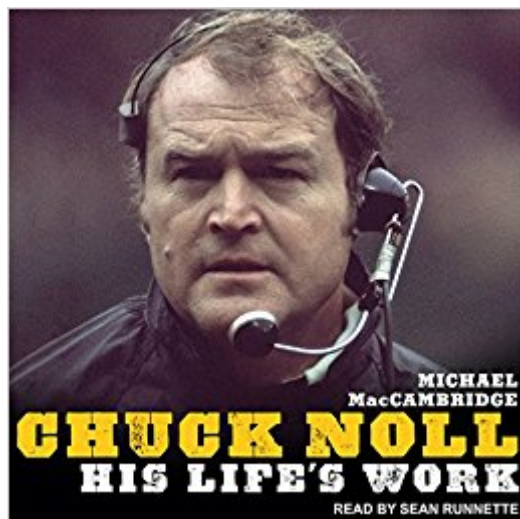


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# Chuck Noll: His Life's Work



## Synopsis

Chuck Noll won four Super Bowls and presided over one of the greatest football dynasties in history, the Pittsburgh Steelers of the '70s. Later inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, his achievements as a competitor and a coach are the stuff of legend. But Noll always remained an intensely private and introspective man, never revealing much of himself as a person or as a coach, not even to the players and fans who revered him. Chuck Noll did not need a dramatic public profile to be the catalyst for one of the greatest transformations in sports history. In the nearly four decades before he was hired, the Pittsburgh Steelers were the least successful team in professional football, never winning so much as a division title. After Noll's arrival, his quiet but steely leadership quickly remolded the team into the most accomplished in the history of professional football. And what he built endured well beyond his time with the Steelers—who have remained one of America's great NFL teams, accumulating a total of six Super Bowls, eight AFC championships, and dozens of division titles and playoff berths.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Chuck Noll transformed the Pittsburgh Steelers into one of the greatest dynasties in NFL history. Yet, both during his career and after, he was underappreciated, relatively uncelebrated, and—in part by his own choice—not fully understood. Michael MacCambridge’s carefully researched and beautifully written biography finally brings into clear focus one of the most accomplished coaches in the history of American sports.” —Bob Costas, NBC Sports “If Michael MacCambridge wrote a book about the

painting of my house, I'd devour it—he's that good—a master of bringing a complicated and compelling history to life. In *Chuck Noll: His Life's Work*, he paints vivid pictures of how Noll ended up in Pittsburgh, why he was perfect for the Steelers, and why he was the right man for his time in steering the Steelers toward African American players. Of all the important figures in the NFL in the last fifty years, we knew the least about Noll—until now.

—Peter King, *The MMQB*, *Sports Illustrated*

“Michael MacCambridge goes behind the Steel Curtain and unveils the coach who delivered a football dynasty, Chuck Noll. Having covered Chuck during most of his Steelers career, I learned things I didn't know about his struggles and his brilliance. Thanks to relentless research and impressive interviews, Michael puts you behind the desk and along the sidelines to show how one of football's greatest minds executed his successful game plan. A Hall of Fame effort.”

—John Clayton, *ESPN*

“A biography long overdue, in the works for several years, and the phenomenal research and writing shows it. Anyone—including his players—who thought they knew Noll will find they probably did not. . . . Dan Rooney asked MacCambridge to write a book on Noll after reading his 2004 book *America's Game* on pro football that has been acclaimed as one of the best ever written about the sport. This one should join them.

—Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

“The first-ever, thorough, and legitimate biography of Noll. . . . It would have been easy for MacCambridge to take the easy way out, to pander to Steelers fans who never seem to get enough about their favorite team's dominance of the 1970s. But he didn't, and that's just one of the reasons why his book is the definitive one written about Chuck Noll.

—Steelers.com

“It's hard to think of any football coaches who were more successful than Chuck Noll, though others became more famous. It's great that a historian as thorough and intelligent as MacCambridge has finally written the book that will galvanize Noll in the rarefied category he deserves.”

—Chuck Klosterman, author of *But What If We're Wrong*

“MacCambridge has given us the definitive look at the life and times of Chuck Noll. More than just the legendary coach of the Steelers, Noll was a Renaissance man with widespread interests and loyalties. It all comes alive here thanks to MacCambridge's inimitable touch and meticulous research.”

—Bob McGinn, author of *The Ultimate Super Bowl Book* --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Michael MacCambridge is one of the nation's foremost authorities on football. His book *America's*

Game: The Epic Story of How Pro Football Captured a Nation was named one of the most distinguished works of nonfiction by the Washington Post and won the Nelson Ross Award from the Professional Football Researchers Association. Sean Runnette, a multiple AudioFile Earphones Award winner, has also produced several Audie Award-winning audiobooks. His film and television appearances include Two If by Sea, Copland, Sex and the City, Law & Order, Third Watch, and lots and lots of commercials.

I'm 49 years old and my 1st memory of Chuck Noll was beating my beloved Vikings in SB IX. After watching clips on the NFL network from former players describing Noll, he seemed interesting and bought the book to learn more. I found the entire book very interesting and the author did a good job through various interviews giving good insight to Chuck Noll. I had a hard time putting this book down, especially interesting was learning about his personality, coaching style and the Steelers of the 70's.

An outstanding book. Even you aren't a Steelers fan, it's a great biography of a great football coach. Particularly interesting is that Noll battled epilepsy and still managed to have a great pro playing career and coaching a fistful of Super Bowl wins. Fascinating and well-researched read.

This was a wonderful read! This is a must have if you are a Steeler's fan, especially if you grew up during the 70's when the dynasty started like I did. Book is full of wonderful insights and vignettes on both Mr. Noll's life and the workings of the Steelers; all of this done in a very truthful yet tactful and inspiring manner. Highly recommended!!

While watching and rooting for the Steelers during the Noll years there was no doubt about what a great coach Chuck Noll was and this book was a great way to relive and learn more about the coach, players and details that transformed the Steelers into champions. The author deserves a lot of credit for the work and research into a man and family that were very private. For football fans and Steelers fans this book will be a great reminder and provide insights into what Chuck Noll, the Rooney family and players accomplished. For those too young to have lived through it you owe it to yourself to read about this great man and the legends he coached.

If you are a fan of the Steelers, that alone is enough of a reason to get this book. If you are a fan of the history of football, you'll enjoy this. There were many interesting stories that came out about Mr

Noll that really helped shape him into the coach and person he was. There's enough in here to make you understand that football was the least important thing in his life - and that he was amazingly successful in all aspects.

Great book, well researched and vivid in so many details. This is a mandatory read for Steelers fans, especially the younger generation who needs to know how this legacy franchise was built. As a young boy in the Burgh, I would catch my bus right near the old team office in the Roosevelt Hotel on Sixth St. downtown. Little did I know it was a dump inside, as the author described. I would watch the Buddy Parker Show on KDKA and see Buddy and host Bob Prince puffing away on smokes. The trade for Bobby Layne seemed like deliverance. But Buddy and Bobby came up way short. But, fell in love with the Steelers then and screamed my lungs out with Franco's TD. The tide was turning and this book describes it well under Coach Noll's watch. One thing: I would have liked some additional comments from the writers who covered him and the broadcasters that knew him. But I thoroughly enjoyed this excellent work. [Comment](#) [Comment](#) | [Permalink](#)

I've been a Steeler fan for over four decades but never knew much about Chuck Noll the man, particularly his playing career and his battle with epilepsy. He coached in such a different era. Not sure whether he would have chosen to pursue an NFL coaching career these days with all the lack of privacy it entails. This is a different book than most sports biographies because Chuck Noll was different than most great sports figures.

This was one of the best sports biographies that I've read. MacCambridge did a great job of focusing on Noll's life when it would have been easy to stray more into what was happening during the Steelers dynasty of the 1970's. The book was emotional as well, and brought me to tears towards the end as the author recounts a conversation between Noll and his wife (I don't want to give it away!)

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