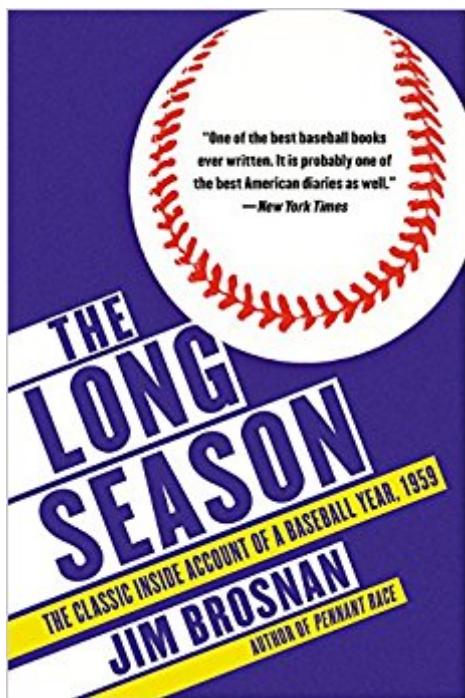


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# The Long Season: The Classic Inside Account Of A Baseball Year, 1959



## Synopsis

A timeless classic from baseball's golden era, legendary pitcher Jim Brosnan's witty and candid chronicle of the 1959 Major League Baseball season, which set the standard for all sports memoirs to follow. Arguably the greatest sports memoir ever penned, *The Long Season* was a revelation when it was first published in 1960. Here is an insider's perspective on America's national pastime that is funny, honest, and above all, real. The man behind this fascinating account of baseball and its players was not a sportswriter but a self-proclaimed "average ballplayer" — a relief pitcher for the St. Louis Cardinals. Called "Professor" by his teammates and "Meat" by his wife, Jim Brosnan turned out to be the ideal guide to the behind-the-scenes world of professional baseball with his keen observations, sharp wit, and clear-eyed candor. His player's diary takes readers on the mound and on the road; inside the clubhouse and most enjoyably inside his own head. While solving age-old questions like "Why can't pitchers hit?" and what makes for the best chewing tobacco, Brosnan captures the game-to-game daily experiences of an ordinary season, unapologetically, "the way I saw it" — from sweating it out in spring training to blowing the opening game to a mid-season trade to the Cincinnati Reds. In *The Long Season*, Brosnan reveals, like no other sportswriter before him, the human side of professional ballplayers and has forever preserved not only a season, but a uniquely American experience. "One of the best baseball books ever written. It is probably one of the best American diaries as well." —New York Times

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## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For the first half of the twentieth century, baseball biographies tended to be written with boys in mind, with all the depth and complexity of comic strips. Then, in 1960, Brosnan, a relief pitcher of little fame, published his account of the 1959 season, which he started with the St. Louis Cardinals and ended with the Cincinnati Reds. Though he omitted the prurient details that would mark later sports books, his unvarnished record of the mundanities of a ballplayers' existence was a revelation to the world at large. Fans were amazed that an athlete could write, and athletes were upset that he would write. Many were angry that they had been portrayed as actual human beings. Brosnan (dubbed "The Professor" because he enjoyed reading for pleasure) went on to write other books, but, more importantly, his example encouraged other athletes to write honestly as well. Funny, candid, and even more interesting because it doesn't chronicle an exceptional season (something Brosnan reserved for his second book, *Pennant Race, 1962*), this book was a game changer. --Keir Graff --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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ballplayer's life which no outsider could possibly get. (Red Smith) The greatest baseball book ever written. (Jimmy Cannon) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I've re-read this book numerous times. Brosnan was Jim Bouton before Jim Bouton. Must read for any 50's and 60's baseball fan.

This book was a play by play of the 1959 season in the national league featuring the cardinals and reds. This gave a perspective of how the season played out.

Great item and service! A++++++

Thoroughly enjoyed it!

Great insight of what baseball was like back in the day. I was surprised by how many times I thought to myself the more things change the more they stay the same.

While Brosnan ruffled some feathers with this book, it isn't anywhere near as controversial or raunchy as Jim Bouton's "Ball Four." Brosnan does mention his difficult contract negotiation, but it's not as bitter as Bouton discussing contracts. Brosnan has an elephant-like memory for conversations and the batting history of every hitter he faces. You get to see every aspect of a game, from the pitchers discussing how to pitch to a batter to who's got the best pitch to the manager's pep talks before the game. Brosnan has an excellent grasp of the language and even perplexes some of his not as scholarly teammates with some of his words. Overall, a great read from a talented pitcher and author. I look forward to reading "Pennant Race."

One of the most enjoyable books on the sport I have read...ever. Brosnan is funny and entertaining. Buy this and "Pennant Race" and read them back-to-back.

I enjoyed the book.

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