



Badasses: The Legend of Snake, Foo, Dr. Death, and John Madden's Oakland Raiders

By Peter Richmond

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A book that explores the enduring legends of Snake, Foo, Dr. Death, and John Madden's Oakland Raiders, *Badasses* is the definitive biography of arguably the last team to play old-fashioned tough-guy football. Peter Richmond, co-author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Glory Game*, offers a fascinating look at the 1970s Oakland Raiders, led by colorful greats from another era: Ken Stabler, Willie Brown, Gene Upshaw, Jim Otto, Art Shell, head coach John Madden, and owner Al Davis. In the bestselling vein of *Boys Will Be Boys*, *Badasses* chronicles the bar-room exploits, practice-field pranks, and Super Bowl glories of the team's many misfits, cast-offs, psychos, and geniuses of the game.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review The black-and-silver uniforms hinted at lawlessness or, at minimum, football noir. The roster was populated by renegades overlooked or passed on by other teams. They had more attitude on one team than today's sanitized NFL has in total. They were the Oakland Raiders of the 1970s. Under head coach John Madden, they won seven division titles, one conference title, and one Super Bowl. It was an amazing, successful, and stylish run. The Raiders' legacy is excellence enhanced by personality. When Stickum was allowed on receivers' hands, Hall of Famer Fred Biletnikoff used so much he had to have his mates pry his fingers apart in the huddle and hold his cigarettes to his lips at halftime. Quarterback Ken Stabler felt there was nothing wrong with studying the playbook by the light of the jukebox. Through interviews with primary and secondary sources, sports journalist Richmond captures the attitude and, more importantly, the love of the physical nature of football that drove the Raiders. The book is a celebration of the freewheeling NFL that created the multibillion dollar industry it is today. It will also expose the blandness of the pro football we currently watch. These Raiders are legends. Today's players are forgettable pixels on the NFL logo. Read it and weep. --Wes Lukowsky

Review

"No NFL team ever strutted any better on the dark side than the Oakland Raiders of the 1970s. In *Badasses*, Peter Richmond chronicles the treacheries, debauchery, and yes, the winning, with appropriate literary gusto. Lock the doors, close the windows, send the kids to bed before reading." (Leigh Montville, author of *Ted Williams: The Biography of an American Hero*)

"I always thought the Raiders were bad, but I never realized how bad -- and how good - until I read Peter Richmond's smart, funny, rowdy tale." (Robert Lipsyte, former *NEW YORK TIMES* columnist and author of *CENTER FIELD*)

"Once upon a time, there lived a band of larger-than-life misfits who lorded over the NFL. Dirtbags! Castoffs! Has-beens! Deviants! You name 'em, John Madden's Raiders had 'em. And, thanks to Richmond's tireless reporting and vibrant prose, so does *Badasses*." (Jeff Pearlman, New York Times bestselling author of *Boys Will Be Boys: The Glory Days and Party Nights of the Dallas Cowboys Dynasty*)

"Richmond's book is a treasure trove of uproarious anecdotes skillfully woven into a seasonal chronicle spiced with sharp player profiles...This rollicking read reminds us that football is a game that's meant to be played hard—and to be fun." (Library Journal)

From the Back Cover

They were the NFL's ultimate outlaws, black-clad iconoclasts who, with a peculiar mix of machismo and brotherhood, of postgrad degrees and firearms, merrily defied pro football corporatism.

The Oakland Raiders of the 1970s were some of the most outrageous, beloved, and violent football teams ever to play the game. In this rollicking biography, Peter Richmond tells the story of Oakland's wrecking

crew of castoffs, psychos, oddballs, and geniuses who won six division titles and a Super Bowl championship under the brilliant leadership of coach John Madden and eccentric owner Al Davis.

Richmond goes inside the locker room and onto the field with Ken Stabler, Willie Brown, Fred Biletnikoff, George Atkinson, Phil Villapiano, and the rest of this band of brothers who made the Raiders legendary. He vividly recounts days of grueling practices and hell-raising nights of tavern crawling—from smoking pot and hiring strippers during training camp to sharing game-day beers with their hardcore fans (including the Bay Area's other badasses, the Black Panthers and the Hells Angels). Richmond reveals a group of men who, after years of coming up short in the AFC Championship game, saw their off-kilter loyalty to the black and silver finally pay off with their emphatic Super Bowl victory in 1977. Funny, raunchy, and inspiring, Badasses celebrates the '70s Raiders as the last team to play professional football the way it was meant to be played: down and very dirty.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Maryanna Kuhns:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book may be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the reserve untitled Badasses: The Legend of Snake, Foo, Dr. Death, and John Madden's Oakland Raiders can be very good book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Timmy Gallegos:

In this period globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The health of the world makes the information better to share. You can find a lot of references to get information example: internet, paper, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher this print many kinds of book. The book that recommended to you is Badasses: The Legend of Snake, Foo, Dr. Death, and John Madden's Oakland Raiders this publication consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. This specific book was represented how can the world has grown up. The words styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. The writer made some analysis when he makes this book. That is why this book suited all of you.

Agatha Roughton:

This Badasses: The Legend of Snake, Foo, Dr. Death, and John Madden's Oakland Raiders is brand new way for you who has intense curiosity to look for some information as it relief your hunger info. Getting deeper you in it getting knowledge more you know otherwise you who still having little digest in reading this Badasses: The Legend of Snake, Foo, Dr. Death, and John Madden's Oakland Raiders can be the light food for yourself because the information inside this kind of book is easy to get through anyone. These books acquire itself in the form which is reachable by anyone, yeah I mean in the e-book application form. People

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Richard Manning:

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