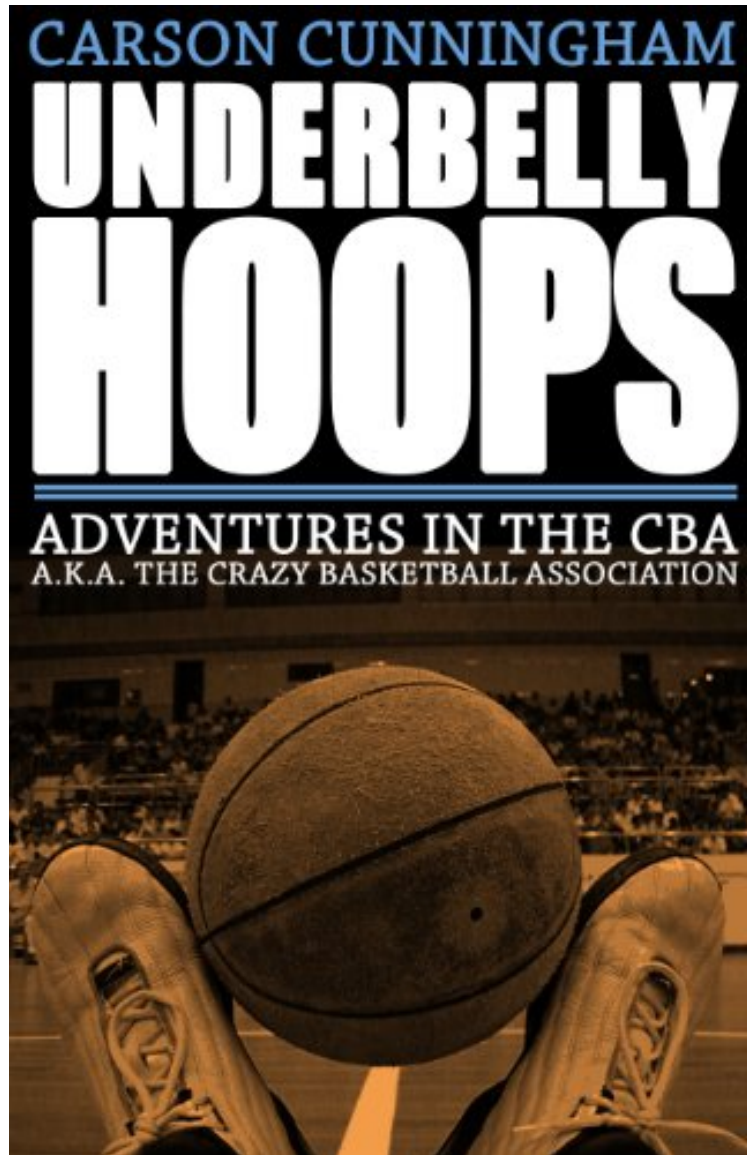


(Library ebook) Underbelly Hoops: Adventures in the CBA - A.K.A. The Crazy Basketball Association

Underbelly Hoops: Adventures in the CBA - A.K.A. The Crazy Basketball Association

Carson Cunningham

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Carson Cunningham : Underbelly Hoops: Adventures in the CBA - A.K.A. The Crazy Basketball Association before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Underbelly Hoops: Adventures in the CBA - A.K.A. The Crazy Basketball Association:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It's the Characters Not the Game That Makes this BookBy Bonner

'62I am fascinated by books about life on the edges of sports. This is a good look at minor league pro basketball. The players made 450-850 dollars a week and many of them had some NBA experience and almost all had been very good players for major college programs. The parts covering how they came to be in the CBA were interesting but this takes second place to the actual games and the team's fight for the playoffs. This part of the tale is overdone. I doubt that many readers picked it up for a snapshot of a ten year old recap of the season. The other strong point of the book is the psychological study of the team's coach. One wonders how he could hang on to a job even in the fever swamps of minor league ball. I was curious and looked him up and he is now coach of the Champaign franchise in the even lower Midwest Professional League. I guess there's a place for everyone in this crazy world.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Honest, Smart, Funny, UnderBelly Hoops is a MUST READ!!!By Angelo GreccoCarson Cunningham has delivered with Underbelly Hoops. This book is a great narrative on the life of a basketball junkie trying to make the big time. It is an honest, funny, thoughtful and really allows you to connect with Carson as he writes about life in the CBA and all the interesting people involved. Anyone who enjoys sports of any kind can connect with this story and anyone who has played sports at any level can connect with the love of basketball that Carson so passionately displays in this book. You find yourself rooting for all the players and it really shows how hard it is to make it to the highest level of basketball. Carson was a wonderful basketball player and he has proven himself to be a wonderful writer. Carson and UnderBelly are "Buckets" in my book!!!! I encourage you all to read UnderBelly Hoops as soon as you can buy it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Hoopsters giving it one more try to make it to The Show...By JAlexandI usually enjoy sports biographies of famous athletes. However, it's not much of a secret that they are going to work hard, become a pro, and make more money than I could in 8000 years of teaching elementary school. There might be some booze, drugs, women, and rivalries thrown in, but that is usually the norm. In Underbelly Hoops, point guard Carson Cunningham, who played at both Purdue and Oregon State, tries one last time to make it to the NBA through his adventures in the CBA. This is a league where most players are finishing out their playing days, or desperately trying to get a crack at an NBA roster with no chance of success. Cunningham is a smart guy who can laugh at the things going on around him, and really has a keen eye for the game. His berating coach can never find fault in himself, and his teammates are good ball players who succeed when the chemistry is right. When it isn't clicking the results are usually pretty bad. The wacky former NBA player Keith Closs makes you laugh and frustrated at how talented players can blow through a fortune of money and are eventually forced to start new chapters in their lives that might be in front of 100 people instead of 10,000. I think it just seemed more realistic to me to hear about the game from a good, not great (a million times better than me) player who uses intelligent observations to explain what is happening both on and off the court. He has little to no money, a wife at home, and a real career waiting for him when he hangs it up. You will root for Carson Cunningham as a player, and at the same time realize that he might even be better off when he gets back to the real world where being able to hug your wife and child every day is even better than sinking a three pointer (although that was a pretty cool feeling when I did it in high school 23 years ago). A welcome change of pace until I willingly read about the next multi-millionaire.

UNDERBELLY HOOPS covers Carson Cunningham's final season in the storied and now defunct Continental Basketball Association (CBA). In the process, it takes a sober look at minor league professional basketball, as Cunningham tries to navigate a poor relationship with his coach and yet finish his career on his own terms by playing a final season and winning a championship.As UNDERBELLY HOOPS shows, the CBA was a realm where hopeful players desperately hung on and crusty motels might very well have no clocks. It was a place where a trainer could be ordered to fill the visiting team's cooler with warm shower water and a coach might tell a player (namely, Cunningham) that he was focusing too much on his marriage and child rather than basketball. It was also a place where entire hotel wings could become saturated with the pungent smell of marijuana. And yet, even as it chipped away at your dignity and made little economic sense to remain, the CBA drew you in with the allure of action and the prospect of an NBA call-up. And it could inspire, like when you and your teammates caught a rhythm that made you remember why basketball is such a beautiful game, or when you saw guys continue to strive, to persevere, even if their dreams weren't fully realized."The hoops answer to Ball Four. By turns funny and poignant?and always self aware?this book allows fans into the locker room and huddle, yes, but also into the cortex of a professional basketball player. If Carson Cunningham could have jumped, run and created his shot off the dribble as masterfully as he writes and observes, he'd be starring in the NBA."?L. Jon Wertheim, Senior Writer for SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

About the AuthorHailing from basketball's epicenter, the great state of Indiana, Carson Cunningham memorized Georgetown's starting five in Kindergarten. Over the next twelve years or so, he played all the time with his buddies, stopping occasionally?oftentimes only because his parents forced him to – to read the books and magazines and newspapers laying around his house. Before he knew it, he'd become an all-state player in Indiana, a runner-up for PAC-10 Freshman of the Year honors, and then, after transferring to Purdue, a two-time Academic All-American. From there, came a journey into basketball's professional underbelly, which consisted of all or parts of three seasons in the CBA and stints playing in Australia and Estonia.Cunningham is the author of American Hoops: U.S. Men's

Olympic Basketball from Berlin to Beijing, which offers a dynamic portrait of the global age through basketball, and of Before the Curse: The Chicago Cubs' Glory Years, 1870-1945. In 2006, he earned a Ph.D. in history from Purdue University, and is on track to complete an MBA in DePaul University's Kellstadt Graduate School of Business. He teaches history at DePaul and lives and coaches where basketball thrives: Indiana. His wife Christy and his three children are his seashells and balloons.