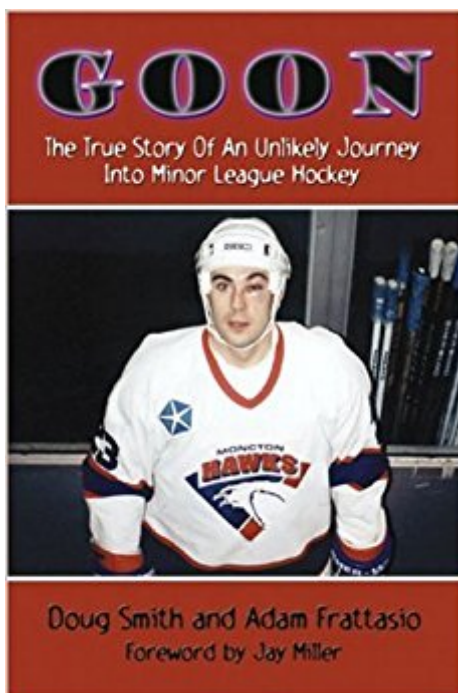


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Goon: The True Story Of An Unlikely Journey Into Minor League Hockey



Synopsis

Goon: The True Story of an Unlikely Journey into Minor League Hockey chronicles the uniquely wild adventure of Doug Smith, who was determined to realize his dream of playing professional hockey, despite the fact he didn't start skating until the age of 19. Armed with a burning desire and his only marketable athletic abilities — those honed as an amateur boxer — Doug defeated impossible odds to win a championship ring and play in the world's second-best hockey league. Goon gives a raw and revealing insider's look at the riotous world of minor league hockey and the most peculiar role in all of sport — the Goon, whose job is to protect teammates from opposing ruffians. Come along as Doug Smith, an outsider in the hockey world, literally fights his way to the highest level of minor league hockey. You may never view the game in the same light again.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have known Doug a long, long time. Being a friend and former co-worker of Doug's. I can testify that he knows how to use his hands better than most. He is a humble guy, but just loves to fight period. I have been playing hockey since the age of 2 onward. While Doug didn't start skating until later in life, you would never know it. He's worked hard and done a remarkable job at coming up to speed. To the poster who says the book isn't worth it. You watched both college and professional hockey? I'm sorry, but unless you've played at least at the college level you really don't know what it's like and aren't qualified to say anything. To the "Hit-Man", I wish you all the luck in the world and I hope your movie does well at the box office, not the penalty box...-An old friend

This is a must read for all sports fans! Or for that matter, anyone who has ever wondered why fighting is, and always has been, part of the game of Hockey. This book gives the reader a rare glimpse into what it is like to be a professional hockey fighter. A true "gun for hire". It shares with you all the intimate details of being a minor league roughian. Such as the long bus rides, from one mill Town to the next. And some of the dialogue between the two combatants prior to their bare knuckled duels. It is also the true story of a person pursuing, and achieving a dream. Doug Smith did not start skating until he was 19! Only a few years later he was playing professional hockey. He got there by working hard and punching hard. And he never lost his sense of humor along the way. I highly recommend this to anyone who likes sports, comedy, and seeing someone achieve their dreams.

I'm an avid hockey fan and I have a library of tapes that have fights from Behn Wilson and Dave Shultz to Bob Probert and Tony Twist. This is an excellent book and it prompted me to seek out tapes of guys like Frank Bialowas and of course Doug himself. I remember talking to Doug at the Mall in Hanover with some of my friends about the best goons in the business and the dynamics of how the role was to be played. Doug explains it vividly, humbly and honestly while at the same time making it seem like the ultimate adventure in this book. This is a must-read for all hockey fight fans or just hockey fans in general. Great book fellas and thanks for living out one of my fantasies Doug. It's pretty cool that Ron Delorme posted here by the way!

I have to disagree with the last review from "Hanover" who thought this book was "not worth the money". I have read numerous hockey books and this one is a jewel. There are no books to my knowledge that give such an in depth look at the lifestyle of a minor leaguer who is literally fighting for his job every game. GOON has opened my eyes to the pressures and dedication it takes to successfully achieve a dream that nobody feels you can. Last reviewer; being from the hometown of the author, it sounds as though you have a personal issue with him...were you one of his victims on the ponds ??

Doug Smith takes us on an honest journey in to minor league hockey. Smith tells it honestly, when he lost fights he admits it, when he won, he lets you know. The book is entertaining, and without the usual political correctness that most sports books incorporate. Fighting is a part of hockey, and Smith lived it and shares what it is truly like to be a part of such a brutal aspect of this sport. I would like to see it made in to a movie!

I just finished the book and wished Doug had played for more teams over the years so the story could continue. Doug comes across as a very likeable guy who happens to get his thrills by dropping the gloves with anyone who wants to go. Great insight into the workings of minor league hockey. The book's not expensive, it's easy to read, and very entertaining. Thanks for your memories, Doug!

Having played in Canadian junior hockey for one season in the mid eighties I recognised a lot of "inside hockey quotes". The book was fun to read and gives you a pretty good inside look in the world of minor hockey leagues. The book also shows how the east coast league developed from a "cocktail" league to a professional organisation. I recommend everybody, but specially (former)hockeyplayers, this book.

Wow, just like you wrote in the book about the jealousy in your hometown, and "Reader from Hanover" proves it! I must admit, I probably wouldn't have liked you much either back then, but if you were a choir boy I don't think you would have been able to write this book in the first place. My only complaint is that the book wasn't longer.

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