



STEVE PERLSTEIN is an award-winning writer whose work has appeared in numerous national and regional magazines. He lives in Minneapolis with his wife, Jennifer Block, and their children, Julian and Nora Block-Perlstein.

He is an average-fielding second baseman with a poor arm, and a straight-pull hitter with no power.



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“The Northern League is what our infatuation with baseball is all about, and Steve Perlstein gives us an insider’s view of a memorable season full of joy and pathos.”

— David Lamb, author of *Stolen Season*

“The revival of the Northern League in 1993 was a fan phenomenon and an overwhelming success. In *Rebel Baseball* Steve Perlstein has captured the excitement of this unforgettable summer with the compelling stories of the people and events behind the league.”

— Stew Thornley, author of *On to Nicollet* and *Holy Cow! The Life and Times of Halsey Hall*

“I’m a big fan of outdoor baseball, and I enjoyed this account of the Saints’ championship year.”

— Jim Kaat, ESPN baseball analyst and former All-Star pitcher

“If you truly love baseball, if your soul and the soul of the game are spinin’ and jawin’ terms, then you *must* read this book”

— Joseph Bosco, author of *The Boys Who Would Be Cubs* and *Blood Will Tell*



The Northern League was a bold, rebellious baseball experiment: the first time in decades that an independent minor league bucked the rule of organized baseball and did things the way it wanted to. The results were a shock, even to those involved.

The quality of the baseball was above expectations, dozens of Northern Leaguers were signed by major-league organizations, and so many fans turned out that the circuit became the most successful minor league in all of baseball. Author Steve Perlstein spent the inaugural 1993 season traveling with the Northern League’s St. Paul Saints, and here he captures all the antics, energy, and the unique stories that made the Northern League’s first year so special to so many people, and to baseball.

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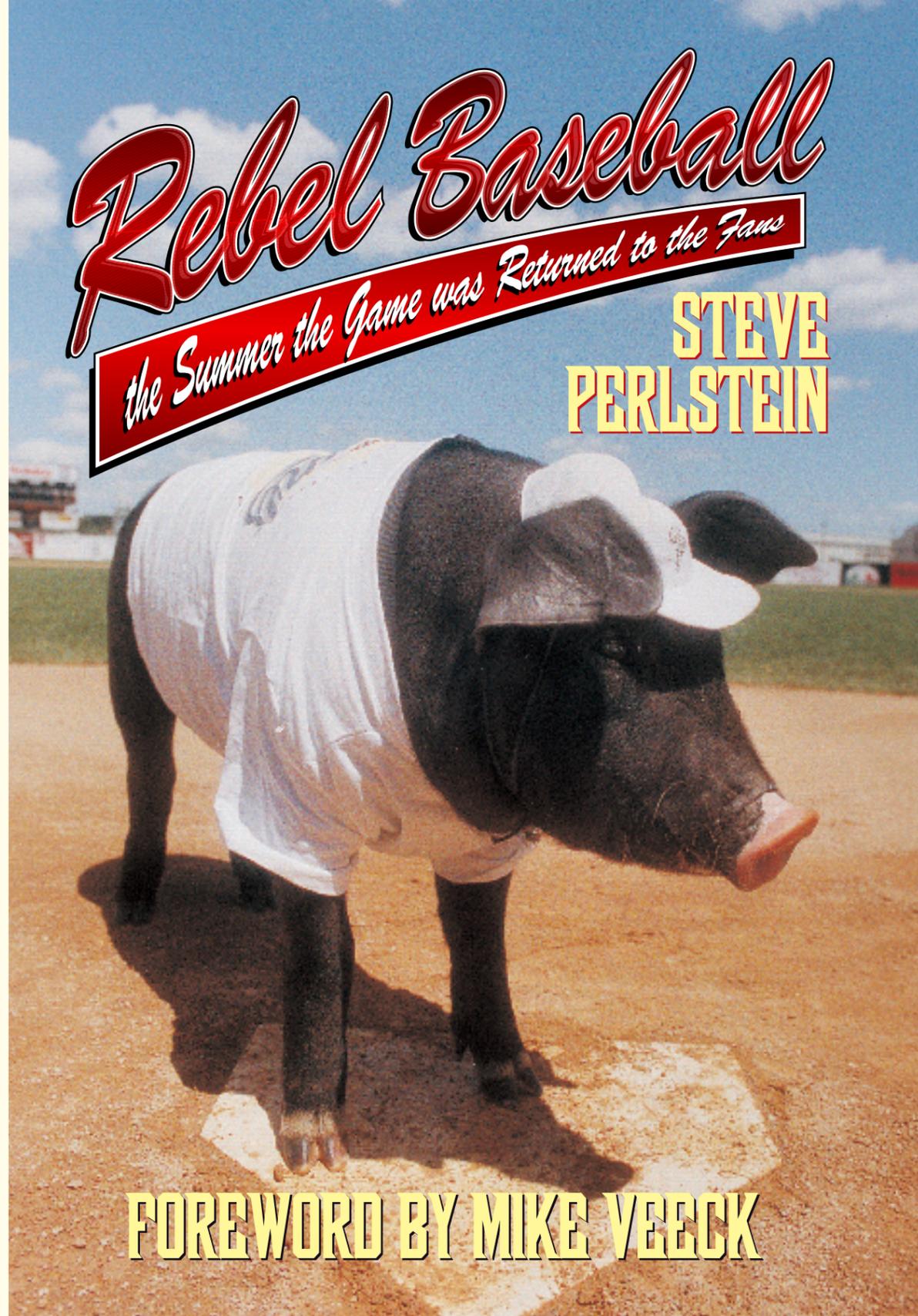


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Rebel Baseball
the Summer the Game was Returned to the Fans

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Rebel Baseball

The Summer the Game was Returned to the Fans

Miles Wolff, a veteran baseball insider, had an idea: why not form an independent minor league in the upper midwest, and prove that baseball can succeed outside the iron grip of organized baseball? Even Wolff had no idea just how successful that league could be.

In its first season, the Northern League drew hundreds of thousands of fans to its six cities: St. Paul, Duluth and Rochester, Minnesota; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Sioux City, Iowa; and Thunder Bay, Ontario—far more than anybody anticipated. Major-league organizations took note of the quality of play, purchasing the contracts of dozens of Northern League players they had previously passed up. And the irreverence of the league’s owners and their teams made going to the ballpark fun again for people who thought that feeling had been lost.

The most offbeat—and most successful—franchise was the St. Paul Saints. Author Steve Perlstein spent the season with the Saints, traveling the league, and capturing the pathos of this version of the game and the stories of its participants. The result is a stirring tale of success and failure, of delirious fun and stinging heartache. *Rebel Baseball* is an invigorating read not only for baseball fans, but for anyone who likes a great story.