

**Book Review: Tainted Glory: Marshall University, the NCAA and One Man's Fight for Justice. (2012). Ridpath, B. D. Bloomington, IN: IUiverse**

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B. David Ridpath's *Tainted Glory* not only provides a detailed account of the events that occurred at Marshall University in the late 1990s and early 2000s, it also provides an inside look into college athletics. The 27 chapters of the book are broken down into three parts, which include not only Ridpath's time at Marshall, but also provides background details of his career path up to that point. In addition, he provides a thorough description of his colleagues at Marshall University. The prologue sets the stage for the events that occur during his time at Marshall and allows the reader to understand exactly where the book will lead, pulling the reader in quite instantaneously.

In the first part of the book, Ridpath allows the reader to gain a greater understanding of where he is in his personal and professional life when he accepts the position at Marshall University as an athletic administrator. He writes of compliance with enthusiasm and the reader gets a sense that he truly enjoys his job and is dedicated to doing the right thing. There is a depth to his writing that immerses the reader and sets the stage for the main theme of the book.

Once the stage is set, Ridpath does not take long to delve into the problems he experiences at Marshall. He openly talks about how some of the problems he experiences, especially with regards to the football team, were blamed on Ridpath's predecessor, who was not present at Marshall at the time to argue her case. In addition, he openly dialogues about how weak some of his colleagues are during the discussion of the problems Ridpath encounters.

After identifying the problem areas and spending time getting to understand the state of compliance at the institution, Ridpath talks of how he plans to make changes in the future and some of his goals to improve the program. One of the areas he focuses on is self-reporting National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) violations, some of which he takes the blame for, although they were secondary offenses. It is also interesting to note that at the beginning of his time at Marshall, Ridpath found support in almost all of those around him, excluding some of the coaching staff that were not used to the changes implemented. More importantly, he did receive some push back from a football coach who believed that he reported too many violations to the NCAA and to other colleagues. Ridpath believed this coach was more interested in power than in doing the right thing.

The second part of the book is the most voluminous and each chapter builds upon one another, culminating into the dreaded account of NCAA violations and how the NCAA visit came about. Ridpath recounts how the blame for the violations were placed on him and went into detail about the case made by his colleagues that he did not agree with. In addition he writes of how the

blame was eventually placed on him and how no one came to his defense, especially since he was inculpable for the NCAA violations committed by others. Although Ridpath is the scapegoat for the NCAA violations, he is assured by his supervisors and the president of the institution that his job is not in jeopardy.

The third part of the book picks up after the NCAA hearing, which has resulted in Ridpath's reassignment as the Director of Judicial Programs. This also meant that he no longer worked for the athletics department. Ridpath's removal from the department was used by the university to show that Marshall was serious about improving their compliance program. Upon hearing this, Ridpath started gathering evidence to prove that he was not the problem. After meeting with university officials to remove him from the corrective action, Ridpath filed a lawsuit against Marshall in order to clear his name.

In the final chapters of the book, Ridpath writes about leaving Marshall University to pursue a career as an educator first at Mississippi State and later at Ohio University, teaching classes in sports administration. It was not until January 2009 that the case was settled and he received everything that he asked for.

This book by B. David Ridpath provides a detailed description of the issues and pitfalls of working in college athletics and dealing with coaches, administrators, and the NCAA. Overall, the specifics of the book allow the reader to understand what is involved in working in college athletics and how one man was able to stand up against not only the NCAA, but a well-known institution.

Ridpath, B. D. (2012). *Tainted Glory: Marshall University, the NCAA and One Man's Fight for Justice*. Bloomington, IN: IUiverse.