

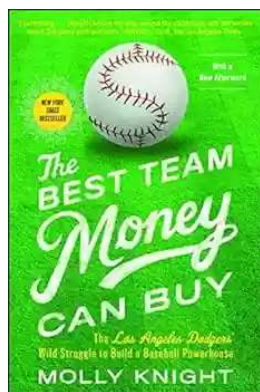
The Los Angeles Dodgers: A Wild Struggle to Build a Baseball Powerhouse

For decades, the Los Angeles Dodgers have been one of the most iconic teams in Major League Baseball. Known for their star-studded roster and historic moments, the Dodgers have always been a force to be reckoned with. However, behind the glitz and glamour lies a fascinating story of hard work, determination, and a relentless drive to build a baseball powerhouse.

The Early Years

The journey of the Dodgers towards becoming a baseball powerhouse began in Brooklyn, New York, back in 1883. Originally known as the Brooklyn Atlantics, the team went through several name changes before settling on the Dodgers in 1932.

The Dodgers had their fair share of successes in Brooklyn, winning several National League pennants and one World Series title in 1955. However, their move to Los Angeles in 1958 marked a turning point in their history.



The Best Team Money Can Buy: The Los Angeles Dodgers' Wild Struggle to Build a Baseball

Powerhouse by Molly Knight (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 16716 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 337 pages



The Move to Los Angeles

The decision to relocate the Dodgers to the West Coast was met with mixed reactions. While some fans were excited about having a major league team in Los Angeles, others felt betrayed and abandoned. Despite the challenges, the team's move to California laid the groundwork for their future success.

Settling in a new city meant building a new fan base and establishing the Dodgers' presence in a competitive market. The team focused on marketing themselves as a symbol of the California lifestyle and began signing high-profile players to attract attention.

The Spark of Success

In the 1960s and 1970s, the Dodgers started to see their efforts pay off. Led by legendary manager Walter Alston and a roster filled with talented players like Sandy Koufax and Don Drysdale, the team won multiple division titles and two World Series championships (1963 and 1965).

However, despite their early success, the Dodgers faced financial troubles and struggled to maintain a winning momentum. Changes in ownership and management further complicated their journey to becoming a baseball powerhouse.

The Magic of the 1980s

The 1980s marked a significant turning point in the Dodgers' quest to build a baseball powerhouse. Under the leadership of General Manager Al Campanis

and Manager Tommy Lasorda, the team experienced a resurgence and achieved great success.

Behind the exploits of stars like Fernando Valenzuela and Orel Hershiser, the Dodgers won several division titles and claimed the World Series championship in 1981 and 1988. The team's success brought joy to their fans and solidified their status as a force to be reckoned with in Major League Baseball.

The Ongoing Struggles

While the 1980s provided moments of glory, the Dodgers' journey to sustained greatness has been far from easy. Ownership changes, financial constraints, and managerial transitions have all tested the team's resilience over the years.

Despite the obstacles, the Dodgers have consistently focused on building a strong farm system and developing talented young players. This strategy has allowed them to compete even when faced with financial limitations.

The Modern Era

In recent years, the Dodgers have emerged as a dominant force in Major League Baseball. Led by a new generation of stars, including Clayton Kershaw, Cody Bellinger, and Mookie Betts, the team has consistently won division titles and reached the postseason.

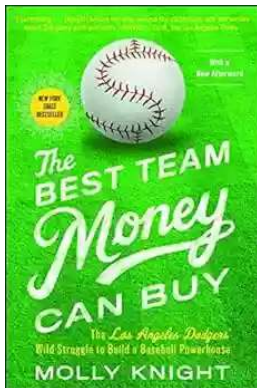
In 2020, after years of close calls, the Dodgers finally ended their 32-year World Series drought, claiming the championship title. This victory was the culmination of their continuous efforts to build a baseball powerhouse and solidify their place in history.

The Future Looks Bright

As the Dodgers continue their journey, their dedication to excellence and commitment to building a baseball powerhouse are unwavering. With a strong farm system and a roster filled with both young talent and seasoned veterans, the team is well-positioned for sustained success.

While challenges will inevitably arise, the Dodgers' wild struggle to build a baseball powerhouse serves as a testament to the determination and resilience of the organization. Their story is a reminder that greatness is not achieved overnight, but through years of hard work, strategic planning, and unwavering dedication to the sport they love.

The Los Angeles Dodgers have undoubtedly left their mark on the baseball world, and their wild journey continues to captivate fans around the globe.



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With a new Afterword covering the 2015 season.

The bestselling, inside-the-clubhouse story of two tumultuous years when the Los Angeles Dodgers were re-made from top to bottom, becoming the most talked-about and most colorful team in baseball. “It’s as if Molly Knight ushers you behind the closed clubhouse doors.” (Buster Olney, ESPN)

In 2012 the Los Angeles Dodgers were bought out of bankruptcy in the most expensive sale in sports history. Los Angeles icon Magic Johnson and his partners hoped to put together a team worthy of Hollywood: consistently entertaining. By most accounts they have succeeded, if not always in the way they might have imagined.

In *The Best Team Money Can Buy*, Molly Knight tells the story of the Dodgers’ 2013 and 2014 seasons with detailed, previously unreported revelations. She shares a behind-the-scenes account of the astonishing sale of the Dodgers, as well as what the Dodgers actually knew in advance about rookie phenom and Cuban defector Yasiel Puig. We learn how close manager Don Mattingly was to losing his job during the 2013 season—and how the team turned around the season in the most remarkable fifty-game stretch of any team since World War II. Knight also provides a rare glimpse into the in-fighting and mistrust that derailed the team in 2014 and paints an intimate portrait of star pitcher Clayton Kershaw, including details about the record contract offer he turned down before accepting the richest contract any pitcher ever signed.

Exciting, surprising, and filled with juicy details, “a must-read for fans of the Dodgers and all Los Angeles sports teams....Knight’s undercover work is like none other” (Library Journal). *The Best Team Money Can Buy* is filled with “fascinating perspectives” (Los Angeles Times) and “interesting anecdotes about some of baseball’s most compelling figures” (The Sacramento Bee).



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