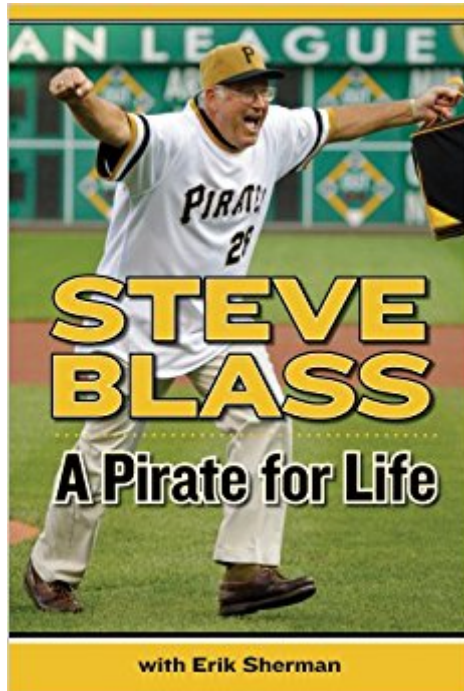




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# A Pirate For Life



## Synopsis

Exploring a pitching career that began with a complete-game victory over Hall of Famer Don Drysdale in 1964 and ended when he could no longer control his pitches, this book details the life of Pittsburgh Pirates great, Steve Blass. This insider's view of the humorous and bizarre journey of a World Series champion pitcher turned color commentator will delight Pirates and baseball fans alike. Recounting his first years in the Major Leagues and his battle with the baffling condition that would ultimately bear his own name, Steve Blass tells the story of his life on and off the field with a poignant, dazzling wit and shares the life of a baseball player who had the prime of his career cut short.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Talk about a guy whose career ran the gamut! Steve Blass went from World Series hero, to a man whose name became literally synonymous with a specific baseball malady. He emerged from it all with humor, humanity, and perspective." —Bob Costas, NBC Sports and Major League Baseball Network

He went from the very top of his game to the very confused. How he unraveled and overcame his malady with humor and intelligence is a lesson for all and is what this book is all about." —Tim McCarver, Fox Baseball Analyst, Recipient of the 2012 Ford C. Frick Award

There are a lot of guys in baseball, but there are just a few you can put on one hand that have the zest for life and love of the game as Steve Blass." —Bill Mazeroski, Hall of Fame Second Baseman, Pittsburgh Pirates

Steve Blass embodied the early '70s Pirates teams on which he starred: he was gifted, grounded, and great company. Nothing has changed in this wonderful, entertaining book. In

"A Pirate For Life," Blass gives us a look behind the curtain, reintroducing us to a cast of familiar and delightful characters, including himself. He is the perfect tour guide to a golden age in Bucs history -- a history he helped make." -- Austin Murphy, Senior Writer, Sports Illustrated -- This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Steve Blass is a former pitcher for the Pittsburgh Pirates and has been broadcasting their games as color commentator since 1987. He lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Erik Sherman has been a freelance sportswriter for more than 30 years and is a graduate of Emerson College where he lettered in baseball for four seasons. He lives in New York City.

A Pirate for Life, by Steve Blass with Erik Sherman, is a very interesting sports autobiography. Steve Blass made it to Major League Baseball in 1964 with the Pittsburgh Pirates and had an outstanding pitching career with them. In the 1971 World Series, Blass won game three and game seven to help the Pirates become the World Champions. I was attending the University of Pittsburgh during that time and, although I could not attend any of those WS games, I certainly participated in the celebration after the Bucs won game seven. Unfortunately, during the 1973 season, Blass suddenly lost his ability to throw strikes, and he had to give up what he had dreamed of doing since he was a youngster. Since then, Steve Blass Disease has become the name of the condition when other pitchers have suddenly lost their control. Although Steve Blass was forced to quit playing baseball in 1974, he has managed to maintain a lifelong relationship with the Pirates organization and team. He has been working as a sportscaster for Pirates games since 1983, and I enjoy seeing (and hearing) him when I watch their games on TV. For me, a lifelong Pirates fan, this was a fantastic book because Blass writes about his relationships and experiences with many of the Pirates' players and managers during and after he was player. It was a wonderful experience for me to read about the players' backgrounds, careers, and personalities. It was even better to read Blass' personal reminiscences about players, including Roberto Clemente, Dick Groat, Bill Mazeroski, Bill Virdon, Gene Alley, Richie Hebner, Doc Ellis, Manny Sanguillen, Al Oliver, Willie Stargell, Bob Moose, and many more. Likewise, it was great to learn more about Pirates' managers Danny Murtaugh, Harry Walker, and Jim Leyland and about the longtime Pirates' radio and TV sportscaster, Bob Prince (The gunner). It was also great to read about the Pirates organization and to learn more about the current broadcast cadre, whose work I enjoy very much. Of course, this is an autobiography and Blass is very candid about the ups and downs of his life. However, overall he communicates to the reader that he realizes how lucky he has been and how grateful he is for the

life he has lived. If you have been a longtime fan of the Pittsburgh Pirates, you must read this book. If you are a fan of baseball, you ought to read this book. If you enjoy reading well-written autobiographies by people (especially sports people) who reveal their struggles and successes through an informative and positive narrative, you ought to read this one. I thought it was great!

It usually takes me at least a month to read a book; reading 8-10 pages a night before bed. But I read this book in less than a week it was that good. Baseball stories seem to be the best in all sports, and the stories that Blass tells are priceless and hilarious. The book is well organized, starting with the thing that most of us wonder about the most his downfall from "the disease". Then going back to his youth, eventually signing with the Pirates and his life after pitching. I've been a Pirate fan since I was a boy, but didn't follow baseball seriously til 1975 so my memories of the early 70s Pirates is a little vague and this book filled in a lot of that for me. I vaguely remember Blass going down to AAA Charleston where I now live. He and Bob Walk are my favorite Pirate announcers and I've always kinda wanted to go back in time and root for him to defeat "the thing". We all struggle with some issues as humans in this world. Though it sounds cliché, it's a fact that in the long run they can make us a better, stronger person. Steve Blass does a great job of putting his personal story in writing for the world. And a great surprise near the end of the book to find out that he actually did defeat "the thing" just a few years ago. Any Pirate fan or just any baseball fan would enjoy this book. It's now time for the Pirates to defeat their franchise's demons from the last 20 years. LETS GO BUCS!!

Well written and funny. Best part might be where Steve dissects game 7 of the 71 series pitch by pitch, sharing with us the thoughts he went through as he faced each batter and how he adjusted his pitching based on the results he was getting. Truly remarkable, I don't think I've ever seen anything like it before. Consider that this book was written before the Pirates' twenty year losing streak ended, and you will appreciate even more the undying spirit of a man whose career was cut short in a truly cruel way. Very few would get this much joy out of covering a team that at the time, gave fans very little to cheer for. Keep up the good work, Steve!

This book is more than just the highlights and lowlights of a famous baseball pitcher. It is an inspiration to overcoming some of life's adversities. I was in 10th grade when Steve (I'd call him Mr. Blass but after reading the book it sounds too formal) pitched in the 1971 World Series. We couldn't get tickets for the World Series but we had the pleasure of being there for that last playoff win

against the Giants. Even though Steve struggled that day it was still a great feeling to have been there and experienced baseball history. I have a son who is 23 yrs. old and loves baseball, I hope he gets that type of experience. Meanwhile, about the book, it has the many high points of his life and who played a part in it and also who was there during the low points. There are words of encouragement that helped him through both and he shares them with the reader. I plan on re-reading the book just to draw out those words. There are many moments that are comical both as a pitcher and then as a broadcaster. By the way he overcomes the Steve Blass Disease(buy the book and find out how). Thanks to Erik Sherman who was a co-writer for a good read and Thanks to Steve Blass for his many talents and insight.

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