

# The Ultimate Illustrated History of the Boston Bad Boys: A Dynasty That Forever Changed the NBA

The Boston Celtics' "Bad Boys" era, from 1981 to 1993, was one of the most dominant and controversial in NBA history. This lavishly illustrated book tells the full story of that era, from the team's humble beginnings to its championship glory days to its eventual decline.

The book is written by veteran sportswriter and Celtics historian Bob Ryan, who was there for it all. Ryan provides a wealth of behind-the-scenes details and personal anecdotes, as well as incisive analysis of the team's on-court performance.



## Aerosmith: The Ultimate Illustrated History of the Boston Bad Boys by Richard Bienstock

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 193175 KB  
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 596 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported



The book is also packed with more than 200 full-color photographs, many of which have never been published before. These images capture the Bad

Boys in all their glory, from their early days as a ragtag bunch of underachievers to their peak as the most feared team in the NBA.

The Ultimate Illustrated History of the Boston Bad Boys is a must-read for any fan of the Celtics, the NBA, or basketball history.

## **The Early Years**

The Celtics' Bad Boys era began in 1981, when Red Auerbach drafted Larry Bird with the sixth overall pick in the NBA draft. Bird was a supremely talented forward from Indiana State University, but he was also known for his fiery temper and his willingness to play dirty.

Bird quickly became the leader of the Celtics, and he led the team to its first NBA championship in 1984. The Celtics repeated as champions in 1986, and they won their third title in 1988.

The Celtics' success was due in large part to Bird's brilliance, but he was also surrounded by a cast of talented teammates, including Kevin McHale, Robert Parish, Dennis Johnson, and Bill Walton. These players were all known for their toughness and their willingness to do whatever it took to win.

## **The Championship Years**

The Celtics' Bad Boys era reached its peak in the late 1980s and early 1990s. During this time, the Celtics won three NBA championships in four years (1986, 1987, and 1990). They also reached the NBA Finals in 1988 and 1992.

The Celtics' success during this time was due to a combination of factors, including Bird's continued brilliance, the addition of new talent (such as Reggie Lewis and Brian Shaw), and the team's overall chemistry. The Celtics were a close-knit group of players who were willing to sacrifice individual glory for the sake of the team.

## **The Decline**

The Celtics' Bad Boys era began to decline in the early 1990s. Bird was starting to show his age, and the team was no longer able to compete with the younger, more athletic teams in the NBA.

The Celtics made one last run at the NBA championship in 1993, but they were defeated by the Chicago Bulls in the Eastern Conference Finals. That defeat marked the end of the Celtics' Bad Boys era.

## **The Legacy**

The Celtics' Bad Boys era was one of the most dominant and controversial in NBA history. The team's success was due to a combination of factors, including Bird's brilliance, the team's overall chemistry, and the team's willingness to play dirty.

The Celtics' Bad Boys era left a lasting legacy on the NBA. The team's success helped to usher in a new era of basketball, in which physical play and trash talk were commonplace. The Celtics' Bad Boys also helped to make Boston one of the most passionate basketball cities in the world.

## **The Players**

The Celtics' Bad Boys era was defined by its players. Here are some of the most notable players from that era:

- Larry Bird: Bird was the leader of the Celtics' Bad Boys era. He was a supremely talented forward who was known for his fiery temper and his willingness to play dirty.
- Kevin McHale: McHale was a power forward who was known for his toughness and his ability to score in the post.
- Robert Parish: Parish was a center who was known for his rebounding and his defense.
- Dennis Johnson: Johnson was a point guard who was known for his defense and his ability to make big plays in the clutch.
- Bill Walton: Walton was a center who was known for his passing and his defense.
- Reggie Lewis: Lewis was a forward who was known for his athleticism and his scoring ability.
- Brian Shaw: Shaw was a point guard who was known for his defense and his ability to run the team's offense.

## **The Coaches**

The Celtics' Bad Boys era was also defined by its coaches. Here are some of the most notable coaches from that era:

- Red Auerbach: Auerbach was the Celtics' general manager and head coach from 1950 to 1966 and from 1984 to 1990. He is considered one of the greatest coaches in NBA history.
- Tommy Heinsohn: Heinsohn was the Celtics' head coach from 1966 to 1978. He is considered one of the best defensive coaches in NBA

history.

- K.C. Jones: Jones was the Celtics' head coach from 1983 to 1988. He is considered one of the best defensive coaches in NBA history.
- Rick Pitino: Pitino was the Celtics' head coach from 1997 to 2001. He is considered one of the best recruiters in college basketball history.

## **The Fans**

The Celtics' Bad Boys era was also defined by its fans. The Celtics have one of the most passionate fan bases in the NBA, and the Bad Boys era was no exception. The Celtics' fans were known for their loyalty, their enthusiasm, and their willingness to give the opposing team a hard time.

The Celtics' fans were a big part of the team's success during the Bad Boys era. They provided the team with a home-court advantage that was unmatched in the NBA.

## **The Legacy**

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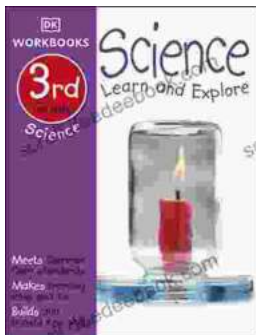
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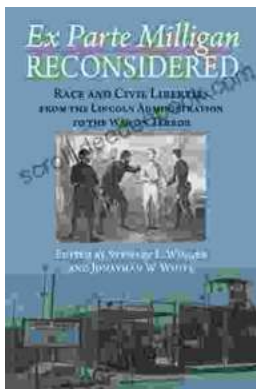
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