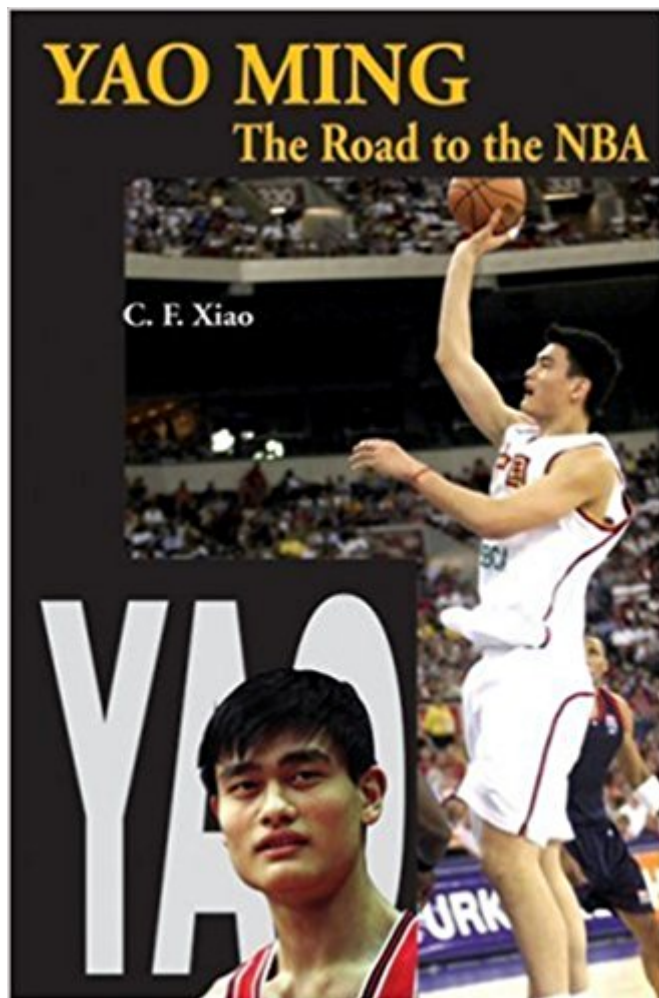




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Yao Ming: The Road To The NBA



Synopsis

This is the first critical book-length biography of professional basketball sensation Yao Ming to appear in the English language. Drawn from original sources in English and in Chinese, this book provides a fascinating and highly detailed look at Yao's childhood and rise to prominence with the Chinese Basketball Association and Chinese Olympic Team.

Book Information

Hardcover: 254 pages

Publisher: Long River Press (April 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1592650023

ISBN-13: 978-1592650026

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 1 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #3,087,339 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in [Books > Teens > Sports & Outdoors > Basketball](#) #147 in [Books > Teens > Biographies > Sports](#) #1087 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Chinese](#)

Customer Reviews

This book comes closer than anything currently available in print to helping us truly understand Yao Ming's background and the tremendous pressures and sacrifices he and his family have faced. This book is essential reading for anyone wanting to learn more about Yao Ming and what makes him one of the most fascinating personalities in professional sports.

Few athletes have captured the attention of basketball fans around the world like Yao Ming. Although there have been Asian basketball players in the NBA, no one seems more primed for superstardom than Yao Ming. In this first full-length look at Yao Ming's meteoric rise from a reluctant young ballplayer in Shanghai to his sensational career with the Chinese Basketball Association, Chinese national team, and Chinese Olympic team, C.F. Xiao shows how Yao Ming's athletic ability and sportsmanship make him one of the greatest players in the history of Chinese basketball, as well as China's newest hero and cultural icon. From his childhood as the son of two of China's most notable basketball stars, Yao Ming arrived on the Chinese basketball scene at exactly the right time. Unburdened by the political agenda of the Cultural Revolution, which influenced previous

generations of Chinese professional sports, Yao Ming benefitted from the best training China had to offer. He represents a growing group of young, technically proficient Chinese sports stars whose appeal to audience in the United States, China, and the rest of the world, is fast becoming a new cultural phenomenon. Yet, as this book shows, Yao Ming is a remarkably sensitive, emotional, and complex individual. After his debut season in the NBA he returned to China where he worked in the fight against China's devastating SARS outbreak. Furthermore, with his deft handling of racially-charged comments within the American-dominated sport of basketball, Yao Ming is poised to break down cultural barriers and now has legions of fans in China and the U.S. As he continues his professional career, earning the respect of fans and players alike, all eyes are on him. Yao Ming: The Road to the NBA is a must-read for anyone who wants to know more about Yao Ming as a ball player and as a person, and how his background has made him into one of the most fascinating personalities in professional sports.

I've seen most of the books on Yao and this is one of the best overall. Although this book is a bit out of date in terms of the time period covered (it basically ends just as Yao is about to come to Houston), it is a good introduction for those who don't know anything about Yao, and even manages to go into a bit more detail in places than Yao's own book. Written by C.F. Xiao, a Chinese sports reporter, the book duly traces Yao's childhood but places emphasis on his early training (contrary to what you might think Yao was not a "phenom" from the get-go); all the blood, sweat, and tears involved; his years competing in the CBA, or Chinese Basketball Association, as well as the Chinese Olympic team. There is a large cast of characters and the book features several play-by-play descriptions of CBA championship games, which is pretty cool. The author treats the subject with a lot of respect, and the book is very easy to read, even if you don't know the Chinese "pinyin" spelling. So, if you want to learn about Yao's early years, this book is enjoyable, informative, and a pleasure to read.

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