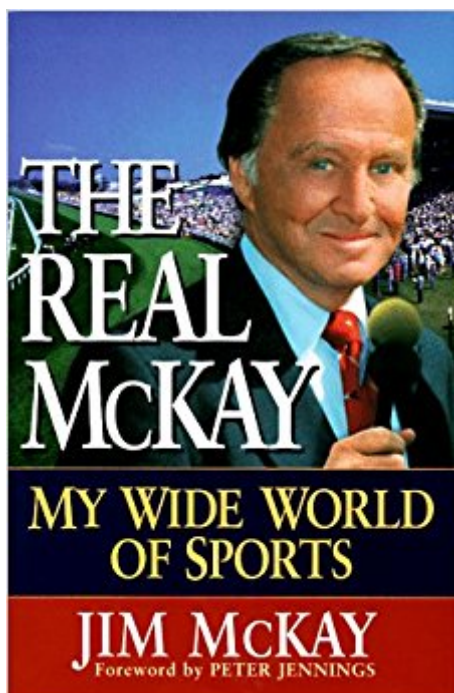


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# The Real McKay: My Wide World Of Sports



## Synopsis

For his fifty years in sports, many of those spent as chief anchorman of ABC-TV's "Wide World of Sports," Jim McKay has been the face and voice, the heart and soul of sports in American television. For many, he is best known for his coverage of eleven Olympics, most memorably for his anchoring during the tragic events at the Munich Olympics of 1972. During the hours from the taking of Israeli hostages by terrorists to the horrifying death of these athletes, Jim McKay remained a voice of reason and calm. Watched by millions over the years, Jim McKay proved his skill and talent covering the Triple Crown horse races, the greatest golf championships, and other sports of all stripes and wild colors. He was the first television sports person to win an Emmy (he's won thirteen in his lifetime). Last fall in Baltimore he threw out the first ball at an Orioles-Indian American League championship game. Throughout his career, Jim McKay has always displayed his trademark warmth and humor. This warm and absorbing memoir gives the reader not only a fascinating look at one man's view of sports, but of the integrity of the man himself. \* Jim McKay's recognition factor with the public is huge. \* Foreward by Peter Jennings \* This is an ideal Father's Day gift. \* Jim McKay is a man who represents the values American families believe in.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Decades before the term "extreme sports" was born, Jim McKay was introducing the world to sports like cliff diving, big wave surfing, and barefoot water-skiing. For nearly 55 years, the ubiquitous McKay was the host of ABC's Wide World of Sports. As the Saturday afternoon master of

ceremonies, McKay was always adept at pointing out the wealth of human achievement as well as the "agonies of defeat." His autobiography details many of the more memorable moments in a lifetime of sports.

Longtime host of ABC-TV's *Wide World of Sports*, McKay has been reporting sports for 50 years and in this anecdotal autobiography conveys to readers "the joy of victory and the agony of defeat." Born Jim McManus in Philadelphia, he enjoyed a happy childhood surrounded by loving relatives. After duty in the Navy in WWII, he got a job as a police reporter on the *Baltimore Evening Sun*, which soon acquired a TV station where McManus became an on-air personality covering everything from wrestling to religion. It was in Baltimore that he met his wife, Margaret, and soon Manhattan beckoned with a variety show on CBS-TV called *The Real McKay*, forcing McManus to change his name. Soon he was acting in a courtroom drama called *The Verdict Is Yours*, but was dissatisfied with his career. It was at this point he suffered a nervous breakdown. He is candid in discussing this as well as his difficult recovery. In 1961, at the behest of Roone Arledge, he moved to ABC-TV to anchor *Wide World of Sports*, originally scheduled to be only a summer replacement show. McKay discusses the many Olympics he has covered and rates his top events, with number one being the victory of the U.S. Olympic hockey team over the Russians in 1980. He also rates his favorite golfers, jockeys, race horses and racing car drivers. His minute-by-minute replay of the tragic events at the 1972 Olympics in Munich where Israeli athletes were slaughtered by Arab terrorists is the most gripping chapter in the book. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Great reading. Gave insight on how McKay worked his way up during TV's early days, the good times and difficult days. A must read. If you grew up watching McKay during *The Wide World of Sports* and Olympics you need to read this book.frod0607

I remember reading this book years ago and enjoyed it very much. It brought back to mind that horrible period during the 1972 Munich Olympics when those Israeli athletes were tragically killed and Jim said those now famous words "they're all gone" -- so simply said but oh so meaningful and emotional. It is now June 7, 2008, and today Jim has gone to join those honorable athletes. God bless you, Jim. We'll remember you always. Sports won't be the same without you. Hopefully those that followed in your footsteps will learn from you and your legacy.

Jim McKay's autobiography doesn't start with backstory of his early life but with a remarkable minute-by-minute description of the crisis at the 1972 Olympic Games. McKay, now 27 years after that event, recalls it with such detail that it seemed to have happened last evening. For someone who was born after this event happened, it was amazing to read the story of what happened by a guy who was actually there. This is one of my highlights in the book. McKay, not his real name - which is a funny story - takes the reader through his life. How he was a newspaper reporter turned song-and-dance man and to how he became one of the best sports reporters in television history. If you've ever heard a sporting event called by Jim McKay, the atmosphere is set so wonderfully, it's almost like you're there. The same is true for this book. Pick up a copy. -usc503@aol.com P.S. It won't be the same watching the Kentucky Derby, Preakness (McKay's favorite race) and Belmont without Jim McKay - we miss you already!

This is a wonderful book about a wonderful man. His life, his professional attributes and passion will make Jim McKay live forever. I have an autographed copy of the uncorrected proof. I hope that it continues to increase in value and will allow all ages to reflect, dream and journey through the years about Jim's special memories in the world of sports.

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