

# [PDF] One Shot At Forever: A Small Town, An Unlikely Coach, And A Magical Baseball Season

Chris Ballard - pdf download free book

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**Books Details:**

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**Description:**

**Review** "*One Shot at Forever* is tender, fun, bittersweet, with a great narrative that just motors. It also features the funkiest coach not just in the history of baseball but the history of sport--an unforgettable character in a beautiful and unforgettable book."

--**Buzz Bissinger, author of *Father's Day* and *Friday Night Lights***

"*One Shot at Forever* is powerful, inspirational and--in an era where sports are too often marred by

scandal--as pure and true as a warm spring breeze. This isn't merely a book about baseball. It's a book about heart."

--**Jeff Pearlman, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Bad Guys Won***

"Once upon a time, stories like *One Shot at Forever* were called fairy tales. It is a charming work and so well told by Chris Ballard that it gives sportswriting a good name."

--**Frank Deford, author of *Over Time: My Life As A Sportswriter***

"[A] nonfiction gem about an underdog team that made good. This is the kind of baseball book that has long arms: YA readers, avid baseball fans, sports readers, and narrative nonfiction readers who like to be firmly set in a particular time and place should all find it joyful."

--**Library Journal**

"Chris Ballard brings a big heart and a winning style to tell a memorable story of small-town Illinois. The boys of Macon renew our understanding of why baseball matters--and sometimes, why it matters too much."

--**Cait Murphy, author of *Crazy '08***

"One Shot at Forever is tender, fun, bittersweet, with a great narrative that just motors. It also features the funkiest coach not just in the history of baseball but the history of sport--an unforgettable character in a beautiful and unforgettable book." (**Buzz Bissinger, author of *Father's Day and Friday Night Lights***)

"There's a reason Chris Ballard has emerged as one of America's top sports writers. *One Shot at Forever* is powerful, inspirational and--in an era where sports are too often marred by scandal--as pure and true as a warm spring breeze. This isn't merely a book about baseball. It's a book about heart." (**Jeff Pearlman, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Boys Will Be Boys and The Bad Guys Won***)

"This book is so well told by Chris Ballard that it gives sportswriting a good name." (**Frank Deford, author of *Over Time: My Life as a Sportswriter***)

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"Chris Ballard finds the heart in the heartland, in this inspirational tale of a small-school ball club that reaches for glory." (**Edward Achorn, author of *Fifty-nine in '84***)

"This story has obvious parallels to the classic basketball film *Hoosiers* and in Ballard's capable hands evokes similar themes of inspiration, camaraderie and the pressure of the once-in-a-lifetime moments associated with prep athletics. Ballard effortlessly captures the conflict between Eisenhower era beliefs and the changing cultural landscape in Vietnam-era America. [He] holds the story of the team together with his conversational prose and boosts the story's poignancy with a touching conclusion that demonstrates the importance of high school sports and hometown heroes." (**Publishers Weekly**)

**About the Author** Chris Ballard is a senior writer at Sports Illustrated, where he specializes in narrative longform stories. He has also written for the New York Times Magazine, among other publications, and his work has twice been anthologized in the Best American Sports Writing series. Ballard is the author of four books: "Hoops Nation", "The Butterfly Hunter", "The Art of a Beautiful Game" and the forthcoming "One Shot at Forever: A Small Town, An Unlikely Coach and a Magical Baseball Season".

Ballard joined SPORTS ILLUSTRATED in September 2000. He has covered the NBA and MLB, written nearly 20 cover stories, penned the back page "Point After" column and written features on everything from pigeon racing to Jake Plummer's post-football life to the Vancouver riots. He is one of five 2012 finalists for a National Magazine Award in profile writing, is a past recipient of a National Headliner Award and was the 2011 winner of The Joanie Award for a story about Cal Berkeley coxswain Jill Costello, who died of lung cancer after her senior year. His 2010 story titled "Magical Season of the Macon Ironmen," which was included in the "Notables" section of the Best American Sports Writing anthology, provided the inspiration for his latest book.

Before joining SPORTS ILLUSTRATED, Ballard was an intern at the Courier-Post in Camden, NJ. He has written for The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and other publications. Ballard has appeared on The Charlie Rose Show, ABC News with Dick Schaap, and Outside the Lines, and speaks regularly to groups of journalism students. A native Californian, Ballard graduated from Pomona College, where he played basketball and was on the track and field team. He lives in Berkeley with his wife Alexandra and two daughters, Callie and Eliza.

To read a collection of Ballard's best feature stories, go to: [byliner.com/chris-ballard](http://byliner.com/chris-ballard)

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