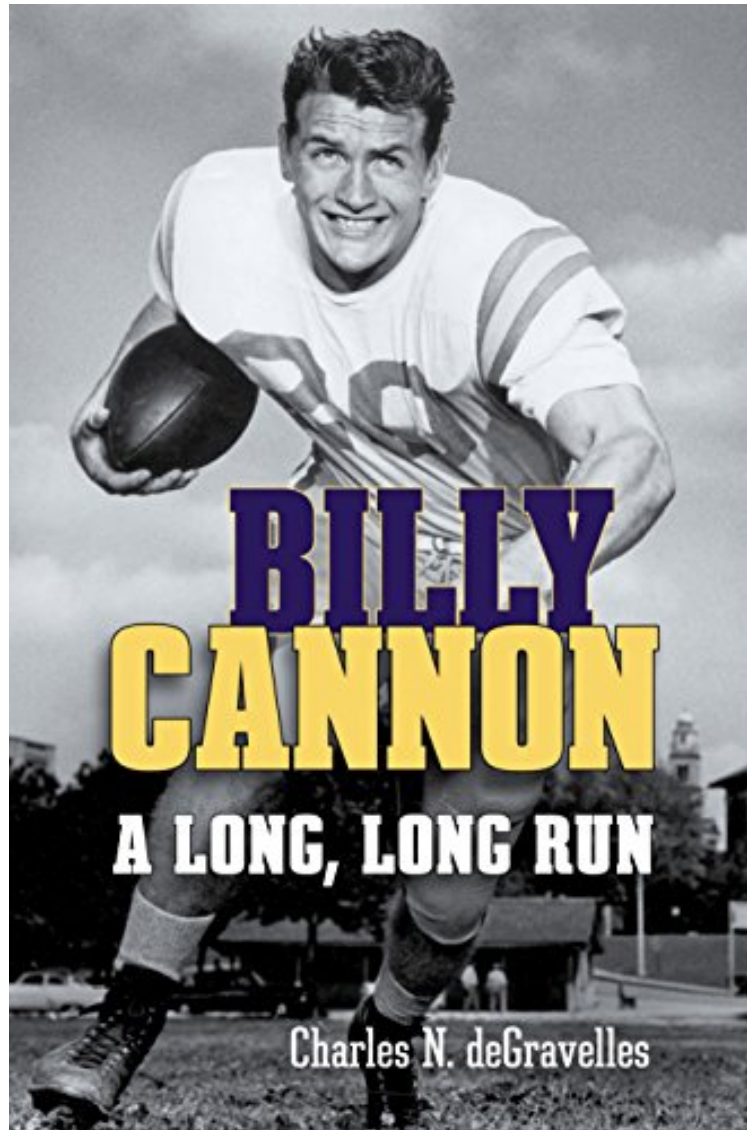


(Free read ebook) Billy Cannon: A Long, Long Run

## Billy Cannon: A Long, Long Run

*Charles N. deGravelles*

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#221342 in Books Charles N deGravelles 2015-09-07 2015-09-07 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.31 x 1.05 x 5.971, .56 #File Name: 0807162205280 pages Billy Cannon A Long Long Run | File size: 77.Mb

**Charles N. deGravelles : Billy Cannon: A Long, Long Run** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Billy Cannon: A Long, Long Run:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. RICK SHAQ GOLDSTEIN SAYS: From Poverty to Sainthood To Prison And Back The Whole Story Finally Told! By Rick Shaq Goldstein When I was a child the first college football hero I remember having was LSU Heisman Trophy winner Billy Cannon. Back in those days there was no ESPN no 50 plus games a week on TV and being at that age I lived in New York and California its hard to recollect how Billy became my first collegiate hero. I know I read every sports section and every national magazine and

watched all the bowl games and news programs. This long overdue authorized biography was completed in yeomen like fashion by the author. And when you complete the entire detailed story you know not only who Billy Cannon is but what he was what he became on and off the field the highlights that were extremely high and the lowlights that couldnt get much lower and through it all Billy learned who he truly was when it counted the most. And when I say counted most that covers the gamut from a historical eighty-nine yard punt return that touched every single resident in the State of Louisiana and a young boy in California to admitting his guilt to a felony that not only put him in jail but showed him who his true friends really were! Among many accolades I would like to bestow upon the author surprisingly interesting and educational.. is the crystal clear picture he paints of life in America during and after World War II especially in the south. The poverty and back breaking hazardous work done proudly by Americans of that time not only makes you take pride in the backbone and spirit of America but also makes you appreciate the type of work a high percentage of Americans engage in today. The pinpoint detail going all the way back to Cannons high school days over half-a-century ago is like being involved in Friday-Night-Lights before there was a Friday-Night-Lights. Memories will be rekindled for gentlemen of a certain age and for the younger folks they will probably be shocked to be made aware of how recently organized sports didnt believe in weight training athletes were told it would hinder your athleticism and restrict your mobility. Billy who was before my high school years was one of the first groups to test out integrating weight training with sports such as football, basketball, track and baseball. With Billy running 9.5 second 100 yard dashes. Winning shot putting titles running 220 yard dashes and anchoring relays along with scoring touchdowns and baskets he was one of many who showed that old training prejudices should become a thing of the past. In addition to his high school and Heisman winning college career there is some great reporting on his pro career which included AFL championships in Houston and very happily for me some great detail on his career with the Oakland Raiders. This includes a no holds barred description of his interaction with the legendary Al Davis whom Billy had nothing but the greatest respect for. The dedication Cannon showed in getting his dental license is admirable. The growth of his practice his growth and demise of his real estate investing and ultimately his felony arrest and conviction for his part in a counterfeiting operation are laid out by Billy and the author for the entire world to see. Billy completely MANS-UP regarding his guilt and more importantly demands certain points are laid bare or this biography that never had and never would have been made except for the following pledge being honored:\*\*\*When Cannon agreed to a book with one stipulation. The biography had to include the innovative improvements Warden Cain had instituted at the Angola Prison changes that Billy Cannon had personally witnessed and of which he was a part.\*\*\*This is a great and long overdue book on a man who was once on a pedestal that he earnestly and honestly earned. He subsequently fell from the pedestal by his own accord. He admitted his wrong doing served his time and in my mind and soul has made himself one with society. This would be a great great movie but Billy would never allow it (by participating). I can only say welcome back Billy you gave me many moments of excitement and I too have made my mistakes as Im sure that anyone who has honestly looked at themselves with unbiased eyes in their lifes mirror would admit the same. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Cannon deserved the best; he got it By AZEmily This is an exceptional sports biography along the lines of Cramers DiMaggio. It is easy to read and accurate. It doesnt avoid the blemishes and states the accomplishments forthrightly. The book explores the personality of a smart and savvy youngster with extraordinary athletic talents few can claim. Imagine a white boy Bo Jackson who also can establish shotput records. It also captures the spirit of LSUs entry into bigtime college football and reflects how the residents of Baton Rouge and the state of Louisiana were transformed. And, it vividly depicts a post-war, industrial era and community that were about to give way to a burst of change. The writer has done an excellent job in presenting an important contribution, as well as an outstanding football biography. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent and inspiring book of sports history By Jim Lester This is an interesting piece of sports history plus a tale of redemption that raises the book well above the level of the average jock biography. Billy Cannon was a legendary running back at LSU in the late 1950s, won the Heisman Trophy, went on to a long professional career, became a successful orthodontist in his hometown of Baton Rouge . . . and then found himself in jail, serving a sentence for counterfeiting. How in the world did that happen? One of the virtues of the book is that the author explains exactly how it happened. He does that without making excuses for Cannon or sugar coating the awful events that led to the downfall of a Louisiana legend. But he also shows how Cannon conducted his life after his release from prison and here is an inspiring tale of redemption that should offer hope to anyone who has ever made a bad mistake and longs to turn their life around. The book is primarily based on interviews with Cannon and his family and, while that gives it a certain bias, it also provides an intimacy that few biographies can achieve. As someone who has written on sports history (Hoop Crazy: College Basketball in the 1950s) I would highly recommend this book both for its behind the scenes look at college and professional football and for its inspiring story of redemption.

Billy Cannon's name, his image, and his remarkable athletic career serve as emblems for Louisiana State University, the Southeastern Conference, and college football. LSU's only Heisman Trophy winner, Cannon led the Tigers to a national championship in 1958, igniting a love of the game in Louisiana and establishing a tradition of greatness at LSU. But like many stories of lionized athletes who rise to the status of legend, there was a fall -- and in the case of

Billy Cannon, also redemption. For the first time, Charles N. deGravelles reveals in full the thrilling highs and unexpected lows of Cannon's life, in *Billy Cannon: A Long, Long Run*. Through conversations with Cannon, deGravelles follows the athlete-turned-reformer from his boyhood in a working-class Baton Rouge neighborhood to his sudden rush of fame as the leading high school running back in the country. Personal and previously unpublished stories about Cannon's glory days at LSU and his stellar but controversial career in the pros, as well as details of his indictment for counterfeiting and his post-release work as staff dentist at Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, unfold in a riveting biography characterized by uncanny success, deep internal struggles, and a champion's spirit that pushed through it all.

For more than half a century since the glory days of Billy Cannon, LSU football fans have gotten only pieces of his story. This book provides a detailed account of a celebrated athlete. It also offers something much bigger the journey of a proud but wounded man who took a remarkable path and eventually ended up exactly where he wanted to be. -- Jeffrey Marx, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and author of *Walking with Tigers: A Collection of LSU Sports Stories* Charles deGravelles's portrait of Billy Cannon is a big, bruising, unforgettable look at one of the most fascinating characters in the history of American sports. What I admire most about the book is how the author got his subject to speak honestly about his past not only the heroic moments that have become legend, but also the confounding ones that made us question his character. In the end, deGravelles reveals Cannon to be a decent man in search of the same redemption we all should want. You'll be blown away. --John Ed Bradley, author of *It Never Rains in Tiger Stadium* About the Author Charles N. deGravelles spent over twenty-five years ministering to the inmates of Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, including the men on death row. A deacon and teacher living in Baton Rouge, deGravelles has published in literary journals and anthologies nationwide.