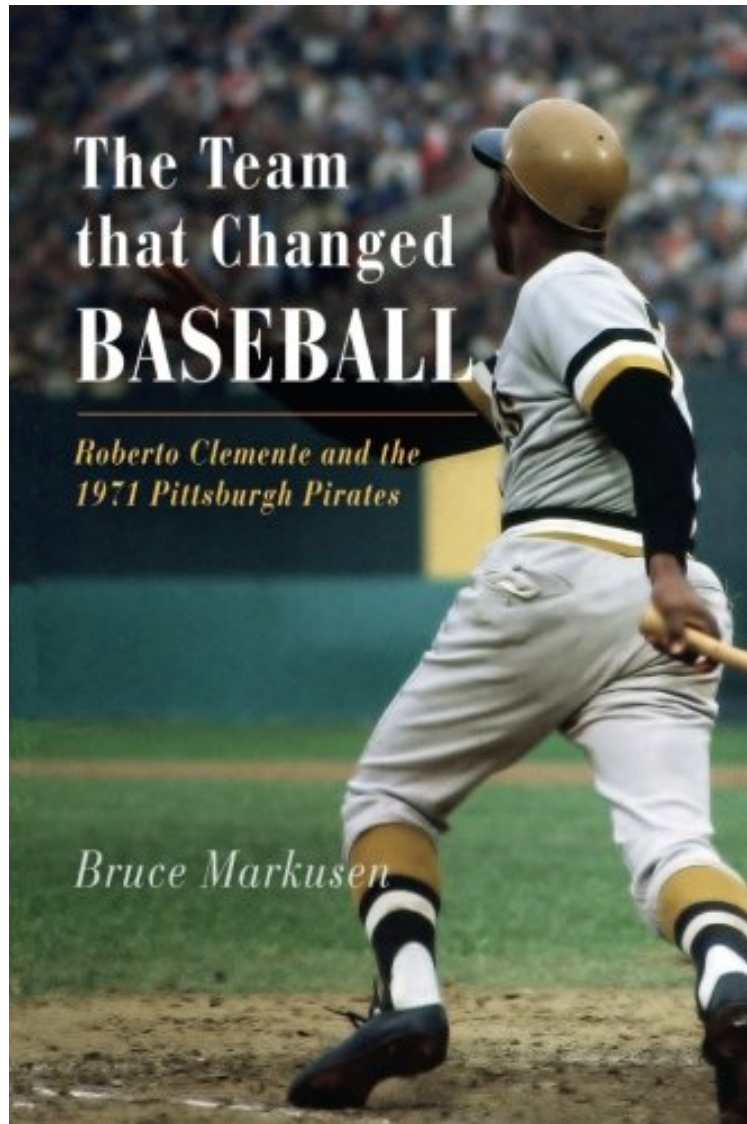


(Get free) The Team That Changed Baseball: Roberto Clemente and the 1971 Pittsburgh Pirates

# The Team That Changed Baseball: Roberto Clemente and the 1971 Pittsburgh Pirates

*Bruce Markusen*

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**Bruce Markusen : The Team That Changed Baseball: Roberto Clemente and the 1971 Pittsburgh Pirates** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Team That Changed Baseball: Roberto Clemente and the 1971 Pittsburgh Pirates:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Three Rivers GangBy Tim Williams"The Team That Changed Baseball" kept me turning the pages, covered most of the bases and brought back pleasant memories of an entertaining

team. I think it would have been even better if it had tied the baseball story to the larger societal context and it could have used more humor, but it's very good. One of my favorite anecdotes was the one about when baby-faced Bruce Kison joined the team and Danny Murtaugh said, "I looked older than Kison the day I was born." The coverage of the World Series was also well-done.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a very interesting and enjoyable book about the 1971 Pittsburgh Pirates. By Clark Hallman

The Team that Changed Baseball: Roberto Clemente and the 1971 Pirates by Bruce Markusen – The World Series championship, 1971, Pirates team was remarkable in many ways. This book takes the reader through the entire 1971 season with the Pirates, and during the process the reader learns much about MLB baseball and about many of the Pirates' players, coaches, and their manager, Danny Murtaugh. Detailed accounts of significant games and player/manager actions are presented month by month as the enthusiasm (and stress) builds toward the playoffs. The reader learns about player-manager relationships, players' personalities, skills, hardships, successes and failures. Each game during the playoff pennant race is covered in detail, as is each game of the World Series. Of course, Roberto Clemente's superior talents were showcased during the pennant race and World Series. However, the monumental achievements of winning the National League Pennant and then the World Series were not the achievements that "Changed Baseball." The Pirates changed baseball through their integration of players of color on the team, and Danny Murtaugh and the Pirates administration all played a roll in that integration. The Pirates in the early 1970s were the most integrated team in baseball and the benefits of that integration were very obvious from their successes on the field. During one game of the 1971 season the Pirates fielded an entire lineup of players of color, which was a first for Major League Baseball. It was a monumental decision, which Danny Murtaugh did not hesitate to make. To add to the reader's enjoyment Markusen includes a long afterward that provides information about the post-1971-season careers and lives of every player (and the coaches and manager) of the 1971 Pirates team. It's a very interesting and enjoyable book and I recommend it highly for baseball fans, especially Pirate fans.

(less) 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Exceptional enlightenment for the discerning baseball historian. By Customer

A wonderful insightful book that upgrades a franchise to the very top of teams that truly revolutionized a color-blind approach to becoming a championship team. Such revelations completely eclipse the Brooklyn Dodgers role in MLB race relations. What the 1971 World Championship Pirates did with Black, White, and Hispanic talent set the template for future dominant championship teams including the Yankees, the Big Red Machine, the Oakland A's, St Louis Cardinals, and the Atlanta Braves. For those of love baseball history this book is exceptional illumination and enlightenment that promises to expand your universe.

The 1971 Pirates of Roberto Clemente, Willie Stargell, Bill Mazeroski, Dock Ellis, and Steve Blass are among my all-time favorite teams, and their spectacular World Series win over the Orioles of Earl Weaver, Frank Robinson, Brooks Robinson, Jim Palmer, and Dave McNally is one of the great baseball upsets of the postwar era. Still, though I followed their season closely, I never fully understood their impact."—Allen Barra, *The New York Sun*

In 1947, major league baseball experienced its first measure of integration when the Brooklyn Dodgers brought Jackie Robinson to the National League. While Robinson's breakthrough opened the gates of opportunity for African Americans and other minority players, the process of integration proved slow and uneven. It was not until the 1960s that a handful of major league teams began to boast more than a few Black and Latino players. But the 1971 World Championship team enjoyed a full and complete level of integration, with half of its twenty-five-man roster comprised of players of African American and Latino descent. That team was the Pittsburgh Pirates, managed by an old-time Irishman.

In *The Team That Changed Baseball: Roberto Clemente and the 1971 Pittsburgh Pirates*, veteran baseball writer Bruce Markusen tells the story of one of the most likable and significant teams in the history of professional sports. In addition to the fact that they fielded the first all-minority lineup in major league history, the 1971 Pirates are noteworthy for the team's inspiring individual performances, including those of future Hall of Famers Roberto Clemente, Willie Stargell, and Bill Mazeroski, and their remarkable World Series victory over the heavily favored Baltimore Orioles. But perhaps their greatest legacy is the team's influence on the future of baseball, inspiring later championship teams such as the New York Yankees and Oakland Athletics to open their doors fully to all talented players, regardless of race, particularly in the new era of free agency.

"The 1971 Pirates are among my favorite teams. . . . Though I followed their season closely, I never fully understood their impact." -- Allen Barra, *The New York Sun*, April 3, 2006

About the Author Bruce Markusen is author of *Roberto Clemente: The Great One*, *Tales from the Mets Dugout*, and *A Baseball Dynasty: Charlie Finley's Swingin' A's*.