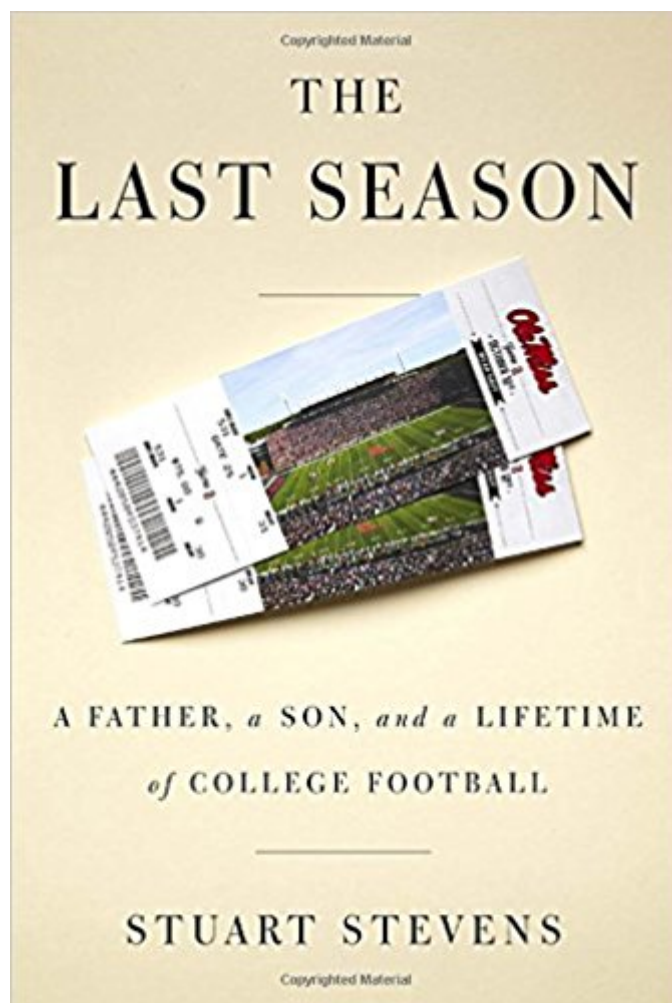


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# The Last Season: A Father, A Son, And A Lifetime Of College Football



## Synopsis

Fathers, sons, and sports are enduring themes of American literature. Here, in this fresh and moving account, a son returns to his native South to spend a special autumn with his ninety-five-year-old dad, sharing the unique joys, disappointments, and life lessons of Saturdays with their beloved Ole Miss Rebels. After growing up in Jackson, Stuart Stevens built a successful career as a writer and political consultant. But in the fall of 2012, not long after he turned sixty, the presidential campaign he'd worked on suffered a painful defeat. Grappling with a profound sense of loss and mortality, he began asking himself some tough questions, not least about his relationship with his father. The two of them had spent little time together for decades. He made a resolution: to invite his father to attend a season of Ole Miss football games together, as they'd done when college football provided a way for his father to guide him through childhood—and to make sense of the troubled South of the 1960s. Now, driving to and from the games, and cheering from the stands, they take stock of their lives as father and son, and as individuals, reminding themselves of their unique, complicated, precious bond. Poignant and full of heart, but also irreverent and often hilarious, *The Last Season* is a powerful story of parents and children and of the importance of taking a backward glance together while you still can.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Poignant" | For fathers and sons, sports fanatics, and the people who love them. • James Sullivan, *The Boston Globe* "The lesson of the book is

not only how sports create lifelong bonds, but how those memories go beyond the victories... I learned something from an author whose own life has been based around winning and losing... There's a lot to be said for bonding that football creates, no matter how the games end. — Kurt Kragthorpe, The Salt Lake Tribune — "The Last Season is an instant classic. This is an absolute gift to sports fans. I don't remember when I have enjoyed a book more than this one. — This is a special book, one people will share with their children and grandchildren. This book is truly one for the ages. — Paul Finebaum — "In his new book, Stuart Stevens takes the time out from his extraordinarily successful life to spend one last season with his 95-year-old father. They spend a final year as father and son paying fanatical attention to every form of madness and bonding that Southern football represents. It's Ole Miss, it's nuts, it's outrageous, it's got depth and emotion, and it's one of the best father-son books I've read in years. — Hotty Toddy — is the only phrase you need to know to love this book. — Pat Conroy — "Through the lens of college football, Stuart Stevens has produced a poignant tale of fathers, sons, race, and growing up in the South during the late 1960s. Besides being a delightful read, it is a reminder of the joy of relishing what is meaningful in life. — Walter Isaacson — "The Last Season is a touching, beautifully written story about the love between a son and his father, and their special lifetime bond formed around Ole Miss football. Anyone, man or woman, who does not understand the seemingly insane, intense loyalty and devotion of the College football fan for his team, win or lose, should read this book. We soon find out it's not just about football, it's about all the good things in life. And just like all good things, I did not want it to end. — Fannie Flagg

STUART STEVENS grew up in Mississippi, a seventh generation Mississippian. For a very long time he's been driven by a fascination and love of politics, film and writing and has pursued those interests throughout his life. — He attended Colorado College; Pembroke College, Oxford; Middlebury College's Bread Loaf School of English; UCLA Graduate Film School and the American Film Institute, where he received a diploma signed by Charlton Heston. — The Last Season: A Father, a Son and a Lifetime of College Football is his sixth book. His earlier books are: Night Train to Turkistan, Malaria Dreams, Feeding Frenzy: Around the World In Search of The Perfect Meal and the novel, Scorched Earth: A Political Love Story. He's written extensively for dramatic television series, starting with Northern Exposure and including I'll Fly Away, K. Street, Commander in Chief and others. His articles and essays have appeared in The New York Times, Esquire, Outside, The

Washington Post, Food and Wine and many others.    He has a long time interests in endurance sports which he pursues badly. He's skied the last 100 kilometers to the North Pole and ridden the 1200 km Paris-Brest-Paris cycling event and was the first person to complete all of the World Loppet (Nordic Ski Marathons) in a single season. He wishes he was good at this stuff but still enjoys it.    Stuart Stevens is a partner in the consulting firm Strategic Partners Media (<http://strategicpartnersmedia.com>) and a columnist for The Daily Beast.

Excellent ! I grew up in Memphis, Tn., about 70 miles from Ole Miss, so I went to a lot of Rebel games as a youngster in the 1950s. They also played from time to time at Crump Stadium in Memphis. "The Last Season" really brought back memories of my dad and I going to Oxford and seeing games at Hemingway Stadium (now, Vaught-Hemingway). It only held 35,000, but I loved it--and truth be known, I was a big Mississippi State fan, too ! I appreciated, also, the references to Mississippi's struggles to become a more tolerant state. It was poignant writing, and it was a time to remember, so that we can be better people. Thank you, Stuart Stevens--and your father. Art Dlugach Meadowlakes, Tx.

I thought the majority of the book was wonderful as the author paints a picture in your mind of football with his old man. The sights, sounds, and even smells came to life. I honestly felt as if the ending was rushed, however, jamming the final three games of the season into one chapter.

I really enjoyed the story about a son and his dad in the south and following Mississippi football. It reminded me of those days past when I spent many days with my father going to Springfield College football and basketball games as well as the Springfield Indians Hockey team which in the '40s was a Boston Bruin minor league team. I loved the book and bought two others for my dear friends.

If you love Southern College FB, this a great read.

Great book! Reminded me of my dad and mom going to the USC games, something they did for over fifty years.

Stevens ably uses the Ole Miss football season he spent with his 95 year old father to explore their relationship and this youth. Touching and enjoyable.

Great mix of SEC football talk and remembering life as a youngster. Some great history from the past is also brought up.

my father is 91 made me call him and talk old times. A good easy read..

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