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# Backyard Brawl: Inside the Blood Feud Between Texas and Texas AM

Von W.K. Stratton

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"[An] excellent history and analysis of the storied rivalry between the University of Texas and Texas A & M." —*Dallas Morning News*

W. K. STRATTON





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Von W.K. Stratton : Backyard Brawl: Inside the Blood Feud Between Texas and Texas AM before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Backyard Brawl: Inside the Blood Feud Between Texas and Texas AM:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Deep in

the heart of Texas  
Von Kunde  
Ein tolles Buch für alle College Football Fans. Der Autor beschreibt hervorragend die Stimmung rund um das Spiel der Spiele in Texas. Man hat das Gefühl auf dem Campus der beiden Schulen zu sein. Egal, ob midnight yell in College Station oder Season Opener in Austin, mit diesem Buch ist man immer mittendrin. Danach wünscht man sich nur noch das Spiel einmal live zu sehen. Man muss nicht Fan einer der beiden Teams zu sein, um das Buch zu lieben.

Kurzbeschreibung  
It happens once a year, creating a seismic divide throughout the country. It pits brother against brother. It breaks up business deals. It ruins relationships. And once its finished, all both sides want is for another year to pass by so they can do it again. It is the Texas/Texas A M football game. And in the football-obsessed state that is Texas, no single game resonates more. Every year during the Thanksgiving holidays, the two teams meet for something that has become much more than just a game. Its a blood feud that represents a tremendous cultural divide in the state. Its city against country, a rural agricultural school against an urban university. And yet both sides come from the same family, warring cousins who roll up their sleeves once a year in the backyard to settle the question of whos number one at least for the time being.  
In Backyard Brawl, W. K. Stratton takes you through this rivalry and its history, covering the years when the game was postponed because the fans were just too violent, the branding of UTs beloved steer, Bevo, by a renegade Aggie, the kidnapping of AMs beloved Reveille by boisterous UT students, the theft of UTs cannon, Old Smokey, and its unceremonious dumping into the murky waters of Austins Town Lake, and the fistfights that broke out when celebrating UT fans rushed AMs nearly sacred Kyle Field after Texas won the last-ever Southwest Conference title on the Aggies home turf. Stratton also relates the more serious side of the rivalry, particularly the way both schools came together after tradition turned to tragedy in 1999, when the AM bonfire collapse killed twelve students. And in a touching epilogue, he captures the angst that hit the College Station campus when officials decided to cancel the return of the bonfire in 2002. Stratton drew a bead on the 2001 season and followed both teams through their schedules leading up to the big clash in College Station. Taking you inside a renowned Aggie Yell practice and introducing you to fervid yet often zany orange-blooded Texas fans through their elaborate tailgating rituals, he creates revealing portraits of the two teams, including head coaches R. C. Slocum and Mack Brown, both of whom are legends in their own time, destined for the Hall of Fame. Backyard Brawl is a fascinating examination of the greatest war in college football, destined to become a classic for students of the game.  
From the Trade Paperback edition.  
From Publishers Weekly  
This chronicle of the 2001 football season's battle between the University of Texas Longhorns and the Texas AM Aggies is a capsule history of America's biggest, baddest state and its obsession with America's biggest, baddest sport. Each year, the schools' football teams look forward to their annual showdown, which always takes place on Thanksgiving weekend. As Stratton makes clear, UT is on top of the Texas hierarchy: the Longhorns, benefiting from the largess of one of the most economically and politically powerful constituencies in the country, are symbolic of privileged, liberal entitlement, while 90 miles up the highway, the AM Aggies are proud of their past as a former military school and look to tradition and hard work as their guides through life. With neither team boasting a spectacular 2001 record and the September 11 attacks overshadowing the season, Stratton's attention periodically wanders up into the stands, where he uncovers telling anecdotes that explain how each school got its reputation. He also has a lot of fun traveling across the state week to week, from tailgate parties in Austin to midnight "yells" at AM, and from the Texas State Fair in Dallas to the excitement of all those ball games. Like B.H. Bissinger's seminal look at Texas high school football, Friday Night Lights, Stratton's volume is a must read for any serious fan of Texas football. For everyone else, it's entertaining and engaging look at the minutiae of football-mad America. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
From Booklist  
Texas versus Texas AM ranks among the great college football rivalries, right up there with Army-Navy and Harvard-Yale. Stratton presents the rivalry as though it were a Texas tall tale, passed along over a couple of longneck Lone Stars at a Lubbock roadhouse. What fuels the rivalry these days is the conservative military tradition of AM juxtaposed against the wacky liberalism of UT. The long-term spice is supplied by the colorful folks who have been--and continue to be--involved as players, coaches, and fans. Among the figures Stratton profiles are recently deceased UT superfan Jose Pena, whose dedication to the Longhorns was legendary, and Joe Kerbel, former AM coach, who once had his wife escorted by security from a game because she was a distraction. Stratton relishes the colorful anecdotes, but he doesn't avoid the hard issues, either, including racism at both schools and the tragic bonfire pep-rally deaths at AM a few years ago. Funny, intelligent, insightful, and just a little Texas crazy--great reading for college football fans. Wes Lukowsky  
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