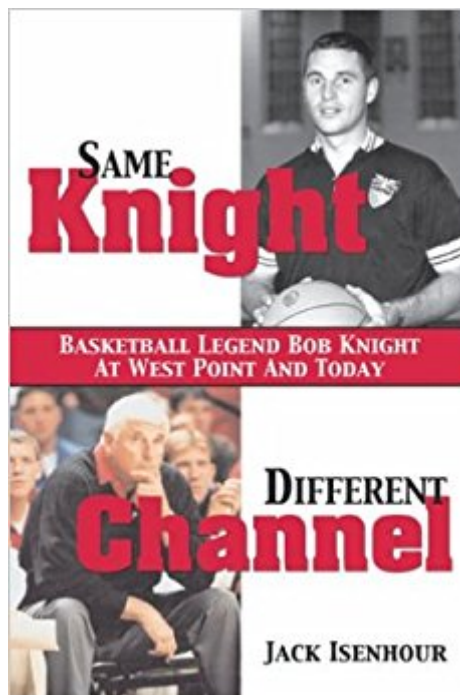




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# Same Knight, Different Channel: Basketball Legend Bob Knight At West Point And Today



## Synopsis

Bob Knight often remarks he never got over West Point. It's where the legend cut his teeth and formulated his coaching style. It's where he learned he had to win. • Jack Isenhour, a player on that first team, examines that formative rookie year of the surefire Hall-of-Famer and gives firsthand descriptions of Knight's departure from Indiana and rebirth at Texas Tech.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Isenhour, an award-winning television journalist, was a seldom-used guard on Bob Knight's first Army basketball (1965-66). His premise is that the Knight we know today--controversial, temperamental, successful--was forged by his tenure at West Point when he became the Cadets' head coach at the ridiculously young age of 25. The raw material was there: a fierce competitor in high school and college, Knight was the kid skidding around the court diving after loose balls. When Army coach Tate Locke resigned to take another position, he recommended that his young assistant succeed him. Knight's inherent competitiveness flourished at West Point during the Vietnam era. He developed a style--stifling defense, patient offense--that maximized the skills of players who were not big and not heavily recruited. Filled with great anecdotes from former players and Isenhour's self-deprecating replays of his time--yesterday and today--with Knight, this is a compelling look at the early career of a man who will soon become the winningest college coach in history. Wes Lukowsky Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"A compelling look at the early career of a man who will soon become the winningest college coach in history." -Booklist

Bob Knight, as is true of others of his time, played to win, monomaniacally. The author, a former player of his at West Point, wonders about the enigma. Why is such a remarkable teacher and coach remembered at least as much for his "moments", as he is for his coaching record---a record that is more than wins and losses? Although even the conclusion is an open problem, Isenhour, and I concur, sees it rooted in WWII. Losing was not an option. Truman drops the BOMB, accepting great cost in return for popularly accepted greater benefit. It was a mindset not uncommon to Knight or his role models. It was manifest in the likes of Clair Bee. The question is about degree. It was part of the culture. Coaching? Motivation? Get some 18-20 year olds to hit Omaha Beach. Well, that is Bobby Knight's mindset. You just gotta win. So, times change, and some don't adjust as well as others. And some of these have Bob Knight indefensible moments. It doesn't make the record any less exemplary. Over the years, the graduation rate of his players was enviable. His won/loss record was top echelon. His innovative basketball style ( Bobby Ball) on offense and defense, copied mightily. The " moments"? Perhaps they are both inexcusable, yet inseparable from the man, his philosophy and his successes. Isenhour leaves it open. And perhaps, since culture evolves, there is a future moment when a Myles Brand mindset is considered the outlier.

Although this book was written to focus on Bob Knight "the coach" it is a must read for anybody who is coaching or interested in becoming a coach. Isenhour writes how coaches have to try to push their athletes to get the most out of them. A coach has to force the athletes to do things that they really don't want to do. This takes courage and perseverance. Isenhour also defends Knight when he says that discipline is necessary in the formation of successful people. That goes for this day in age as much as it did in the 60's when Knight began his career at Army. Coaches and teachers must realize that their students and athletes will not develop fully if they are not held accountable for negative actions or behavior. At some point in their lives they will face unpleasant tasks and must know how to deal with them. If you don't like Bob Knight because of his personality that is understandable. However you have to admit that Knight is a great coach and a great educator. If you read this book with an open mind you will agree with me.

Excellent memories from back in my college days.

Everybody has an opinion on Bob Knight- whether they are a basketball fan or not. I thought the author successfully walked the thin, gray line between being a fan of Knight's, and putting him in the "Scary Guy" category. Very revealing look at the inside of the Academy in the 1960's as well- I look forward to seeing the West Point spin on this book!

Just like the back cover says, this isn't a love song to Bob Knight, and it's not a cheap shot to the chops. This is a fair and accurate portrayal of the fiery Coach by a player underneath him when Knight first started out. The fact that this player will criticize Knight speaks volumes about his integrity -- and the fact that he defends him speaks volumes about his fairness. He looks at the situation without pigeonholing things into what he calls a "Bob Knight moment" that most media paint things as. He talks about Knight's early years in coaching. He goes into more detail on Knight's firing -- and more evenhandedly than I've ever seen -- and talks about Knight at Texas Tech too. The level of access he got is astounding, and the personal touch makes the book golden. Such a quick read too. The author had a great, conversational writing style that makes it a fun read. Definitely five stars, the best Bob Knight book out there and the fairest one ever.

I've heard of Coach Bob Knight, but I am not a basketball fan. I got a strong recommendation of this book from a friend and I can't say that I'm disappointed that I read it. Isenhour (or "Ike," as Knight apparently called him) writes in an extremely lucid, conversational style. Facts, historical quotes, and dates come off as something remembered over a cold beer rather than information recorded and then regurgitated for the purpose of writing a book. Honestly, I could care less about the history of basketball, but this is a very interesting book, and it kept me reading to the end. If I had to pick something to complain about, it would be the fact that for much of the book, Isenhour seems to be extremely preoccupied by the culture of West Point itself. Of course having read (and then re-read) some of his astounding accounts of this institution, had I been raked over those coals, I'd probably be preoccupied with it, too. Don't get me wrong, the material is fascinating, it's just not about Bob Knight. Still, I'll accept the emphasis given to The Point since it offers the reader one of many explanations as to how Bob Knight came to be the way he is. Note that I said "explanations" and not "excuses."

This book gives an objective account of coach Knight at the beginning of his remarkable and continuing career. Isenhour's book is based on firsthand accounts and grounded in actual

experiences and not best guesses. Knight is an extraordinary role model in perseverance and integrity despite the constant barrage of media critics. Coach Knight is a remarkable coach, demanding what more parents should demand -- academic excellence and personal excellence.

A different look at one of the five greatest coaches ever.

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