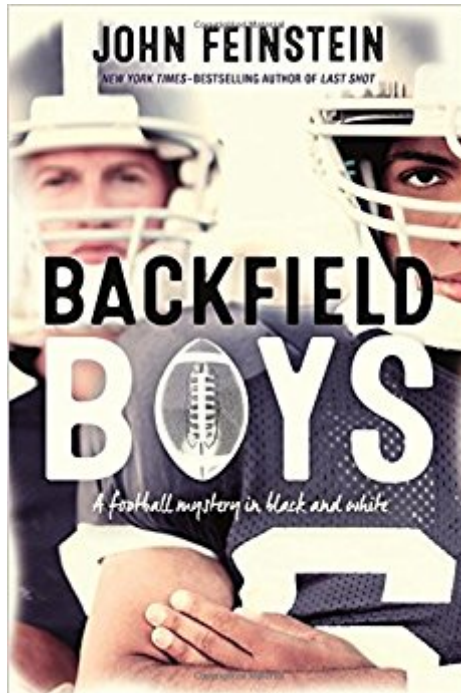




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# Backfield Boys: A Football Mystery In Black And White



## Synopsis

In *Backfield Boys*, renowned sports journalist and New York Times “bestselling author” John Feinstein tells a thrilling story of friendship, football, and a fight for justice. Freshman footballers Jason Roddin and Tom Jefferson are a perfect pair: Jason is a blazing-fast wide-receiver, while his best friend Tom has all the skills a standout quarterback needs. After summer football camp at an elite sports-focused boarding school, the boys are thrilled to be invited back with full-ride scholarships. But on day one of practice, they’re shocked when the team’s coaching staff makes Tom, a black kid, a receiver and Jason, a white kid, a quarterback. Confronted with mounting evidence of deep-seated racial bias, the boys speak out, risking their scholarships and chances to play. As tensions ratchet up with coaches and other players, Tom and Jason must decide how much they’re willing to lose in a conflict with powerful forces that have nothing—and everything—to do with the game they love.

## Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #15,257 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Football #20 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Prejudice & Racism

## Customer Reviews

“An intriguing look at racism in contemporary sports and the power private schools have in shaping sports and upholding racist traditions.” —Booklist  
Praise for *Foul Trouble*: “Thorough and suspenseful; a must-read for those interested in basketball and the dealings surrounding the sport.” —Kirkus Reviews, starred review  
“A riveting, cautionary tale about behind-the-scenes, big-money pressures confronting talented high school athletes. . . . Timely hot topics are embedded in this action-packed sports story. Readers will breathlessly await Terrell’s final decision.” —School Library Journal, starred review

John Feinstein is the author of more than thirty books, including the #1 New York Times bestsellers *A Season on the Brink* and *A Good Walk Spoiled*. He is also the author of numerous kids mysteries. His first young adult mystery, *Last Shot*, won the Edgar Allen Poe Award. John also works for The Washington Post, The Golf Channel, Sirius XM Radio, and Comcast Sportsnet.

A timely, well-written book that deals directly and honestly with the reality of racism even at the level of high school athletics. If anything the book is almost too sterile in its interactions between races and between academic classes, Things can get real ugly, real fast in the real world, but author Feinstein plays it pretty safe. For that and some unnecessary stereotyping - southern racists vs enlightened New Yorkers - I knocked it down a peg. And not for nothing, on page 73... the guy who built the bridge doesn't "accidentally" fall on the detonator!

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