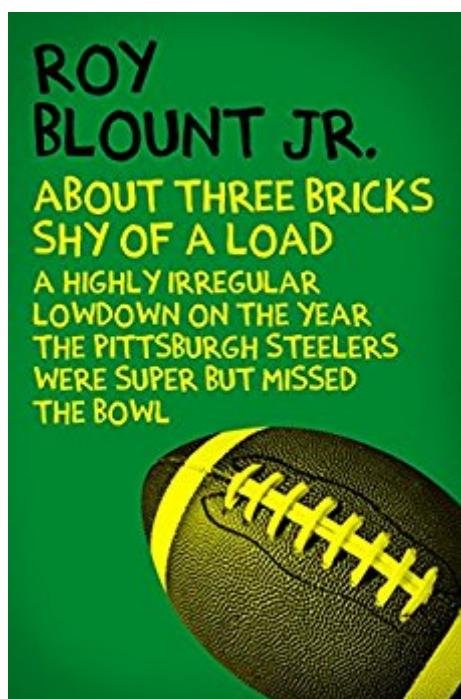


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# About Three Bricks Shy Of A Load: A Highly Irregular Lowdown On The Year The Pittsburgh Steelers Were Super But Missed The Bowl



## Synopsis

Now celebrating its fortieth anniversary, Roy Blount Jr.'s classic account of the 1973 Pittsburgh Steelers—a team on the cusp of once-in-a-generation greatness. The Pittsburgh Steelers of the 1970s are mentioned in any conversation about the greatest dynasties in NFL history. A year before Pittsburgh's first Super Bowl victory launched a decade of domination, Roy Blount Jr. spent a season traveling with the team, recording the ups and downs, both large and small, in the lives of men who would soon reach the pinnacle of success in their sport. He covers everything from the birth of the "Steel Curtain" defense to the unique connection the people of Pittsburgh had with their hard-nosed team. Interspersed with vivid depictions of players like Terry Bradshaw, "Mean" Joe Greene, and Ernie "Fats" Holmes, as well as the team owners, the Rooney clan, *About Three Bricks Shy* of a Load harks back to a bygone era when offensive linemen could weigh about the same as the backs they blocked for, when the highest-paying team's highest-paid player—Bradshaw—made \$400,000, and when one team was able to win four Super Bowls in six years—a feat that remains unrivaled today. Uproariously funny and brilliantly written, *About Three Bricks Shy of a Load* was named one of the Top 100 Sports Books of All Time by Sports Illustrated.

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

Great read for Steeler fans and other Pittsburghers. Gives a lot of insight into the city and the team in its heydays.

It was ok a belated look into the beginning of the great Pittsburgh dynasty.i liked the portions which delved into the background of the Rooney clan.

This is a book any Pittsburgh Steeler fan would enjoy. Good light and easy reading about little known facts and behind the scenes antics of a pro football team.

I read this many years ago. I decided to read it again and it's still timely, extremely well written and hilarious. But beyond all else it's a true story

Got bored rather quickly but kept reading in hope of finding something interesting. Did not find it! Too much filler material, with several chapters that could be totally eliminated. Disappointed and would not recommend this book.

I expected more than this book delivered. The author lacks the details of a John Feinstein book. The author never did detail the reasons for the losing season.

This book chronicles the Steelers' 1973 season. They had not yet won a Super Bowl. It was not known at the time that the Steelers would enjoy a dynasty. 1973 was only the second playoff year that the Steelers ever achieved.The author was embedded with the team throughout the year. He chronicled training camp and each game throughout the season. He interviewed players and others, including owner Art Rooney during a weekend betting trip to a horse track. Each game provided its own story. The author wrote one chapter specifically about John Unitas when Unitas came to Pittsburgh with the Chargers in his final season. Unitas' final season with the Chargers is often discussed briefly in biographies. This book provides more detail than most books about that story, because the Steeler - Charger game was Unitas' final start. He was replaced at halftime by rookie Dan Fouts.The Unitas angle is only one reason why this book has historic value. Any in-depth

account of one year from a growing dynasty is historic. He discussed the festering quarterback controversy that would be resolved the following year. The drawbacks are that the author spends a great deal of time interviewing players that would not last much longer with the team. He could not know who the long-term stars would be. He also included some racial politics that do not age well. He also made some of the obligatory factual mistakes that plague all sports books. This book is similar to other diary type football books - Lost Sundays, Next Year's Champions, Instant Replay, etc. A contemporaneous account is usually better than one that is influenced by the knowledge of subsequent events. I only wish that each of the Steelers' years in the 1970s had been chronicled this way.

Funny, breezy, yet often insightful, this is the kind of journalism missing in today's blog/news-bite world. Roy Blount Jr. really gets to know and love the team that he spends 6 months straight with, and writes about them with honesty, compassion, and humor. Great anecdotal stories about Pittsburgh and the Steelers organization, too. If you've read Roy's book about New Orleans or listened to him on "Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me", you are already familiar with his style. If not, here's a great place to start. NOT just for football fans.

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