

# Dealing: The Cleveland Indians' New Ballgame: How a Small-Market Team Reinvented Itself as a Major League Contender

Terry Pluto

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For Indians fans who want to know what goes on inside the front office, this book tells all. It's an in-depth look at how the team was taken apart and rebuilt as a contender again in spite of Major League Baseball's competitive imbalance. Tribe fans grew accustomed to winning in the late 1990s. They had an owner with deep pockets, a brand-new ballpark, and a team of All-Stars who delivered a division championship nearly every year. Then, in 2002, the team's new owners began a controversial plan to unload their popular but expensive stars and replace them with a steady stream of young prospects and veteran rehab projects. Critics scoffed, and fans stayed away. But by 2005 the plan showed promise with a 95-win season. And in 2007 it paid off, as the Indians beat the top-dollar Yankees in the playoffs and came within one game of the World Series—with a payroll less than half that of their competition. How did they do it? Veteran sportswriter Terry Pluto (who had unprecedented access to the Indians front office) carefully analyzes each big decision and tells which ones worked, which ones didn't, and why. This rare behind-the-scenes look at a modern front office will intrigue any fan fascinated by baseball deal-making. A wealth of baseball detail that will intrigue serious fans and fantasy leaguers.

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