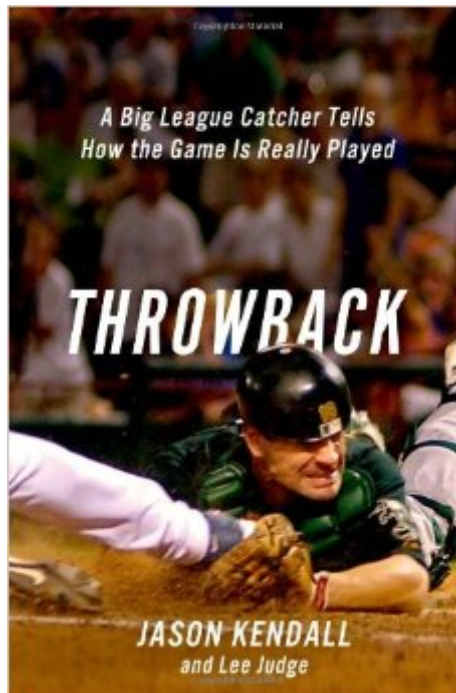


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# Throwback: A Big-League Catcher Tells How The Game Is Really Played



## Synopsis

Ever Wonder What's Being Said at Home Plate? How a Team Silently Communicates? What Goes on in the Clubhouse Behind Closed Doors? America's pastime has always left fans and amateur players alike yearning for the answers to questions about how pros play the game. Jason Kendall is an All-Star catcher who has seen just about everything during his years with the Pittsburgh Pirates, Oakland Athletics, Chicago Cubs, Milwaukee Brewers, and Kansas City Royals. He's a player's player, a guy with true grit--a throwback to another time with a unique view on the game that so many love. Jason Kendall and sportswriter Lee Judge team up to bring you the fan, player, coach, or curious statistician an insider's view of the game from a player's perspective. This is a book about pre-game rituals, what to look for when a pitcher warms up between innings, the signs a catcher uses to communicate with the pitcher, and so much more. Some of baseball wisdom you will find inside: \* What to look for during batting practice. \* The right way to hit a batter. \* Who's a tough guy and who's just posing. \* How to spot a dirty slide. \* Why you don't look at the umpire while you're arguing. Based on Kendall's 15 years of professional MLB experience, THROWBACK is an informative, hilarious, and illuminating look into the world of professional baseball--and in a way that no one has ever seen before.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: St. Martin's Press (May 13, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250031834

ISBN-13: 978-1250031839

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (100 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #523,320 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #370 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Baseball](#) #1040 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Baseball](#)

## Customer Reviews

According to Jason Kendall in *Throwback*, the sport of baseball is non-stop action. There are always adjustments underway based on the pitcher, the count, the hitter, the time of day.

Everything. *Throwback* is about the little things that make baseball fascinating. It's about the minuscule moments of anticipation most of us don't appreciate. If you're someone who

yawns at the thought of baseball, â œThrowbackâ • isnâ™t going to change your mind. If you watch even a half-dozen baseball games a year, youâ™ll get something out of Jason Kendallâ™s inside look at the infinite number of complexities that go into every moment of â œaction.â • The baseball may not be â œin play,â • but the game is being â œplayedâ • by players, coaches and managers anticipating the next moment. Every pitch, every defensive position, every slide, every injustice meted out earlier in the game (or earlier in the seasonâ™ or the season before that). The writing is breezy. And easy. It is a bit repetitive in spots. A catcher, Kendall played with a blunt and hard-nosed style. His prose is a good match for his approach to the sport. He wonâ™t be confused with John Updike or Roger Angell. However, he is self-effacing and very funny in a few spots. Heâ™s particularly dismissive of the players who show weakness (as a Colorado Rockies fan, I know what heâ™s talking about). Writes Kendall: â œA guy fouls a ball of his leg and collapses on the ground? Get up; donâ™t waste my time. If the legâ™s broke? My badâ™ sorry I yelled at you. But you see guys hobble around for a while and then announce theyâ™re okay. If a guy fouls a ball of his leg and makes a big production of itâ™ if he let us know it hurtâ™ guess what? Weâ™re throwing the ball right back in the same spot. Oh, that one hurt?

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