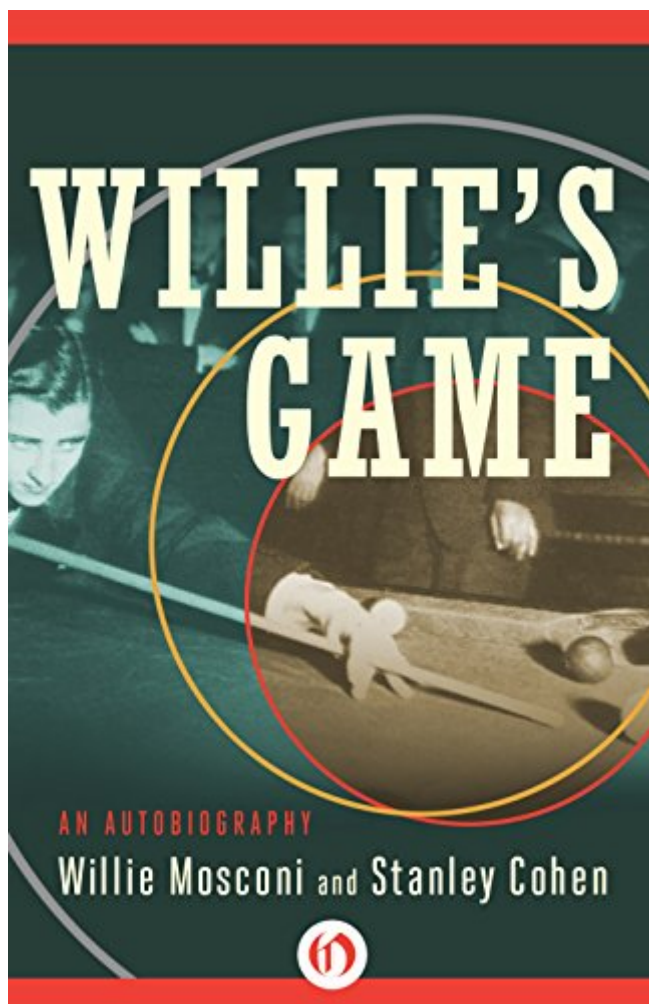


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Willie's Game: An Autobiography



Synopsis

America's greatest professional billiards player tells the story of his legendary life and career—from his days as a child prodigy to his record-breaking run of world championships. Willie Mosconi's father never wanted him to play billiards. At night, the boy would lie awake listening to the clatter of balls downstairs in the family pool hall, and when his father wasn't around, he would climb onto an apple crate to practice his shots. When his dad started locking up the balls and cue, young Willie improvised with potatoes and a broom handle. By the time he was 7 years old, he was good enough to play against Ralph Greenleaf in a match billed as "The Child Prodigy vs. The World Champion." It was the start of a magnificent career that would include an unprecedented 15 world championships and the record for most consecutive balls run without a miss: 526. Nicknamed "Mr. Pocket Billiards," Mosconi was instrumental in popularizing pool in America, serving as a consultant for iconic films such as *The Hustler* and *The Color of Money* and facing off against the famed hustler Minnesota Fats in 2 celebrated matches. Cowritten with journalist Stanley Cohen, *Willie's Game* is the colorful, captivating autobiography of an illustrious champion who lifted his sport to new heights and played by one simple rule: If you don't miss, you don't have to worry about anything else.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Willie's Game chronicles the life of Willie Mosconi, one of the greatest pool players in the history of the game. That in itself makes it a necessary edition to a billiard enthusiast's bookcase, but those interested in sports, competition, and prodigies will enjoy it too. From learning to play by hitting potatoes around on the pool table, to winning tournaments for big money, to setting the world record for the most balls run (526), Mosconi did it all. He talks a lot in his autobiography about what makes a good player, and about the difference between an apt technician and a champion. As you'd expect, the personalities are colorful, especially when set against the background of early twentieth century America. Mosconi doesn't mince words about his impressions of and experiences with other pool notables. There's a lot of valuable pool history and anecdotes here.

This was an interesting read about a very interesting man. Well written, with views from Mosconi's perspective, as well as those who knew him and excellent information from the author too. Anyone who has an interest in pocket billiards (Mr. Mosconi hated the term "pool" because he felt it referred to the seedier aspect of the game's roots, as you can learn in this book) beyond the occasional game in a bar will definitely enjoy this book.

Outstanding book that gives you a look at one of the greatest champions of pool of all time. Very well written with Stanley Cohen (written many sports books). Cohen uses an unusual writing style, letting Mosconi speak in his own words and then uses separate interviews or other historical research to add to his story. Very well written and an easy read.

Must read if you like pool..

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