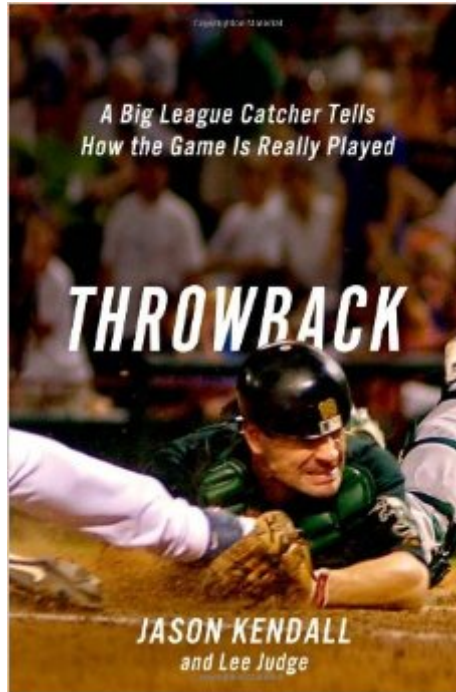


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# Throwback: A Big-League Catcher Tells How The Game Is Really Played



## 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

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## 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, "Throwback" isn't going to change your mind. If you watch even a half-dozen baseball games a year, you'll get something out of Jason Kendall's inside look at the infinite number of complexities that go into every moment of "action." The baseball may not be "in play," but the game is being "played" 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 season "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 won't be confused with John Updike or Roger Angell. However, he is self-effacing and very funny in a few spots. He's particularly dismissive of the players who show weakness (as a Colorado Rockies fan, I know what he's talking about). Writes Kendall: "A guy fouls a ball off his leg and collapses on the ground? Get up; don't waste my time. If the leg's broke? My bad "sorry I yelled at you. But you see guys hobble around for a while and then announce they're okay. If a guy fouls a ball off his leg and makes a big production of it "if he let us know it hurt" guess what? We're throwing the ball right back in the same spot. Oh, that one hurt?"

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