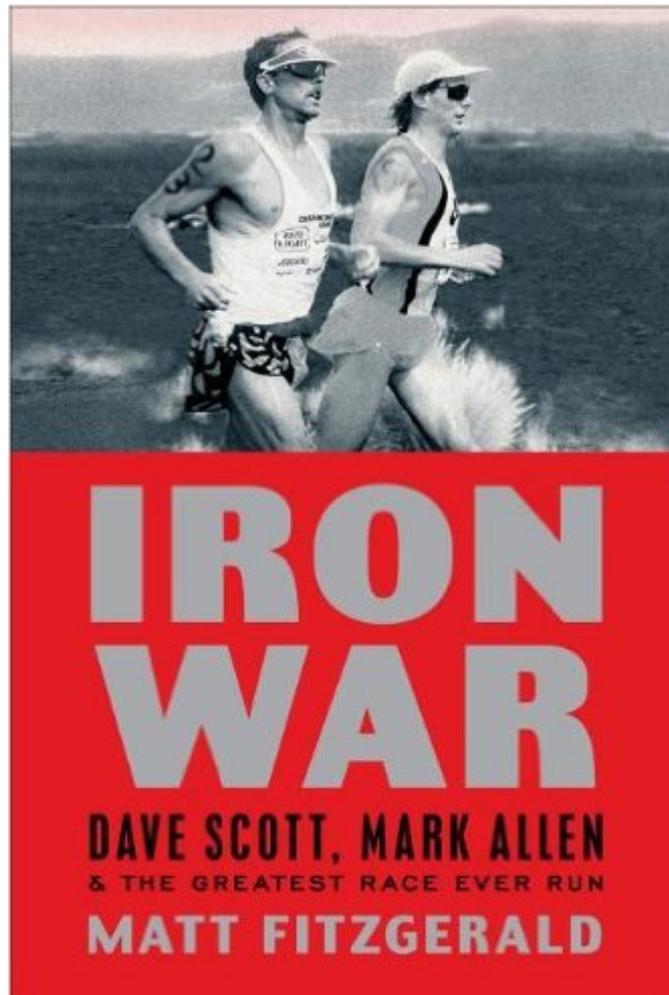


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Iron War: Dave Scott, Mark Allen, And The Greatest Race Ever Run



Synopsis

The 1989 Ironman World Championship was the greatest race ever in endurance sports. In a spectacular duel that became known as the Iron War, the world's two strongest athletes raced side by side at world-record pace for a grueling 139 miles. Driven by one of the fiercest rivalries in triathlon, Dave Scott and Mark Allen raced shoulder to shoulder through Ironman's 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike race, and 26.2-mile marathon. After 8 punishing hours, both men would demolish the previous record--and cross the finish line a mere 58 seconds apart. In his new book *Iron War*, sports journalist Matt Fitzgerald writes a riveting epic about how Allen and Scott drove themselves and each other through the most awe-inspiring race in sports history. *Iron War* goes beyond the pulse-pounding race story to offer a fascinating exploration of the lives of the world's two toughest men and their unquenchable desire to succeed. Weaving an examination of mental resolve into a gripping tale of athletic adventure, *Iron War* is a soaring narrative of two champions and the paths that led to their stunning final showdown.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The short answer is that I found *Iron War* to be an eloquently written homage to two great athletes who really, truly put on one of the most extraordinary displays of gumption, grit, and competitive fire I have ever known. So meticulously wrought is the human dimension of this epic saga that I should think even non-athletes would find the story compelling and meaningful. The book offers depth along multiple dimensions, from rich background on the sport itself, to a controversial degree of detail about the lives and psychologies of the athletes, to some of the latest, greatest science about

what makes a human being capable of such extraordinary effort. It is a feast of ideas as much as a gripping account of an extraordinary day. I feel sad that the athletes themselves are so upset with this work; I myself simply cannot imagine how I could feel defamed by this beautiful tale, although I am sympathetic as to why public exposure of some very personal information would at least make someone uncomfortable-- after all, we human beings have a disturbing history of judging each other with little compassion for each others' foibles and flaws. The author certainly delves into the psychology and life history of these two men in lavish detail, but this for me serves to greatly enrich the story and leaves me with a deeper appreciation for Allen and Scott and what they accomplished. As much as they both may have strove for perfection and invulnerability, both men are nevertheless thoroughly human, warts and all. This only makes their achievements more inspiring, and I have come away from this book thinking more of them, not less.

Heads up: lengthy review coming....Brilliant writing talent, some disappointing elements - dubious conclusions and exaggerations, and some really wonderful elements that hard-core triathletes in particular will appreciate. Readers are likely aware of Dave Scott and Mark Allen's objections to the book. This is pretty disappointing considering how small the triathlon community is (too small to have unauthorized biographies I think!). The book would have been far superior had Mark and Dave been directly involved with the author. Instead they are suing the author and publisher. It makes for good drama and possibly additional sales and publicity for the book, but it also makes one question why the author--long a media insider in the sport--could not obtain sufficient cooperation from the protagonists. It seemed like more energy was spent filling 27 pages (seriously) with reference notes, perhaps to "prove" the authenticity of the story line in the absence of their cooperation. Matt Fitzgerald is a very talented writer and worked very hard on this book. Hard core triathletes will be captivated by his blow by blow of the '89 Hawaii Ironman race, and numerous other ironmans detailed. His creative use of adjectives and descriptions of the surroundings makes the reading enjoyable. e.g. - when two young German cyclists pull away from Mark Allen, its: "...he was losing ground to the virile young meat machines chugging away ahead...".**Mark and Dave are rightfully sensitive about someone digging into the past and conducting armchair psychoanalysis about what makes them tick. Here's a passage from the book that indicates the folly of going where you shouldn't go:"Behind how many great male athletes is a lousy father? Mark Allen. Lance Armstrong. Haile Gebrselassie.

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