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New biography reveals professional triumphs, personal travails of enigmatic Hall of Fame coach Chuck Noll

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—Chuck Noll led the Pittsburgh Steelers to an unprecedented four Super Bowl victories and built the team into one of the greatest football dynasties in history during his 23 seasons at the helm. But despite his legendary status, Noll remained an enigma to the public, even to his players. That is, until now.

This fall, the University of Pittsburgh Press will publish *Chuck Noll: His Life's Work* by best-selling sportswriter Michael MacCambridge. Featuring more than four dozen photos, *Chuck Noll* presents the first biography of the Steelers winningest coach. It paints an intimate portrait that traces his journey from a childhood in Depression-era Cleveland, where he first played football in a fully integrated neighborhood league, through his serious pursuit of the sport in high school, college, and then professionally for the Browns, before Noll discovered his true calling as a coach.

When Noll arrived in Pittsburgh in 1969, the city was in a deep crisis, facing the decline of its lifeblood steel industry. On top of that, the Steelers had been the worst team in professional football for nearly four decades. Noll quickly remolded the team into the most accomplished the NFL had ever seen, and through this feat, Pittsburghers came to believe that winning and recovery were possible – for their city *and* their team.

MacCambridge reveals the family ties that built Noll's character, his struggles with epilepsy and Alzheimer's, the love story that shaped his life, as well as his unique skills as a coach. By understanding the man himself, readers can at last clearly see Noll's profound influence on the city, players, coaches, and game he loved.

"Chuck Noll transformed the Pittsburgh Steelers into one of the greatest dynasties in NFL history. Yet, both during his career and after, he was underappreciated, relatively uncelebrated, and—in part by his own choice—not fully understood. Michael MacCambridge's carefully-researched and beautifully-written biography finally brings into clear focus one of the most accomplished coaches in the history of American sports," said Bob Costas of NBC Sports.

MacCambridge is one of the nation's foremost authorities on football. He will be featured in the documentary "Chuck Noll: A Football Life," which will premiere on the NFL Network later this year.

MacCambridge's book *America's Game: The Epic Story of How Pro Football Captured a Nation* was named one of the most distinguished works of non-fiction by the *Washington Post* in 2004, and won the Nelson Ross Award from the Professional Football Researchers Association. He also edited the critically acclaimed *ESPN College Football Encyclopedia*, hailed by *Sports Illustrated* as "the Bible" of the sport. In addition to his many books, MacCambridge's freelance writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *GQ*.

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Chuck Noll: His Life's Work by Michael MacCambridge will be published by the University of Pittsburgh Press on October 28, 2016.

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