

On the final day of the 1963 major-league baseball season, Houston Colt .45s teen sensation John Paciorek—in his one and only big-league game—went three-for-three, giving him a career batting average of 1.000. He also notched three RBI and scored four times. In the outfield John played magnificently, cleanly fielding all four balls hit to him. His was, truly, a perfect game—the most spectacular game ever by a player in his only big-league appearance. Then, a back injury dropped him just as quickly back down to the minor leagues, where he soon departed from baseball forever. A rare jewel of baseball history, *Perfect* tells John's remarkable story, from his childhood in Detroit to athletic excellence in high school to a solitary season in the low minors to his one shining day in the majors and everything that followed. It includes excerpts from the play-by-play announcers watching his performance—Hall of Famer Ralph Kiner and Lindsey Nelson—and reflections from numerous outstanding major-league players who crossed paths with John that day, including Rusty Staub and Jim Wynn. The big question remains: What might John Paciorek have become? His story is a fascinating one for anyone who loves the game of baseball: wonderful nostalgia for older fans, a bit of trivia brought fully to life, and a tantalizing story of hope and inspiration for young players aspiring to greatness.