

Pujols: More Than the Game

Scott Lamb , Tim Ellsworth

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A powerful story of the athleticism and strong faith of Albert Pujols, one of the all-time greatest baseball players.

It is for good reason that Albert Pujols routinely tops the list of the greatest players in modern Major League Baseball. Even before turning thirty, Pujols has accrued batting totals that most players only dream of gaining over the course of an entire career.

Among all Major Leaguers who ever played the game, Pujols already ranks in the top twenty in batting average, slugging percentage, on-base percentage, and adjusted on-base plus slugging. In simple terms, he is one of the greatest offensive players to in baseball history.

Pujols hit 201 home runs in his first five seasons, placing him in second place all-time for the most homers hit during a player's first five years. Not stopping there, in 2009 he reached the 350-home run mark at a younger age than anyone except Ken Griffey Jr. and Alex Rodriguez. By doing so, he also surpassed the record for most home runs in the first nine years of a career, breaking the mark established by Hall of Famer Ralph Kiner way back in 1954. And speaking of nine seasons, Pujols now stands as the only player ever to begin a career with nine consecutive years of 30 home runs and 100 runs batted in. And that's just for starters.

But when the adulation comes his way, Pujols points people to an even greater hero, directing them to Christ. "At the end of the day," he says, "as long as I glorify him, and those 45,000 people know who I represent out there every time I step out on the field, that's what it's about. It's about representing God." *Albert Pujols: Bigger than the Game* will satisfy MLB fans who like their baseball slathered in amazing stats, and it will shed light on the faith that Pujols says makes it all possible.

Pujols: More Than the Game Details

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From Reader Review Pujols: More Than the Game for online ebook

Tanner Morgan says

Albert Pujols writes about his rags to riches baseball life, but the riches are not necessarily the money he has earned. The riches he talks about are ones such as his family and getting very close to God. Albert is from the Dominican Republic and never had an established faith life partially due to his father being an alcoholic. However, Albert did have one love and that was for the game of baseball. He would go out in the streets and play with the neighborhood kids every day of the week and eventually developed into a solid player. Later on Albert moved into the US to play his high school and college ball where he out shined everybody. Mr. Pujols met his wife Deidre in college and she was the most influential person on Albert's faith life. She brought him to church and Albert, barely knowing English connected with the pastor and his faith life grew deeper from then until present time. Often times Albert says he has been given a wonderful platform in baseball by God, in order to spread God's word. The author, Scott Lamb noticeably used a few rhetorical devices in order to keep the reader engaged throughout the book. When Lamb was describing statistics and or the plot of a major event in Albert's life he would use long sentences. Then he would use short and quick sentences during times of action such as when a plate appearance was being announced. Scott Lamb kept me engaged because he never failed to mix the chapters up and he always connected everything back to faith, just as Albert does. Sometimes though when Lamb mixed chapters up timeline wise, the book was a bit confusing. I would definitely recommend this book to someone who is either a very faithful person or someone who is deciding whether or not they should become involved in the faith community.

Linda says

GREAT baseball story with so many statistics. But better yet is Albert's personal testimony of his faith in Jesus! Highly recommend it.

Jeff Dawson says

Every young athlete would benefit from this great work. Not because it shows the glory of one man's journey through life but because it shows that no matter how many accolades, awards, notoriety, or money one receives, it is the establishment of a true relationship with Jesus Christ that will propel one to the top.

The authors do a great job in detailing his humble starts in a small shack in the Dominican Republic to a very successful foundation designed not for the glory of Albert, but the glory of God and what he wants Albert to do with his life. Many times we will get caught up with the numbers he constantly pounds out each year and think to ourselves, "Wow, I wish I could do that." but like a yo-yo Albert pulls you back to his foundation; a relationship with God. Albert and his wife Dede constantly remind everyone that winning the MVP or the World Series is just a stat. It does not define but rather helps them in their quest of helping others as their savior did.

I found myself rethinking my own commitment to Jesus. I fail miserably in that area compared to Albert and his family. But after reading the book I didn't just learn about the Baseball player Albert Pujols, I learned about the man Albert Pujols and if I was in a room discussing my weak faith, I believe he would pull me aside

and tell it's never too late to start again.

In conclusion, if you are looking for a book packed with statistics and achievements for one player's career, this is for you. But more important if you are looking for a book which truly shows how God and Jesus Christ can work in your life, this is a must read. Albert mentions it a few times when asked about being inducted into the Hall of Fame after he hangs up his cleats, he would gladly accept the honor but more important the real Hall of Fame he is seeking is the one his Lord is preparing for him.

Sally says

Even if your baseball knowledge is limited to the update tracker at the bottom of the television screen, you'll know the name of Albert Pujols. He's the only player to hit at least 30 home runs in each of his 10 seasons. He's been awarded both the National League's MVP and ESPY (best MLB player) awards three times and, in a sport tainted by Performance Enhancing Drugs (PEDs), he's never tested positive for banned substances. But did you also know that Pujols is a Christian? I didn't, maybe because I'm a casual observer of the game. When Thomas Nelson offered a book that focused on his Christian faith for review, however, I was intrigued enough to take a look.

Pujols is a force on and off the field and the book reflects that. The first part looks at his life before he hit the big time. He grew up in the Dominican Republic. "Sometimes we didn't have anything to eat for breakfast, but if we could eat lunch and dinner, we weren't poor." His father played softball. Like many of his peers, he loved watching baseball. At the age of 16 he moved to the USA with his family and, despite his lack of English skills, made it onto the high school baseball team. That's where his career began.

The book contains a lot of game statistics and replays. Most of those went over my head. Where I got most enjoyment was in reading his off field activities. Pujols puts his life as a Christian above everything else. He believes his baseball ability comes from God, and it is his job to use that gift for God's glory. Through his Pujols Family Foundation, he raises money for a Down syndrome organization in St Louis and for an orphanage in his home country. Is he perfect? No, and that's what I like about this book. The writers make it clear that Christians aren't perfect and describe more than one incident where Pujols did not act in a positive manner.

There is one other thing that makes this book different from your average biography. There are no glossy photos of Pujols or his family in the middle. I don't know why that is, but I'd like to think it's because for Albert Pujols the emphasis should be on God and not him. Even though, yes, this is a book about him.

Overall, this is a decent book that doesn't make Pujols larger than life. There are a lot of statistics, but casual fans can skip past those. I gave up on baseball long ago (my home team is described in the book as the "perennial cellar-dwelling Pirates"), but this book held my interest to the end.

Note: I received this book from Thomas Nelson's Booksneeze review program. The opinions contained in this review are my own.

Constantine Pantazis says

I felt like I can connect to this book greatly. I believe this because both Albert Pujols and I are both very religious and I feel like throughout the book it showed Alberts life with playing baseball and his life with god. I feel like this book was very worth reading for many reasons. This book showed the life of Albert Pujols and his baseball career with him growing up. Albert had a very stressful childhood and could have given up easily on his baseball career multiple times but he didn't this is why I enjoyed the book a lot.

Adam Nelson says

This book has something in it for everyone. That's not altogether a good thing. Its intentions are very good, but unfortunately there are too many intentions and they don't mesh well. I believe I understand the structure as this: every other chapter is an account of a season in Pujols' career, up through 2010. Lamb liberally doles out the stats, which should please any die-hard baseball fan with a photographic memory for stats (I personally know plenty of such types). He gives highlights from each season, usually coming to one climactic moment. The off chapters are about Pujols the man. And my gosh is it ever hero worship. Don't get me wrong--Pujols is probably the most stand-up guy to ever play the game. I don't doubt for a second that he's everything he claims to be. His work with the Pujols Foundation and with people with Down Syndrome and other special needs places him above reproach in many, many regards. I am sure he is a strong, die-hard Christian and that he witnesses to every baserunner as Lamb and Ellsworth claim. All of this is fine. However, I would have liked a more objective approach. What we seem to have here is the "Christian's guide to serving God and witnessing to others as represented by Albert Pujols," and Pujols puts such incredible pressure on himself to "walk the walk" that I feel worn out by his "example." I'm bothered by testimonies that focus on a person and his or her own works of righteousness rather than God and His goodness. This book is sort of a tract--"witness the Albert Pujols way"--and all we get is example after example of how righteous Albert is by his works. If that inspires you, that's great. It depresses me. This kind of thing doesn't talk about how good God is; it's about how good Albert is to God. And sometimes he is so devoutly religious in action that he doesn't relate well to people, and he says something like, "At the end of the day, it's what God thinks that counts." So that absolves him to be a jerk for Jesus, I guess. Please don't get me wrong, I think Albert's incredible. He's a great leader for his team, he lives a clean life, he is extremely generous with his time, money, and resources. He's probably the greatest baseball player of all time, yet he puts his faith above his talent. I just get depressed by testimonies about Christians who seem to be working to earn their salvation. It doesn't work for me anymore. And it really doesn't work to juxtapose it against all of Albert's stats. This should be two separate books. Give us the story of his career in one volume and then the worship of Albert as a perfect Christian in another volume. I know, I know--nobody's perfect, only God is perfect, as Albert and the authors here would say. But the message conveyed here is that Albert is the standard by which God will judge the rest of us, and I don't like that.

Other aspects of this book that are uneven is that it seems like the authors have scores to settle on his account. It IS a good thing to defend him against the steroid allegations, but in that particular chapter, we get rather a sermon than a well-reasoned argument, and they had way too many points of contention. One or two would suffice, but we get reasons like, "Do you honestly believe Albert would swear before God that he doesn't take steroids?" I'm paraphrasing, but that's the gist. Let's just let the facts speak for themselves--the man has NEVER taken PEDs, and considering his incredible career and stats, that's witness enough of God's hand at work in his life. We also get an entire chapter that advertises for the Pujols Foundation. Again, don't get me wrong, an extremely worthy organization that's doing awesome things for people with special needs, but it doesn't fit with the rest of the book. What was this book intending to accomplish? At times, it's baseball storytelling. At others, it's an altar call. And then we seem to be taking up a collection for the Pujols Foundation. My problem, you understand, is with the book, not with the man. I would have appreciated more

objectivity. Someday someone will write the book. This one feels as if Pujols himself reviewed every chapter, telling the boys what was okay and what wasn't (he didn't, but he might as well have).

I WILL gladly say this--as a result of reading this book, I no longer hold it against Albert for leaving St. Louis. Yes, we Cards fans felt he belonged to us, but he clearly doesn't. I'm saying this with sincerity: he belongs to God, and I know God will somehow use him to affect the Anaheim community the way he has affected St. Louis. Albert's mission is bigger than baseball, although good gosh he's good. It's hard to imagine a player as great as him being able to see a larger picture, but he does, so we Cards fans have to let it go. I wish him well. I hope his career continues as it has thus far (I know last year was a disappointing season for him, but I'm sure it was a fluke). I do believe he's the greatest to ever play the game, and we were privileged to have him in STL for as long as we did.

Matt Brandt says

I'll just say this: He ministers to runners when they get to 1st base. He's a man after God's heart; really inspiring but the book was Written a bit too early in his career.

Erin says

Albert Pujols caught my eye, along with attention from the rest of the world, even from his rookie season in 2001. Living in the TV market of the St. Louis Cardinals, I heard plenty about this unheralded newcomer and saw for myself that he had potential to become a force for the Redbirds.

No one knew then that within a decade he'd be heralded as the league's best player. Maybe the best to ever play the game of baseball.

But Albert's perspective on life goes far beyond the accomplishments at the ballpark. In an interview with Sports Illustrated, Albert says, "You know how I want people to remember me? I don't want to be remembered as the best baseball player ever. I want to be remembered as a great guy who loved the Lord, loved to serve the community and who gave back."

Pujols was born and raised in the Dominican Republic, immigrating to the United States when he was 16. Lamb & Ellsworth chronicle the journey from his sobering childhood all the way through the end of the 2010 MLB season. They share how his faith has grown from the young adult who accepted Christ as his Savior to the man who witnesses during ballgames and leads missions trips to his native country. He and his wife Dee Dee are the force behind the Pujols Family Foundation, which is dedicated to helping families of Down Syndrome children and adults, as well as reaching into the Dominican Republic to help with medical needs and the sharing of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Baseball nuts will love all the statistics included within the book. I love baseball but I found myself a little bogged down here and there when every at-bat of certain games were detailed. Or when they would tell us something like "in the second month of the season Pujols was tied for the home run lead". In a 162-game season that was seven years ago, why does that stat matter? But once you get past those technical points and get to the real meat of the matter, which as Albert himself would say is his faith and his testimony, that's where this story becomes deep and compelling.

In a world where not many can be looked up to as heroes, I believe Albert Pujols stands head and shoulders above the crowd. His love for the Lord and for his family is inspiring. The fact that he actively tries to glorify God in everything he does makes him someone I admire. He is not perfect, but he seeks the better path: to humbly serve those around him. Well done, Albert. May God grant him strength and wisdom as he lives the rest of his life story!

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from the publisher through the BookSneeze®.com book review bloggers program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own.>/i>

This review originally appeared at <http://www.reviewsbyerin.livejournal...>

Cooper says

The author's purpose of Pujols: More Than the Game is easy. Jim Ellsworth and Scott Lamb's purpose is to inform the readers. They want to inform readers about the life and playing career of Albert Pujols. This story tells of Pujols' baseball journey from the Dominican Republic to St. Louis, and of the life journey of his faith and family.

The theme of Pujols: More Than the game is that Pujols' life, and everyone's life, is more than baseball. That everyone has a purpose and that Pujols' purpose is to positively impact people's lives with his ability and his foundation, the Pujols Family Foundation. Pujols uses his gifts to help with people with Down syndrome and help with the quality of life for people in the Dominican Republic. "From its inception, the Pujols Family Foundation sought to be an agent of great joy and good in the lives of families and children who live with Down syndrome. As its mission statement explains, the foundation was to 'promote awareness, provide hope and meet tangible needs,' and 'provide extraordinary experiences for children with disabilities and life threatening illnesses'" (Ellsworth, 158). Pujols does his work to not glorify himself but to glorify God.

The style of the book is a narration. The authors of this book chronologically tell the story of Albert Pujols. From growing up in the Dominican Republic, to moving to the United States as a teenager, to his days in the Minor Leagues, to stardom in the Major League. In the book there are a couple chapter that talk about the man of Albert Pujols and his faith and his impact on the community. This style is effective but can be confusing at times. It is effective because it not only gives information about Pujols playing career ,but also information about his private life.

My opinion of the book that it was very good. The writers did a tremendous job of telling the story of Albert Pujols. I really like the detail that the author went into when talking about each of Pujols' season. Something that I did not like was that everyone once in awhile the story would be telling of his baseball career and then go off on a different path. I do not mind that this happened, since the point of the story was to talk not only about Pujols' career ,but his life outside of baseball.

Zachary Christensen says

Albert Pujols: More than the Game is written by Stott Lamb and Tim Ellsworth. The author's purpose for this book is to tell about the life of Albert Pujols and how Albert accepted Christ as his Savior. His point of view was receiving information from Albert, himself and what reporters and other analysts think of him and how Albert puts the Bible before anything else.

The theme of Albert Pujols: More than the game was all about baseball and Christ. The topic was to encourage readers, like me, to accept Christ as my Savior and put him into everything I do, as in baseball. The style that this book was written in was a "narration." A narration is the telling of a story through a series of events that describes what happened, usually in chronological order. From the time Albert was in the Dominican Republic all the way to the year 2010. This does not tell about the 2011 season where the Cardinals won the World Series. Yes, this book is very effective.

My opinion of this book is a good opinion. What I like about it was the mentioning of baseball, telling a story about my favorite baseball player, right now, and how it mentions the word God in almost every paragraph. I did not dislike anything about it, I loved everything about it. I would not change a thing. This book is nothing like I have read before. I would want other people to read this book. I am not mentioning anything in particular, because I do not want to spoil the book, for other readers. I rate this book a 5/5

Grant Mink says

Grant Mink

B4

11/20/2016

I read the book More Than The Game by Albert Pujols. I believe the author's purpose is to encourage others to do the right things in life. He shows how even through success he always stays humble and is unselfish. This book can have an impact on any age level because it teaches to have the right values in your life. It talks about how even though he is a great baseball player, he does great things off of the field. He is showing how to help others and just be a good person in general.

I believe the theme of this book is willpower. Being a professional athlete, you have to have confidence in yourself and others. Albert always did what was right even if it didn't benefit him. He had the fight in high school and growing up to be the best person he could and to become a great baseball player. He has willed himself to become a great role model for people all around the world. An example of this would be "I have five young children and I take being a role model very seriously" (p. 168). This shows how important how people view him as a person is to him.

This book was a narration. It explains how he grew up with not a large amount of money living in the Dominican Republic. It also talks about how he found god and baseball and used those two things as his ways out of the Dominican Republic and lead him on the path of success that he is on now. To this day he still helps and donates to the under privileged especially in the Dominican Republic. An example of this would be "I believe it is my responsibility to do what I can for children and people with Down syndrome as well as in my native Dominican Republic" (p. 95). This shows that he tries to help others that are not as lucky as him.

I enjoyed this book. I enjoyed how it talked about his journey throughout his life to make it where he is today. There is not a single thing I disliked nor is there anything I would change. I would give this book 5/5 stars no doubt. This book is somewhat similar to Toughness by Jay Bilas.

Daniel Butcher says

Pujols: More Than the Game by Scott Lamb and Tim Ellsworth

Scott Lamb and Tim Ellsworth in *Pujols: More Than the Game* chronicles the life and spiritual walk of St. Louis Cardinals slugger and Major League Baseball MVP Albert Pujols. They chart his life from the poverty of the Dominican Republic, immigration to the United States and settling in the Kansas City area as a teenager and his quick impact on the game of baseball. Lamb and Ellsworth don't just document Pujols' life between the lines but also chronicle the efforts of Pujols and his wife Deidre to walk a consistent Christian life.

I have a bias. I'm a Cubs fan...so Pujols haunts my dreams. So I came into this reading not wanting to like Pujols. The writers are clearly fans of Pujols and they create a picture of a very moral man who makes choices out of his faith in God and a compassionate heart. In the end, the authors make it difficult for even a Cubs fan, hopefully Pujols' 2012 team, to dislike this Cardinals' hero. And the strength of the book is the stories of Pujols' compassionate acts, these are the scenes where the reader gets to better understand Pujols the man, father and husband. Honestly it's the baseball scenes of the book that are lacking. The authors provide lots of names, numbers, facts and season summaries at a quick pace making it difficult to dig into the action of games and seasons. Also, the book lacks the young people with money acting silly sort of stories that one typically finds in baseball books. I don't need stories of Pujols drinking and acting immorally but an excellent Christian witness would be stories of a young man really enjoying himself as he earns millions playing a game and being in top physical condition. Honestly this book lacks the funny and silly stories one typically finds in a baseball biography, that is not exploring the evils of steroids. Also, the authors do mention some negative incidents in Pujols' career especially in incidents with the press, but they defend Pujols' character strongly. In fact perhaps too strongly, giving readers a 20 point list of why Pujols has never used steroids, that could easily be boiled down to faith, integrity and bodily stewardship. Sadly, this book is at times just too bland to be considered a great baseball book.

Review Copy Provided by Thomas Nelson

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

Does the name Albert Pujols mean anything to you?

In 2010 Pujols became the first player in baseball history to bat .300 with 30 home runs and 100 runs batted in for ten consecutive seasons. That is something that Babe Ruth, Ted Williams and Hank Aaron did not do. In the 2010 season Pujols also hit 408 home runs. Every time he touched home plate he pointed toward heaven, giving credit to a power higher than himself.

If you aren't a fan of baseball and statistics don't impress you, perhaps Albert's off the field deeds will impress you.

Albert Pujols was born in the Dominican Republic where poverty prevails but so does baseball. In his teenage years, the Pujols family immigrated to the US where Albert enrolled in high school, started playing baseball and learned about Jesus Christ. From that time on he has tried to live his life as a good Christian man. He has foundations to help kids and families with Down Syndrome because with his own daughter affected by this disability, he knows how it is. Pujols also frequently and freely gives back to his own birthplace in Dominican Republic, helping with medical care and necessities of life.

Those close to Albert speak highly of him as a man and as an athlete.

I enjoyed reading through this book. I love baseball and there is no doubt that Albert Pujols is an amazingly talented athlete. His statistics speak for themselves. It's nice to read about the good efforts he is making to

help others and give back. This was a well written biography. It's wasn't a stay up past midnight to finish it kind of book, but it was interesting and definitely left me feeling good. Here is my favorite line from the book. "This isn't only about being a baseball player. It's about having the opportunity to change lives."

Jon Moeller says

I love Albert, but this book was pure propaganda. I loved to learn of his story, but this book was over the top. I thought for a minute it was written by his mom. I'm sure this was for his free agency for everyone to see how great of a guy he is. And the Angels read it and bought it. Still love him and his story.

Brandon Rehn says

Pujols: More than the Game was written by Scott Lamb and Tim Ellsworth. Albert Pujols was born in the Dominican Republic. He was raised by a father who always played baseball and even played softball when he was older, so he gained a love for baseball. He didn't have the best childhood, because his family didn't have too much money so he had to sleep on the streets for a while. Also, after every softball game his dad would go and get drunk so Albert would have to pretty much drag him home. When he was a teenager he and his family moved to America. He played baseball for Fort Osage High School in Kansas City, Missouri. He went on to play baseball for West Arkansas Community College. He now plays in the majors. He played With the St. Louis Cardinals from 2001-2011. But, for the last 2 years he's been playing for the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. Throughout all of the moves he's made and the teams he's played for he's done some pretty cool and amazing things, on and off the field. Whether it's from his amazing stats or just helping some people out, he does his best wherever he is.

This is one of the best books I've ever read. I liked this book, because it's about baseball and God, both of which I really love. I've always liked Albert Pujols as a player, but now I like him even more as a person also. It was cool to get to more about his background and also more about his life right now. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who either loves baseball or God, or if you love them both like me, you will absolutely enjoy it. Also, if you just like Albert Pujols or want to know more about, because this is definitely the book for that. "I try to spend as much time as possible with God and my family. That's more important than anything I'm doing in baseball." Page 131 Lamb, Scott, and Tim Ellsworth. Pujols: More than the Game. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2011. Print.
