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Chasing The Cup: My America's Cup Journey



Synopsis

Jimmy Spithill is one of the world's most successful sailboat racing skippers. He has, at 38, reached legendary status. This is his much-anticipated autobiography, and it opens with a young Spithill in the hospital about to have surgery on his leg, being told by the doctors he'll never be very good at sports. Instead of spelling defeat, that moment sparked a life-long determination to prove them wrong. Spithill won his first sailboat race at age 10 and went on to win regattas all over the country, and then the world. He debuted in the America's Cup as a skipper at age 20, and after a tough legal battle to free himself from his contract with the Young Australia team, he sailed in the next two Cups before becoming the youngest skipper to ever win the America's Cup in 2010, at the helm of the most extreme yacht the competition had ever seen--the 90-foot long by 90-foot wide trimaran USA 17. He won the Cup again in 2013 in a remarkable comeback that shattered his opponents. As the world knows, Spithill faced a daunting challenge in the 2017 Cup. In addition to providing unparalleled insights into Spithill's background and training, *Chasing the Cup* is the insider's look at the challenges he faced as he defended the Cup against New Zealand's powerful pedal-powered boats. Spithill speaks with humility and honesty about this year's Cup in this remarkable, timely autobiography. *Chasing the Cup* breaks open the closed-off world of the America's Cup, and Spithill's open, honest style gives a rare insight into the mind of an extremely focused man at the pinnacle of his sport. It's a rags-to-riches story of fierce determination, court cases, seasickness, crashed boats and cars, alcohol, and persevering against all the odds. And it all contributed to turning a quiet, bullied, water-loving blue-collar redhead from Sydney into one of sailing's biggest rock stars. *Chasing the Cup* is a compelling read, packed with lessons in leadership, teamwork, and achieving your dreams, no matter how many setbacks you face.

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Customer Reviews

Fascinating behind the scenes insight during the most disruptive period in the event's modern history... Spithill also uses the book to even the score with critics, question authority, opine on parenthood, and teach the tenets of team. * Scuttlebutt Sailing News *

Jimmy Spithill is 38, but is already a two-time winner of the America's Cup and one of the most famous sailors in the world. In 2013 he led his team to what the Wall Street Journal called "one of the greatest comebacks in sports history." Oracle Team USA was down 8-1, before rallying for eight consecutive wins to defeat Emirates Team New Zealand 9-8. In 2017, the story ended differently and in *Chasing the Cup*, Spithill tells us why. When he's not training with a team, Spithill takes a keen interest in flying--he's flown with the Blue Angels, the Red Bull Flying Bulls, and holds his private pilot license. He is also an accomplished amateur boxer and has completed two Molokai to Oahu stand-up paddle crossings. @JSpithill

Two-time America's Cup winning skipper Jimmy Spithill opened the window wide open to his life in the release of *Chasing The Cup: My America's Cup Journey*. Spithill takes us on a trek that explains his character and convictions, from his early days around Sydney Harbor to the consolation beers following his recent defeat in Bermuda. The book is a tale with two halves: before Team Oracle and with Team Oracle. I found Spithill to be quite brave in the first half, revealing so much about his physical and family troubles. He was no silver-spooner, and the fight we have seen on the race course and interviews is well rooted in a bullied kid that found solace in the boxing ring and waterfront. His scrappy rise up the ranks earned him a lead position when Russell Coutts took over the reins of Team Oracle. Spithill shares the stories of these three America's Cup campaigns, offering fascinating behind-the-scenes insight during the most disruptive period in the event's modern history. Spithill also uses the book to even the score with critics, question authority, opine on parenthood, and teach the tenets of team. While the reporting on his Team Oracle era came with some bias, I believe he fulfilled his mission with the book to show how honest effort can be rewarded. I appreciated Spithill for taking on the challenge of sharing his story and recommend this easy read, especially to anyone who seeks to inspire youth sailors to reach

farther.

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