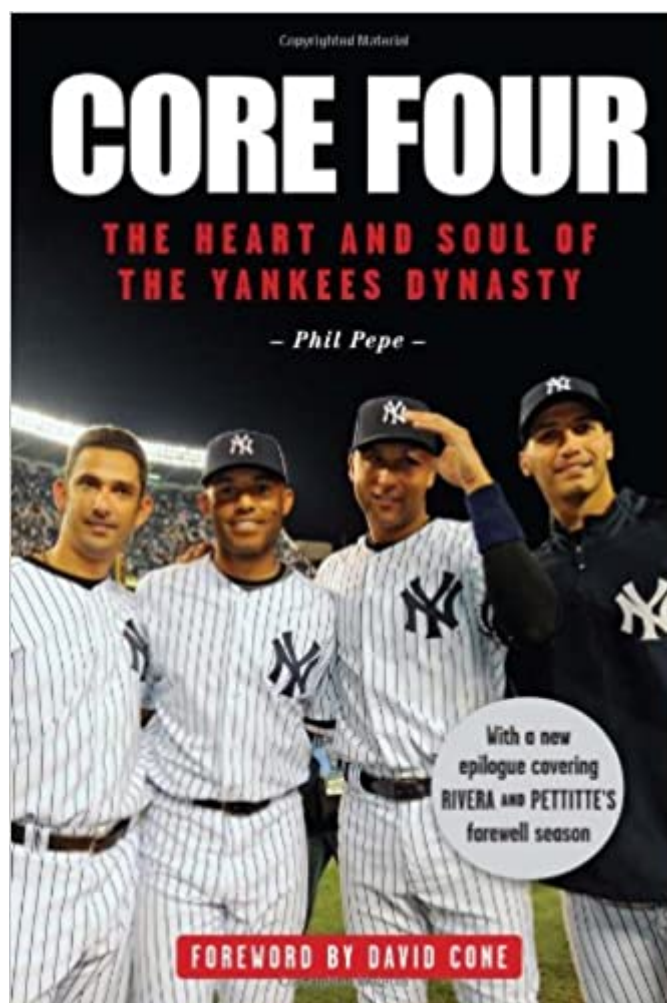


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# Core Four: The Heart And Soul Of The Yankees Dynasty



## Synopsis

Tracing the careers of four instrumental players who turned around the Yankees ball club, this book shares behind-the-scenes stories from their early days together in the minors through the 2013 season, and follows them on their majestic ride to the top of the baseball world. At a time when the New York Yankees were in free fall, having failed to win a World Series in 17 years and had not played in one in 14 years—the Bronx Bombers—the longest drought since before the days of Babe Ruth—along came four young players whose powerful impact returned the franchise to its former glory. They were a diverse group from different parts of the globe: Mariano Rivera, a right-handed pitcher from Panama, who was destined to become the all-time record holder in saves and baseball's greatest closer; Derek Jeter, a shortstop raised in Kalamazoo, Michigan, who would become the first Yankee to accumulate 3,000 hits; Jorge Posada, an infielder-turned-catcher from Puerto Rico, who would hit more home runs than any Yankees catcher except the legendary Hall of Famer Yogi Berra; and Andy Pettitte, a left-handed pitcher born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who would win more postseason games than any player in baseball history. Together they formed the "Core Four" and would go on to play as teammates for 13 seasons during which time they would help the Yankees advance to the postseason 12 times, win the American League pennant seven times, and take home five World Series trophies. This book follows these phenoms from the minor leagues to the present, detailing their significant contributions to a winning major league franchise. This 2014 edition updates readers on Jeter's struggles with injuries and recovery, Rivera's final season, and Pettitte's and Jeter's plans moving forward.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Phil Pepe is the author of more than 50 books on sports, including *Few and Chosen Yankees: Defining Yankee Greatness Across the Eras*, *The Yankees: An Authorized History of the New York Yankees*, as well as a biography of Yogi Berra, and collaborations with New York Yankee legends Mickey Mantle, Billy Martin, and Whitey Ford. He is a former Yankees beat writer for the New York Daily News and a past president of the Baseball Writers Association of America. He lives in Englewood, New Jersey. David Cone is a former Major League Baseball pitcher who won four World Series as a member of the Yankees. He is currently a commentator for the Yankees on the YES Network.

I love books that give the inside story that we don't get as fans. Joe Torre's "The Yankee Years" was a good one of those. So was Buster Olney's "The End of the Yankees Dynasty". Phil Pepe's attempt, "Core Four: The Heart and Soul of the Yankees Dynasty" isn't a bad attempt per se but having lived through this most recent rise and decline of the dynasty, I can't help but notice how many details seem to be omitted for no apparent reason. For example, Pepe notes that Roger Clemens followed Andy Pettitte back to the Yankees in 2006 but doesn't say anything about how much of a bust Clemens Part 2 was for the Yankees. He makes note of how Joe Torre dropped Alex Rodriguez to 8th in the line-up for Game 4 of the 2006 Divisional Series against the Detroit Tigers (as has been well and over-publicized) but makes no mention of the fact that, excluding Derek Jeter, Jorge Posada and Bobby Abreu, none of the team's hitters showed up for the series. Robinson Cano went 2-15 (.133), Johnny Damon 4-17 (.235), Jason Giambi 1-8 (.125), etc. It makes mention of the Yankees' pick-up of Nick Swisher in a trade from the Chicago White Sox prior to the 2009 season but says nothing of how it was in exchange for Wilson Betemit, a switch-hitting back-up infielder who had bad hands in the field and was worthless from the right side of the plate, easily one of the best steals of GM Brian Cashman's career. As I said, it's not a bad book, per se, and I get that the primary focus is on the Core 4 but still, as it is a book that's secondary focus is on documenting the 90s and 00s Yankee teams, a little more detail would have been nice.

If you're a true yankee fan, and especially a fan of the core four, it is the only way I see you tolerating this book. It is good for one go around but definitely not a book I would have on display on my bookshelf. It reads as a Yankees homage. So much so that my inner reading voice turned into

John Sterling half way through page 1. The tolerance factor comes in two different forms. The fact that there is a bunch of information (most of which we already know) which is repeated in different pages. Which makes it seem as though the author was just trying to fill in empty space. And to me it seemed like there was really no direction in this book. Their 4 stories rarely intertwined. Which if that was the goal then they should have just named the book "Jeter, Posada, Pettitte and Mariano". You can definitely tell by reading this book that there were no interviews with any players, or their wives, or their old baby sitters. Just stories you could easily find on google. Which is what dissapoints me the most

I enjoyed the book mainly because I am a huge NYY fan. The subtitle specifically says: "the heart and soul...". I'm afraid that the book misses that very point. Statistics are a major part of the baseball experience, and the book is full of statistics. I would have preferred to read more about them as teammates. Perhaps, more interesting anecdotes would have given a more personal touch. I doubt there will ever be a more impactful foursome on any team ever. Their legacy is powerful.

great read-satisfied customer

There will never be another "Core Four" and this makes this publication truly valuable and something an avid Yankees fan will always treasure. Young baseball players should look to these four pillars of sportsmanship to learn the correct way to handle oneself in the big leagues and the correct values to carry that will ensure success and happiness in their career. It's all about teamwork and the correct way of doing things to get to the top. This is what the core four stood for and this is what all athletes should emulate. A great read. A fun book and a treasure to keep forever.

Great book. Captured my 10 year old son's attention.

A must read for any Yankees fan. It gives a great descriptive background on Andy, Derek, Mo, & Jorge and follows them through their careers. I also enjoyed the blurbs on the various teammates they had during their dynasty. I don't know if any team will ever produce such quality players and keep them in this manner ever again.

My hubs loved this.

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