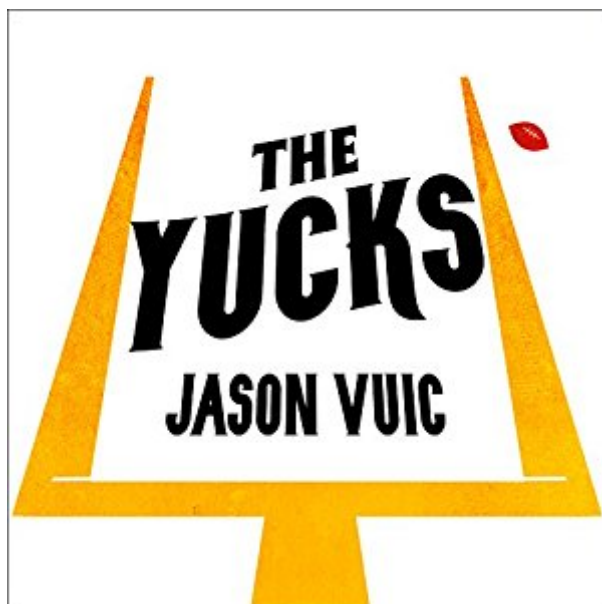


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# The Yucks: Two Years In Tampa With The Losingest Team In NFL History



## Synopsis

Long before their first Super Bowl victory in 2003, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers did something no NFL team had ever done before and that none will ever likely do again: They lost 26 games in a row. It started in 1976, in their first season as an expansion team, and it lasted until the penultimate game of the 1977 season, when they defeated Archie Manning and the New Orleans Saints on the road. It was the beginning of a new streak for a team that had come to be called "The Yucks". They won their final game at home, and the fans tore down the goalposts. This was no ordinary streak. It was an existential curse that unfolded week after week, with Johnny Carson leading the charge on The Tonight Show. Along with their ridiculous mascot and uniforms, the Yucks were a national punch line and personnel purgatory. Owned by the miserly and bulbous-nosed Hugh Culverhouse, the team was the end of the line for Heisman Trophy winner Steve Spurrier, and a banishment for former Cowboy defensive end Pat Toomay after he wrote a tell-all book about his time on "America's Team." Jason Vuic's *The Yucks* is an unforgettable and hilarious account of athletic futility and despair.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 7 hours and 19 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: August 30, 2016

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B01KYCV0IO

Best Sellers Rank: #111 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Coaching > Football (American) #454 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Sports & Recreation #537 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > History of Sports

## Customer Reviews

THE YUCKS by Jason Vuic visits the birth and growth of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from the seeds of thought of an NFL team in the late 1960's and early 1970's, to the awfulness and ineptitude on the first two seasons in 1976 and 1977, where the moniker of "The Yucks" started, to the stumbling and rarely successful modern history of the NFL franchise of the Bucs. Vuic creates

the scene of Tampa in the late 60's and early 70's to help clarify how an NFL franchise landed there. He discusses the geographic uniqueness of the area, and considers how most of Florida residents, especially those in the Tampa area, are transplants and very few were native. Along with other considerations, Vuic shows how Tampa won the franchise and how the city, as well as the NFL, immediately got behind and supported this new team. Vuic introduces the owner, Hugh Culverhouse, who sees the team as a business only, without a care for football or the thrill of competition. The coach, John McKay, that is brought in has a vision, but is brash and unapologetic in his coaching style. Vuic discusses most of the major parties involved with the creation of the team, from the front office personnel to the major player acquisitions over the first few years. Vuic's description of the first two seasons of the Bucs, along with a brief overview of the team after that, shows an endearing and hopeful view of a team that seemed to be the lovable losers that the nation, even personalities like Johnny Carson and Bill Cosby, embraced and enjoyed. A real pleasure to read for a football fan, *THE YUCKS* is a comprehensive history of the creation of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers told from a nurturing and hopeful perspective that maybe the Bucs will eventually grow beyond that early moniker. Thank you to Simon & Schuster, Jason Vuic, and Netgalley for a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review!

Perhaps no professional sports team has been so ubiquitous for being so bad than the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. They became a national joke, regularly featuring as the punchline on Johnny Caron's Tonight Show. They wore uniforms lovingly mocked as being creamsicle in color, and their winking, effeminate mascot was out of place in the testosterone driven world of the 1970s National Football League. Of course none of that would have mattered had they won. But they lost. Badly. Starting in 1976, the Bucs would go on to lose their first 26 regular season games, some games failing to put up a single point on the board. Their owner was a notorious cheapskate who painted the team facility walls white so that he wouldn't have to buy a projection screen for reviewing game tape. His refusal to pay players would ultimately cost him Bo Jackson and super-bowl winning quarterback Doug Williams. The coach, John McKay, was a 1970s and more likable version of Chip Kelly. He exhausted his players with two-a-day practices in the triple digit heat, and his roster became a revolving door. It wasn't uncommon for a player to join the Bucs on a Monday and be gone by Wednesday. At one point, they tried out their Coke delivery man because they thought he might be able to kick balls. McKay became more famous for his one-liners than his coaching skill. When asked how he felt about his team's execution, he notoriously answered: "I'm all for it." I'm a huge football fan. I would not recommend this book for people who aren't. If you don't know game

terminology, you won't get a lot out of this book. For fans, however, both of the team and the sport, this book is a bit of fun to get you ready for the upcoming season. I received an ARC of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

I really enjoyed this book. It was a book on not only football but business, sociology, psychology, and history. But the laughs and funny anecdotes regarding the main characters is probably the most entertaining aspect.

I really loved this book. Not only do you get to learn how hard it was to build a franchise in the 70's but it is told with a lot of humor. You will find yourself laughing out loud. Great book for any lover of sports or history.

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