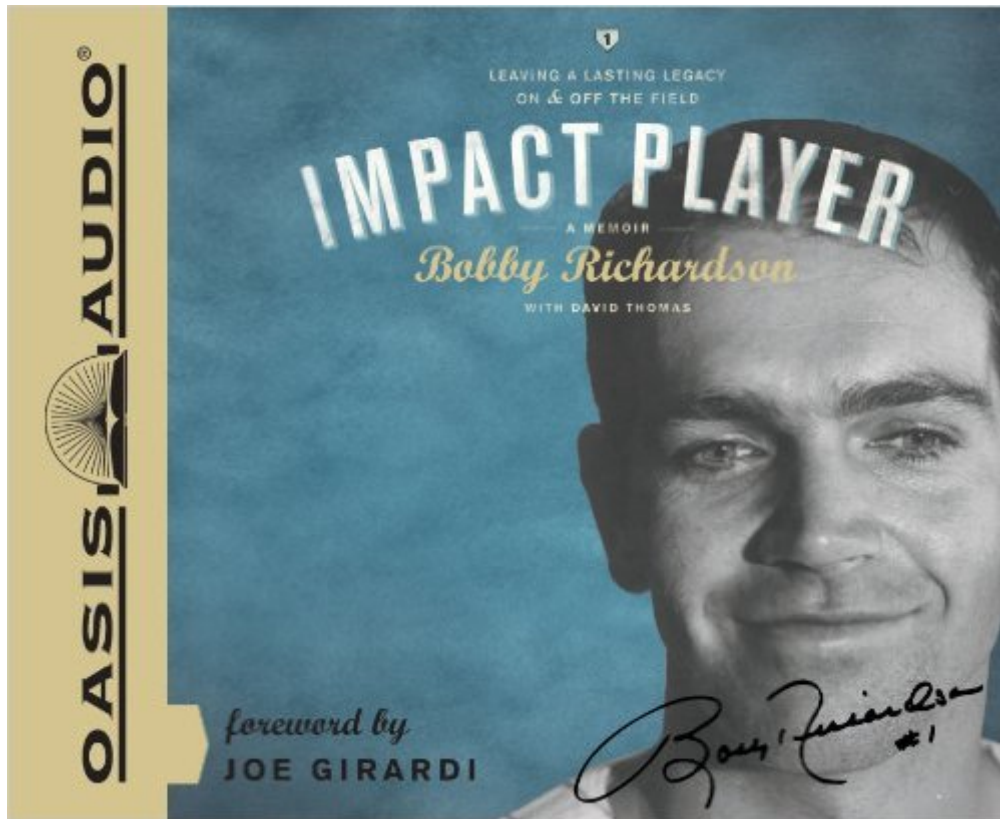


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# Impact Player: Leaving A Lasting Legacy On And Off The Field



## Synopsis

"I want to thank the good Lord for making me a Yankee." — Bobby Richardson. Bobby Richardson played alongside Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris, Whitey Ford, Moose Skowron, and Yogi Berra during one of the greatest dynasties in baseball history, and he remains to this day the only player from a losing team ever to be named World Series MVP. *Impact Player* chronicles Bobby's life story from his early days playing American Legion ball in South Carolina through his storied career with the Yankees and his decision to walk away from the game in his prime. He shares never-before-told tales from the Yankees clubhouse during the historic '55-'64 pennant runs, and he speaks candidly about the unlikely friendship this devout, clean-cut Christian shared with the fast-and-hard-living Mickey Mantle — a friendship that lasted for decades and would ultimately change the lives of these former teammates forever. The perfect combination of faith and baseball, *Impact Player* is a must-listen for baseball fans and historians of all ages. It not only offers a rare glimpse into one of those most celebrated dynasties in the history of the game but also paints a fascinating portrait of a life well lived and portrays the lasting rewards that come from knowing and loving God.

## Book Information

Audio CD: 2012 pages

Publisher: Oasis Audio; Unabridged edition (September 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1613752679

ISBN-13: 978-1613752678

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 0.6 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (104 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,247,425 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #254 in Books > Books on CD > Sports & Outdoors #2023 in Books > Books on CD > Religion & Spirituality > Christianity #2207 in Books > Books on CD > Biographies & Memoirs

## Customer Reviews

I came across this book in a bookstore unaware that Bobby Richardson had written an update to "The Bobby Richardson Story" that was published several years ago. I knew without reservation that it would be a book suitable for young people to read as well as those familiar with his career with the New York Yankees. Richardson amply covers his career with the Yankees during those glory years

of the 1950s and early 1960s. We also are introduced to his life prior to his professional baseball career and how he came to be a Christian. If you are familiar with Bobby Richardson you know he is going to spend considerable time telling us about his faith in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. The most important decision in any individual's life will not be in what field of work they choose or who, if anyone, they choose to marry. It is what they decide to do with Jesus Christ. Richardson tells a number of anecdotes and experiences of some of his teammates. The most time is spent on his relationship with Mickey Mantle. Richardson is not one to push his faith on others, but he does emphasize the importance of having a relationship with Jesus Christ. He doesn't come across with a holier than thou attitude as he explains his own shortcomings with being away from his family for extended periods of time as a ball player, and as a public speaker that took away from family time as well. The title of the book is "Impact Player" and it is appropriate as Bobby Richardson has had an impact on a number of individuals in his lifetime both with baseball players and the general public as well. I remember reading "The Bobby Richardson Story" when it first came out probably sometime in the 1960s and it included a poem entitled "God's Hall of Fame."

For anyone interested in how the game of baseball used to be played, I recommend reading this book. Not being a New York Yankee fan myself, I was a little apprehensive to review a memoir of one of their most famous players. After reading the first few chapters, I wholeheartedly changed my mind! Mr. Richardson played for the team when money was not a factor in winning. Neither were egos, tremendously high salaries, and off season antics. Bobby Richardson was born in Sumter, South Carolina and at age 12, became a faithful Christian. He tried playing both football and basketball but quickly realized baseball was his true calling. He practiced hard, joined his local American Legion team, and eventually his high school team. He was scouted by many different teams but after watching the movie "The Pride of the Yankees" about Lou Gehrig, he decided that he wanted to be a part of that Yankee family. In June of 1953, Mr. Richardson graduated high school and signed his first contract with the New York Yankees. But getting to the majors was not an easy task. He was bounced around from farm team to farm team, having to prove himself every step of the way. He started at the bottom rung of the baseball ladder. It took two years before he made his debut as a Yankee and four years before he would become a permanent starting major leaguer. All the while, his tribulations were met with prayer and constant devotion to his faith in God. Some years he felt like giving up but God always called him back to the field. This book is filled with amusing and touching stories of behind the scenes in the Yankee organization. He devoted time to discuss each player that were on his teams. It is fun to read about these historic baseball players on

an intimate level.

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