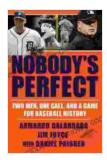
# Two Men, One Call, and a Game for Baseball History

#### The Story Behind the Perfect Game

On May 8, 1968, Detroit Tigers pitcher Denny McLain took the mound against the Baltimore Orioles. What followed was a historic game that would forever be etched in baseball lore. McLain threw a perfect game, striking out 10 batters and not allowing a single base runner. It was the first perfect game in Major League Baseball since 1880, and it remains one of the most dominant pitching performances in history.

This book tells the story of that game, from the lead-up to the final out, and provides insights into the two men who made it possible: McLain and Orioles catcher Elrod Hendricks.



### Nobody's Perfect: Two Men, One Call, and a Game for Baseball History by Armando Galarraga

★ ★ ★ ★ 4.5 out of 5 Language : English File size : 819 KB Text-to-Speech : Enabled Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled X-Rav : Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 257 pages Lending : Enabled



#### **Denny McLain**

Denny McLain was born in Jacksonville, Illinois, on March 29, 1944. He was a gifted athlete who excelled in both baseball and basketball. After graduating from high school, he signed a contract with the Chicago White Sox. McLain made his Major League debut in 1963, and he quickly established himself as one of the most promising young pitchers in the game.

In 1968, McLain was at the peak of his powers. He had won 20 games the previous season, and he was considered one of the favorites for the American League Cy Young Award. On May 8, 1968, McLain took the mound against the Baltimore Orioles, and he was determined to make history.

#### **Elrod Hendricks**

Elrod Hendricks was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on March 23, 1939. He was a talented catcher who had a strong arm and a good eye at the plate. After graduating from high school, he signed a contract with the Baltimore Orioles. Hendricks made his Major League debut in 1962, and he quickly became one of the best catchers in the game.

In 1968, Hendricks was the starting catcher for the Baltimore Orioles. He was known for his ability to handle pitchers and for his strong throwing arm. On May 8, 1968, Hendricks caught Denny McLain's perfect game.

#### **The Perfect Game**

The game between the Detroit Tigers and the Baltimore Orioles on May 8, 1968, was a pitchers' duel from the start. McLain and Orioles starter Dave

McNally matched each other pitch for pitch, and neither team could get a runner on base.

In the bottom of the ninth inning, McLain came to the plate with two outs. He hit a ground ball to shortstop Mark Belanger, but Belanger fielded the ball cleanly and threw to first base for the final out of the game. McLain had thrown a perfect game, and he had etched his name into baseball history.

#### The Aftermath

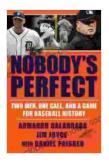
The perfect game was a major turning point in McLain's career. He went on to win 31 games that season, and he won the American League Cy Young Award. McLain continued to pitch for several more years, but he never again reached the same level of success that he achieved in 1968.

Hendricks continued to catch for the Orioles for several more years. He was a key member of the Orioles' World Series championship team in 1970. Hendricks retired from baseball in 1974, and he was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2017.

The perfect game is one of the most iconic moments in baseball history. It is a testament to the skill and determination of two men: Denny McLain and Elrod Hendricks.

#### **Epilogue**

The perfect game is a reminder that anything is possible in baseball. It is a game of dreams, and it is a game of history. The story of Denny McLain and Elrod Hendricks is a story of two men who achieved their dreams, and it is a story that will continue to inspire generations of baseball fans.

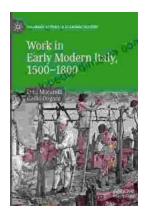


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