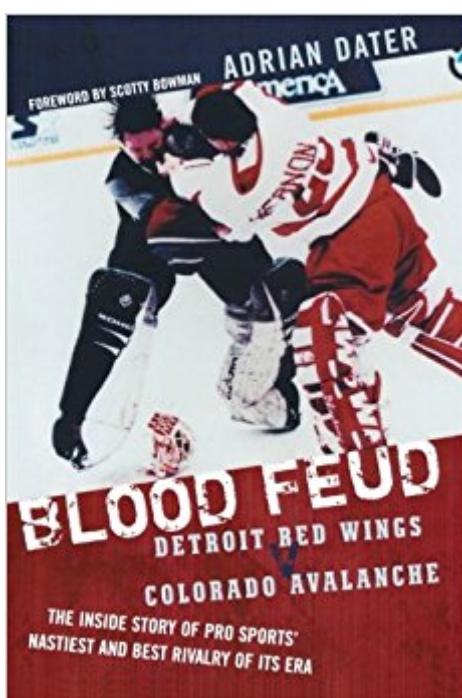


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# Blood Feud: Detroit Red Wings V. Colorado Avalanche: The Inside Story Of Pro Sports' Nastiest And Best Rivalry Of Its Era



## Synopsis

In *Blood Feud*, Colorado Avalanche beat writer Adrian Dater not only submits that the Red Wings-Avalanche rivalry was the most feverish match-up in recent years, but also that there was none better played. No fewer than twenty players have or will eventually make it to the Hall of Fame; the best scorers were matched up against the best goalies; brilliant coaches could be found on both benches; and two of the league's smartest general managers ruthlessly tried to one-up each other at every NHL trade deadline. *Blood Feud* is a rollicking story of a fierce, and often violent, rivalry.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A must-read for all hockey fans. (Scotty Bowman, former National Hockey League head coach)

Adrian Dater covers the Colorado Avalanche for the Denver Post. He lives in Thornton, Colorado.

Between 1996 and 2002, the best rivalry in professional sports was that between the Detroit Red Wings and the Colorado Avalanche. They were the best two teams in hockey at that time, winning four Stanley Cups between them and facing off in some memorable games in both the regular season and the Stanley Cup playoffs. This rivalry is captured in this book by Denver sports writer Adam Dater. There are short biographies of key personnel from both sides, such as Colorado goaltender Patrick Roy and Detroit coach Scotty Bowman. Memorable fights are relived such as the hit on Red Wing Kris Draper by Claude Lemieux, which was believed by many to be the opening salvo in this bitter feud. Dater covers these seasons fully, especially the Stanley Cup playoffs, mainly

through stories about the teams in the major newspapers of the two cities. While a book on any good sports rivalry can be riveting, this book falls a bit short of that because of the frequent use of newspaper articles for the information. Most of the original material is not new insight into the rivalry but instead on short biographies on players and coaches for both teams. The two previously mentioned, Roy and Bowman, make for good information to readers who may not be familiar with their stories, but hardcore fans may be left disappointed with the lack of depth. Dater also injects personal notes into the book, including a passage on how he became a sports writer. Again, this is a mixed bag. Sometimes his personal interactions with players and coaches adds a nice touch, such as the story about Bowman, but other times this comes off as too much self-promotion. Because of the quality of the teams and the rivalry between them, I did finish this book and enjoyed reliving that era of hockey. This book is for readers who are just looking for that type of experience, or if they are fans of either team. Since Dater is a Denver resident, there is a slant toward the Avalanche, but overall the writing is fair to both teams and also fair in overall quality.

I lived in Denver during the time of the Rivalry. Adrian Dater capture the feel of what I think was some of the best hockey played during those years. The Red Wing Avalanche rivalry was also probably one of the best team rivalries in all of sports.

You simply cannot go wrong with the Avalanche-Red Wing rivalry. It is such a unique, exciting, and violent tale that you cannot help but sit and watch it like some kind of "car wreck in slow motion," to quote Darren McCarty's description of the infamous Lemieux-Draper hit. Dater does an excellent job of writing a reasonably objective (considering that Dater was a Denver-based sports writer) description of what happened, when, how, and why. Trying to dig deeper than simply a play-by-play, Dater provides perspectives from many of the involved players, officials, coaches, and sports writers. This was essential to making this a successful book. This is more than just a box score or game breakdown. Dater gets down to the emotions and feelings of the men involved, gives a brief background for key characters, and shows the good and bad side to one of sports' most fierce rivalries. This was both the most exciting hockey of the time, and also the most brutal. In some cases, Dater pulls no punches, and even though Dater clearly is in the Av's corner, he paints a very negative picture of Claude Lemieux, and especially Patrick Roy. Dater's attempt at objectivity is not perfect, but the fact he tried at all is a testament to his writing character. All that said, I was a little disappointed with the writing itself and what was missing. There are so many examples of missing information, poorly written blurbs, unnecessary additions, and simple bad writing that I am not even

sure where to begin. To start with, I could care less about Dater's high school experiences, divorce, or non-hockey background, although it did help explain why he has always been such a mediocre hockey writer. His description of the infamous Marc Crawford meltdown provides a great transcript, but he never explains why exactly it happened. Brendan Shanahan had been in a fight with Rene Corbet and had, allegedly, knocked Corbet's head into the ice again and again. This spurred Crawford into a frenzy, as he felt the officials just sat there and let it happen (as they frequently seemed to do whenever the going got rough). Dater never discusses this. Dater also overly relies on the sports writing of his Denver cronies, especially Woody Paige, who is proven here to be one of the biggest homers in sports writing history. Pretty sad when a sports writer resorts to insulting impoverished autoworkers, instead of focusing on what is happening on the ice. Dater lets Paige off a little too easy. Dater is critical of homerism, but sure seemed to demonstrate it himself in sticking up for his fellow sports writers. Although Dater gets into the head of Roy, Lemieux, Bowman, and McCarty and does provide quotes from a host of players, I would also have liked to have seen more of that, and less from the writers. What did the likes of Foote, Sakic, and Yzerman have to say? There just seemed to be so much missing from this book. But I don't mean to get overly critical. I still give this book 4 stars. It might be a little clunky for a supposed professional writer, but it is a can't-miss story that provides a lot of behind-the-scene information. I read it in a day... then read it again. For a hockey fan, I can't recommend this book more.

This book reads a lot like other sports memoirs, but I happen to adore this subject. Plus it was written by a professional writer, so it just reads better. I am all about the Wings, and this era was my very favorite. So much fun to look back, with an insider's view, to the most engrossing rivalry in the time where such rivalries could still flourish.

As a lifelong Nordiques/Avs fan, I knew I had to buy this book. It's a must buy for any hockey fan, especially Red Wings and Avalanche fans. It's a great behind the scenes look at one of the nastiest, most brutal rivalries in all of sports.

Despite following the Avalanche closely through this era, there was much in the book new to me. The book includes long sections about Scotty Bowman, then the coach of the Red Wings, and the book created an entirely different perspective of him. It also was enjoyable to relive the thrills and excitement of this era.

Author did a good job of "keeping it equal" in my opinion, given that he was a writer for Colorado. Found it to be entertaining and reminded me of some of the "lost" episodes in this great rivalry. I still remember circling those dates when the schedule came out and the games surely did not disappoint. Overall I gave it four stars. Go Wings!!

As a life-long Red Wing fan, I found the behind the scenes accounts extremely riveting. Matter of fact, I think I'll go back and read it again! Quick and interesting read. A must for the Avalanche/Red Wing fans out there.

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