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Turning Two: My Journey to the Top of the World and Back with the New York Mets

Bud Harrelson, Phil Pepe

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Only one man, Bud Harrelson, can say he was in uniform for both New York Mets world championships: as the shortstop who anchored the infield of the 1969 "Miracle Mets" and then as the third-base coach for the storied 1986 team. In *Turning Two*, Harrelson delivers a team memoir as he takes fans through the early seasons, sudden success, lean years, and return to glory.

Born on D-day 1944, the Alameda County, California, native made his Major League debut with the Mets in 1965. At 147 pounds he was the team's Everyman---a Gold Glove, All-Star shortstop who won the hearts of fans with his sparkling defensive skills and trademark brand of gritty, scrappy baseball.
Harrelson recalls how the gentle yet firm guidance of manager Gil Hodges shaped a stunning success story in ‘69. Bud remembers the game's legends he played with and against, including Hall of Famers Tom Seaver, Nolan Ryan, Roberto Clemente, Bob Gibson (against whom he compiled a .333 career batting average), and his idol, Willie Mays---Harrelson's teammate on the 1973 "Ya Gotta Believe" team. Harrelson writes of his famous fight with Pete Rose in the playoffs that autumn as the Mets upset the Cincinnati Reds to win the National League pennant and squared off against the mighty Oakland A's in a dramatic seven-game World Series. After retiring as a player, Bud returned to Shea Stadium as Davey Johnson's third-base coach in 1985 and waved Ray Knight home for the winning run in the unforgettable Game 6 of the 1986 World Series.

Harrelson takes us in the dugout and on the field as he tells thrilling tales from his career and speaks candidly of the state of the game today. *Turning Two* is the ideal souvenir from the first half-century of the New York Mets---and from the pre-steroid era when players played the game the right way and did the little things to help their teams win.

Bud Harrelson in *Turning Two*

On Gil Hodges

"Hodges accomplished his goal with compassion and a gentle hand and attained discipline simply by being such an imposing physical specimen. He rarely lost his temper, but on the few occasions that he did, you can bet he got our attention."

On Battling at the Plate

"I have always said I'll take God to three-and-two and take my chances. I might foul two off before He gave me ball four."

On 1969

"Torre hit a smash to me at short and I'm thinking, Don't screw up the throw; don't rush it. I knew I could catch it. I just wanted to be sure to make a good, firm throw right at the chest of Al Weis at second base. I tossed it to Weis and he turned it over to Clendenon at first for the double play and we had won the Mets' first title. We were the first champions of the National League East."

On Playing with Willie Mays

"I reached up to catch the ball and as I did, I stepped on Willie's foot. Oh, no!

‘Hey, Pee Wee, what are you doing out here?' he squealed.

‘I didn't hear anything,' I said.

‘I don't call for the ball,' he said.

‘Well,' I said, ‘if you don't want to get stepped on again, you better start calling for it.'

The next time he was in center field and there was a pop fly, he called for it."

On Tom Seaver to M. Donald Grant

"Mr. Grant, you know why we're doing so well? See that little guy in the corner over there"---and he was pointing right at me---"that guy whose salary you cut? He's the reason we're winning."

On Game 6

"I leaned over to Mitchell and reminded him to be alert and be ready to take off if Stanley threw one in the dirt."

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Teresa Graham:

Reading a book tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With reading you can get a lot of information that could give you benefit in your life. With book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Publications can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their particular reader with their story or even their experience. Not only the story that share in the textbooks. But also they write about the ability about something that you need example. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their expertise in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write with their book. One of them is this Turning Two: My Journey to the Top of the World and Back with the New York Mets.

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