

Drinking Coffee with a Fork

The Story of Steve Carlton and the '72 Phillies

Steve Bucci & Dave Brown

Foreword by Jamie Moyer

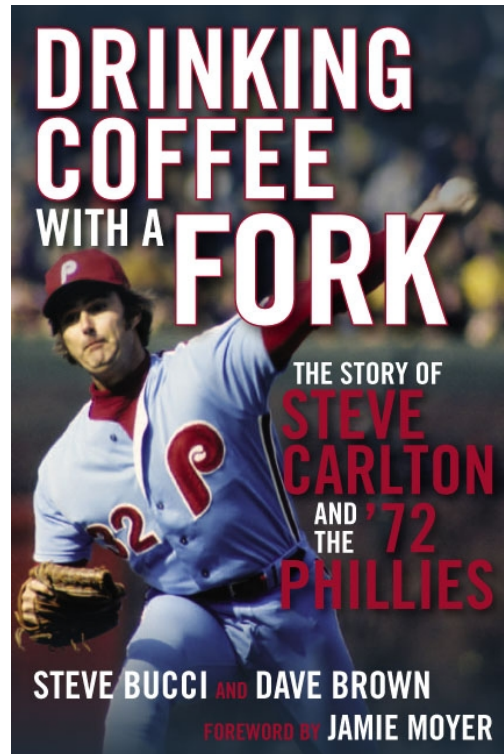
1972 was the year that Steve Carlton became my boyhood idol. I was nine years old that summer, going on 10, and baseball had already become my passion. My family and I were living in Souderton, Pennsylvania, a small, blue-collar town not far from Philadelphia, and naturally, the Phillies were my favorite team. Summertime is always full of fun and excitement when you're a kid, and that summer had the added excitement of the Phillies new pitcher, and the incredible run of success he was enjoying.

Even at that age, I understood the type of year he was having, and was well aware that you don't often see pitchers do what he was doing. That dominance is now chronicled by Steve Bucci and Dave Brown in this wonderful book.

I was drawn to him because of that success, but there was a deeper connection. He was a left-handed pitcher just like me! I watched him, I emulated him, I wondered what he was like. That's the mystique of an idol. The way he went about his business on the mound---his focus, his competitiveness---and the respect he seemed to have for the game were examples to me, and it is something that has stayed with me to this day. Having respect for the game has been very important to me throughout my career.

I got to meet Steve Carlton, by chance, when I was playing college ball at Saint Joseph's University. My coach at Saint Joe's arranged for me to have a private tutoring session with Claude Osteen, the former big league pitcher who was then the Phillies pitching coach. On an indoor mound at the Vet, Claude was talking to me about pitching, and demonstrating to me, when all of sudden, Steve Carlton walks over. He said hello and we shook hands. It was a brief meeting, but I'd thought I'd died and gone to heaven.

That encounter came full circle in 1986. I was playing in the Chicago Cubs organization, when in a complete surprise to me, I get called up to the Majors. The Cubs happened to be playing the Phillies at Wrigley Field. I was told by the Cubs that I'd be pitching the next day. I thought to myself, "wouldn't it be cool if I'm pitching against Steve Carlton?" I looked through the newspaper and discovered that I'd miss Carlton by one day. Oh well. But, at



the end of the night, they tell me, “uh, no, you’re not pitching tomorrow, we’re pushing you back to the next day.” Oh, my goodness. “I’m going to pitch against Carlton,” I thought. I was scared to death. I didn’t know what to do.

I was in trouble throughout the game. But we scored enough runs and managed to win. I struck out Steve, which I thought was the coolest thing. And that was my first Major League victory. I was on cloud nine. My career could’ve ended right there. I had made it to the Major Leagues, pitched against my boyhood hero, and won!

Having spent four years as a Phillie, I’ve run into Carlton around the ballpark many times. Whenever I see him now I’m brought back to my childhood again. He knows that he was my hero. I don’t know what he thinks about it, but whether he realizes it or not, he had an impact on my life just by being the pitcher that he was.

His retired number 32 hangs on the wall outside our clubhouse. Sometimes I’ll stop by the wall and look at his statistics, and it boggles my mind, because the game is so different from his era, to the era that I’m in. I marvel at the numbers, because I know I can’t do that. I wonder how he did it. Especially in 1972, during a season that was a pretty miserable year for the team. I’ve played on teams like that; I know what it can be like. And I wonder, how did he do this? The answer can be found in the pages of this book.

Steve Carlton’s 27 Winning Game Box Scores

Steve Bucci and Dave Brown, authors of *Drinking Coffee with a Fork*, wish to thank Dave Smith of Retrosheet.com for generously giving permission to reproduce the following box scores from Steve Carlton’s legendary 1972 season.

Philadelphia Phillies 4, Chicago Cubs 2
Saturday, April 15, 1972 at Wrigley Field

[PHI N](#) 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 2 - 4 1 0 0

[CHI N](#) 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 - 2 4 2

BATTING

Philadelphia Phillies	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Bowa ss	5	1	1	0	0	0
McCarver c	5	0	2	1	0	1
Montañez cf	5	0	1	0	0	2
Johnson 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0
Luzinski lf	3	1	1	1	1	0
Money 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0
Anderson rf	4	0	2	0	0	0
Doyle 2b	3	1	1	0	1	0
Carlton p	2	0	0	0	0	0
Stone ph	1	1	1	0	0	0
Hoerner p	0	0	0	0	0	0

Totals 36 4 10 2 2 3

BATTING

2B: Anderson (1, off Jenkins); Montañez (1, off Hands)

HR: Luzinski (1, 4th inning off Jenkins 0 on 0 out)

SH: Carlton (1, off Hands)

GDP: [Money](#) (1, off Hands)

Team LOB: 8

BASERUNNING

CS: McCarver (1, 2nd base by Hands/Hundley)

Chicago Cubs	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Cardenal rf	3	1	0	0	1	0
Beckert 2b	4	0	1	1	0	0
Williams lf	4	0	0	0	0	0
Santo 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1
Pepitone 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2
Hundley c	4	0	1	0	0	0
Monday cf	3	1	1	0	0	1
Kessinger ss	2	0	1	0	1	0
Jenkins p	2	0	0	1	0	0
Hands p	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hamilton p	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	31	2	4	2	2	5

FIELDING

DP: 1. Santo-Beckert-Pepitone

E: Cardenal (1), Santo (1)

BATTING

2B: Kessinger (1, off Carlton)

Team LOB: 4

BASERUNNING

SB: Cardenal (1, 2nd base off Carlton/McCarver)

PITCHING

Philadelphia Phillies	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	BF
Carlton W(1-0)	8	4	2	2	2	5	0	30
Hoerner SV(1)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Totals	9	4	2	2	2	5	0	33

Chicago Cubs	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	BF
Jenkins	6	5	1	1	1	2	1	25
Hands L(0-1)	2.2	5	3	1	1	0	0	12
Hamilton	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Totals	9	10	4	2	2	3	1	39

Umpires: HP - [Ed Vargo](#), 1B - [Paul Pryor](#), 2B - [Harry Wendelstedt](#), 3B - [Bruce Froemming](#)

Time of [Game](#): 2:15 Attendance: 17,401

Philadelphia Phillies 1, St. Louis Cardinals 0
Wednesday, April 19, 1972 at Veterans Stadium

[STL N](#) 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 0 3 0

[PHI N](#) 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 x - 1 1 1 0

BATTING

St. Louis Cardinals	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Brock lf	4	0	0	0	0	2
Sizemore 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0
Alou rf	3	0	1	0	0	0
Clendenon 1b	3	0	0	0	0	0
Simmons c	3	0	0	0	0	1
Cruz cf	3	0	0	0	0	0
Crosby 3b,ss	3	0	1	0	0	0
Maxvill ss	2	0	0	0	0	0
McNertney ph	1	0	0	0	0	1
Martinez 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gibson p	2	0	0	0	0	0
Melendez ph	1	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	29	0	3	0	0	5

FIELDING

DP: 3. Clendenon-Maxvill-Clendenon, Sizemore-Clendenon, Brock-Maxvill-Sizemore

BATTING

GDP: Maxvill (1, off Carlton)

Team LOB: 2

Philadelphia Phillies	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Bowa ss	4	0	2	0	0	0
McCarver c	4	0	1	0	0	1
Montañez cf	4	1	1	0	0	1
Johnson 1b	4	0	1	1	0	1
Luzinski lf	4	0	1	0	0	1
Money 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0
Anderson rf	3	0	0	0	0	1
Doyle 2b	2	0	2	0	1	0
Carlton p	3	0	2	0	0	0
Totals	32	1	11	1	1	5

FIELDING

DP: 1. [Money](#)-Doyle-Johnson

BATTING

3B: Montañez (1, off Gibson)

GDP: Montañez (1, off Gibson)

Team LOB: 8

PITCHING

St. Louis Cardinals IP H R ER BB SO HR BF
[Gibson](#) L(0-1) 8 11 1 1 1 5 0 33

Philadelphia Phillies IP H R ER BB SO HR BF
[Carlton](#) W(2-0) 9 3 0 0 0 5 0 29

Umpires: HP - [Ken Burkhart](#), 1B - [Lee Weyer](#), 2B - [Andy Olsen](#), 3B - [Dick Stello](#)

Time of [Game](#): 1:33 Attendance: 8184

Philadelphia Phillies 3, San Francisco Giants 0

Tuesday, April 25, 1972 at Candlestick Park

[PHI N](#) 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 2 0 - 3 6 0

[SF N](#) 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 0 1 0

BATTING

Philadelphia Phillies	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Bowa ss	4	1	1	0	0	0
McCarver c	4	0	0	0	0	0
Montañez cf	3	0	2	0	1	0
Johnson 1b	4	0	1	2	0	2
Luzinski lf	3	1	0	0	1	2
Money 3b	3	0	1	0	1	0
Anderson rf	3	0	0	0	0	1
Doyle 2b	3	0	0	1	0	0
Carlton p	4	1	1	0	0	2
Totals	31	3	6	3	3	7

BATTING

2B: Bowa (1, off Marichal); Money (1, off Marichal)

SH: Anderson (1, off Marichal)

SF: Doyle (1, off Marichal)

IBB: Montañez (1, by Marichal)

Team LOB: 6.

San Francisco Giants	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Speier ss	4	0	1	0	0	2
Fuentes 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1
Bonds rf	3	0	0	0	0	1
Kingman 1b	3	0	0	0	0	2
Henderson lf	3	0	0	0	0	2

Maddox cf	3	0	0	0	0	2
Healy c	3	0	0	0	0	2
Arnold 3b	2	0	0	0	1	0
Marichal p	2	0	0	0	0	1
Mays ph	1	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	27	0	1	0	1	14

BATTING

Team LOB: 1

BASERUNNING

CS: Fuentes (1, 2nd base by Carlton/McCarver)

PITCHING

Philadelphia Phillies	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	BF
Carlton W(3-0)	9	1	0	0	1	14	0	28

San Francisco Giants	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	BF
Marichal L(1-2)	9	6	3	3	3	7	0	36

IBB: Marichal (1, Montañez)

Umpires: HP - [Ken Burkhart](#), 1B - [Lee Weyer](#), 2B - [Andy Olsen](#), 3B - [Dick Stello](#)

Time of [Game](#): 1:47 Attendance: 6092

Philadelphia Phillies 5, Los Angeles Dodgers 1

Wednesday, May 3, 1972 at Dodger Stadium

[PHI N](#) 0 0 0 2 0 0 0 3 0 - 5 1 0 1

[LA N](#) 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 - 1 6 1

BATTING

Philadelphia Phillies	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Bowa ss	4	0	1	0	0	0
McCarver c	4	2	1	0	0	0
Montañez cf	4	2	1	0	1	1
Luzinski lf	4	0	1	0	0	1
Hutton 1b	3	1	2	1	1	0
Money 3b	4	0	1	2	0	0
Freed rf	4	0	1	0	0	1
Anderson rf	0	0	0	0	0	0
Doyle 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0
Carlton p	4	0	1	0	0	2
Totals	35	5	10	3	2	5

FIELDING

E: Freed (1)

BATTING

2B: Montañez (7, off Singer); [Money](#) (3, off Singer); Carlton (2, off Mikkelsen)

SH: Bowa (3, off Mikkelsen)
HBP: McCarver (2, by Singer)
GDP: Hutton (1, off Singer)
IBB: Hutton (2, by Singer); Montañez (3, by Singer)
Team LOB: 7

Los Angeles Dodgers	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Parker 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0
Mota lf	4	0	0	0	0	0
Davis cf	4	0	2	0	0	1
Robinson rf	3	0	1	0	1	1
Lefebvre 2b	4	0	0	0	0	3
Garvey 3b	4	1	1	0	0	0
Dietz c	3	0	0	0	0	1
Russell ss	3	0	1	1	0	2
Singer p	2	0	0	0	0	1
Wilhelm p	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valentine ph	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mikkelsen p	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	32	1	6	1	1	9

FIELDING

DP: 1. Lefebvre-Russell-Parker

E: Russell (2)

BATTING

2B: Garvey (3, off Carlton)

Team LOB: 5

BASERUNNING

CS: Russell (2, 2nd base by Carlton/McCarver)

PITCHING

Philadelphia Phillies	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	BF
Carlton W(4-1)	9	6	1	1	1	9	0	33

Los Angeles Dodgers	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	BF
Singer L(2-2)	7.2	9	5	3	2	4	0	34
Wilhelm	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mikkelsen	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	4
Totals	9	10	5	3	2	5	0	39

WP: Singer (1)

HBP: Singer (1, McCarver)

IBB: Singer 2 (2, Hutton, Montañez)

Umpires: HP - [Nick Colosi](#), 1B - [Satch Davidson](#), 2B - [Ed Sudol](#), 3B - [John Kibler](#)

Time of Game: 2:05 **Attendance:** 14,314

Philadelphia Phillies 8, San Francisco Giants 3

Sunday, May 7, 1972 at Veterans Stadium

[SF N](#) 000 000 021 - 371

[PHI N](#) 004 020 02x - 8110

BATTING

San Francisco Giants	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Speier ss	4	0	1	1	0	1
Arnold 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1
Henderson cf	4	0	0	0	0	1
Bonds rf	4	1	2	1	0	1
Kingman 1b	3	0	1	0	1	2
Fuentes 2b	4	1	1	0	0	1
Maddox lf	3	1	1	0	0	1
Healy c	2	0	0	0	0	2
Gibson ph,c	1	0	0	1	0	0
Bryant p	1	0	0	0	0	1
Stone p	0	0	0	0	0	0
B. Williams ph	1	0	0	0	0	1
Johnson p	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gallagher ph	1	0	0	0	0	1
Morris p	0	0	0	0	0	0
McMahon p	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	32	3	7	3	1	13

FIELDING