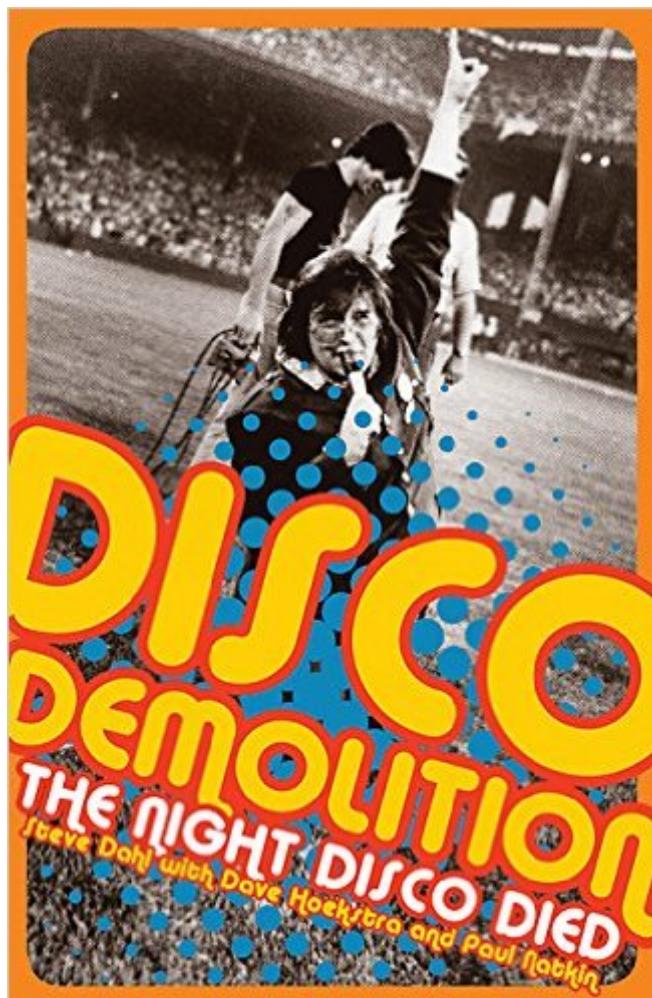


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Disco Demolition: The Night Disco Died



Synopsis

"If you were young and shiftless" and viscerally repulsed by Abba "Steve Dahl was a god. And you were drawn to Disco Demolition." [ESPN.com](#). In the late 1970s, disco dominated radio airwaves, much to the dismay of rock music fans. To boost attendance at Comiskey Park, the White Sox and Chicago DJ legend Steve Dahl collaborated to host Disco Demolition on July 12, 1979. Admission to the park was ninety-eight cents and a disco record. Records were destroyed on the field between games, declaring absolutely how rock fans felt about disco. Attendance exceeded fifty thousand, far beyond anyone's estimations, and when fans stormed the field for the demolition, chaos ensued. Police cleared the field, Comiskey Park was evacuated, and the second game was cancelled "for the first time in MLB history. In collaboration with Steve Dahl, *Disco Demolition* examines the night that changed America's disco culture forever, featuring a foreword by Bob Odenkirk and over thirty interviews with sports and music icons, including Rick Nielsen of Cheap Trick and KC and the Sunshine Band, conducted by journalist Dave Hoekstra. Also featuring a foreword by actor Bob Odenkirk (*Better Call Saul*, *Breaking Bad*) and photographs by Paul Natkin. Steve Dahl is an American radio personality and former columnist for the Chicago Tribune. Dave Hoekstra is a former columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times and a longtime radio host for WGN. Paul Natkin has photographed The Rolling Stones, Keith Richards, Brian Wilson, and many others. He was an official photographer of the Oprah Winfrey Show, and has shot magazine covers for *Newsweek*, *Ebony*, *Spin*, and *People*.

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Customer Reviews

This was a book that I was looking forward to reading. Unfortunately it wasn't enjoyable as I hoped it would be. There is some excellent work involved in that the photographs are stellar and the authors have done a fine job of capturing many different points of view on the event. My favorite point of view is that of the groundskeeper - Roger Bossard - who had to get the field in playable shape for a game to be played the next day after the field was destroyed as a result of fans who stormed the field during Disco Demolition. I also enjoyed the interview from Dennis DeYoung from Styx and Rick Nielsen from Cheap Trick. The two main problems involve the writing. First, the book is somewhat disjointed. The writing is choppy with far too many one sentence paragraphs. The chapters don't flow very well with not enough connective prose between direct quotes. The book is also dragged down by too deep a dive into the Chicago radio station and club scene. Unless you grew up in Chicago (or unless you possess a much greater knowledge of music history than I do), the discussion involving which clubs or stations started when and by whom and what kind of music they played won't be of much interest. Also, the specs on advertise a 250 page book. The one I received came in at less than 200 pages.

The first reviewer nailed it. This was a solid but not spectacular effort recounting a memorable time and event in sports, musical and cultural history. The aspects of the book that dealt with the event, the radio personalities and the baseball implications were outstanding. The detours into disco evolution, the local Chicago club scene and some fringe characters just lost me. Too many names and too far removed from the actual events surrounding that night. It also would have held my attention more if the order of the chapters was reversed (the night in question was not covered in detail until chapters 14 and 15). Book would have been four or five stars if shorter and more focused.. Still worth the read, but be prepared for some deviations from the core story.

This is a surprisingly great book! I was actually very impressed how well researched and documented the story of a "dumb promotion" really acted as a time capsule of middle America, Music History, and Chicago. They have interviews from every side and every angle and never try to sugar coat or demonize the event or the main characters. They tell it like it is. I really appreciated hearing from musicians both Disco and Anti-Disco and what this event meant to them. Revisionist history likes to state that this was a racist and homophobic event. With the subjective nature of this book, I believe that it was not. Sure, there were plenty of morons in the stands and Chicago was not the most progressive place in the late 70s, but the main portion of the "demolition" had to do with the overindulgence of the Disco scene. It was the stealing of quality Disco music from African

Americans by White artists and turned into a laughing stock. Saturday Night Fever is iconic, but is it really the best out there? Disco never truly died and Dahl never really hated it THAT much. It was just an easy target. I would highly recommend this book for its oral history and impressive pictures. Some parts get a little slowed down and I would prefer some interviews to be in different places in the book, but every story and view is golden!

Was an ok look at this one event that really took on a life of its own for everyone involved. I did have an issue with the research of some of the facts in this book however. Namely that the author stated that the guitar player for the band The Doors was Ray Manzarek. That's totally incorrect. The guitar player is Robbie Krieger. After that obvious error I started to wonder what else was wrong with facts and dates. You'd think a book about music/music related events and all the people who were/are in the music business that were interviewed for this they would get a band and the members that were in it correct.

Excellent look back at the good old days...late 70s thru 80s, done via interviews and pictures. Lots of pictures, it was great to see pics from the past.

An interesting historical account of a fairly important event in pop culture history. Also an easy read....

Anyone who is a fan of Steve Dahl, like me who has been one for years, this is a Must Read! Love it! :-)

I loved this book! Very well written, lots of photos and all different points of views. Thanks Steve!

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