

Ballet in the Dirt

By Neil Leifer

Taschen, \$39.99, 296 pages

Neil Leifer may be the best sports photographer of all time. He had his first *Sports Illustrated* cover at age 18. He was the first to try overhead shots, hanging a gondola in the then-new Houston Astrodome. The now trite shot of the catcher receiving the pitch was pioneered by Leifer, using a 2000-millimeter lens from the centerfield bleachers. *Ballet in the Dirt* collects hundreds of his photos, many that have never been published before.

The four chapters cover The Game, The Heroes, The Rivalry and the World Series.



Action pictures may be the focus of the book, but many candid photos of the players in the dugout or locker room show the emotions that the game brings, both the highs and lows. Covering almost 19 years (1960 - 1978) of the best baseball photography ever, *Ballet in the Dirt* is perfect for either baseball or photography fans. If you or someone you know are both, this is the book for you. Or them.