

5 gift-worthy books include early Pacers history

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Indiana authors John Green and Roxane Gay made headlines with their books "Turtles All the Way Down" and "Hunger" in 2017, but the year in Hoosier literature doesn't end there.

Before putting a bow on your holiday shopping, you may find the perfect gift among five books with strong Indiana pedigree.

Consider a history of the pre-NBA Pacers, one man's love of pop-culture artifacts, a comedian's one-of-a-kind memoir, an emerging star of poetry and a close look at Indiana designs that surround us every day:

1. "Reborn: The Pacers and the Return of Pro Basketball to Indianapolis"

Author: Mark Montieth. Retail price: \$29.95. Info: Visit MarkMontieth.com.

As someone who covered the Indiana Pacers across 10 seasons dominated by the play of Reggie Miller, former IndyStar reporter Mark Montieth easily could write a book about the team that made its only trip to the NBA Finals in 2000. But Montieth rolls back the years



Indiana Pacers star George McGinnis chats with coach Bobby "Slick" Leonard in this undated photo. JIM YOUNG / INDYSTAR

in "Reborn" to examine how the Pacers became an ABA franchise in 1967 (13 years after a popular pro team, the Indianapolis Olympians, collapsed after a high-profile scandal). Populated by Hall of Famers Bobby "Slick" Leonard, Mel Daniels and Roger Brown, the book is an engaging behind-the-scenes triumph that wraps up before the Pacers win three ABA titles and are later saved by a grassroots telethon.

2. "Rare: The Memorabilia Collection of a Lifetime"

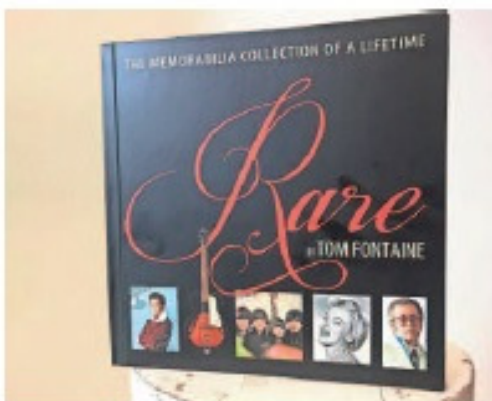
Author: Tom Fontaine. Retail price: \$75. Info: Visit TJFontaineCollection.com.

It's one thing to get a glimpse of Tom Fontaine's staggering collection of pop-culture memorabilia — items such as jogging suit once owned by John Lennon, a recording machine from Sun Studio and Jim Morrison's W-4 document

from a 1967 appearance on "American Bandstand." The pages of "Rare" transcend an inventory of items (and more than 2,000 are collected here) by sharing personal letters and memories from people who were close to the stars of music, film, TV and sports. For Indianapolis native Fontaine, a passion for collecting started with a batch of Beatles trading cards in 1964.



The collection of Indianapolis native Tom Fontaine includes this tray signed by all four members of the Beatles between 1975 to 1992. MICHELLE PEMBERTON / INDYSTAR



"Rare: The Memorabilia Collection of a Lifetime," by Tom Fontaine. DAVID LINDQUIST / INDYSTAR