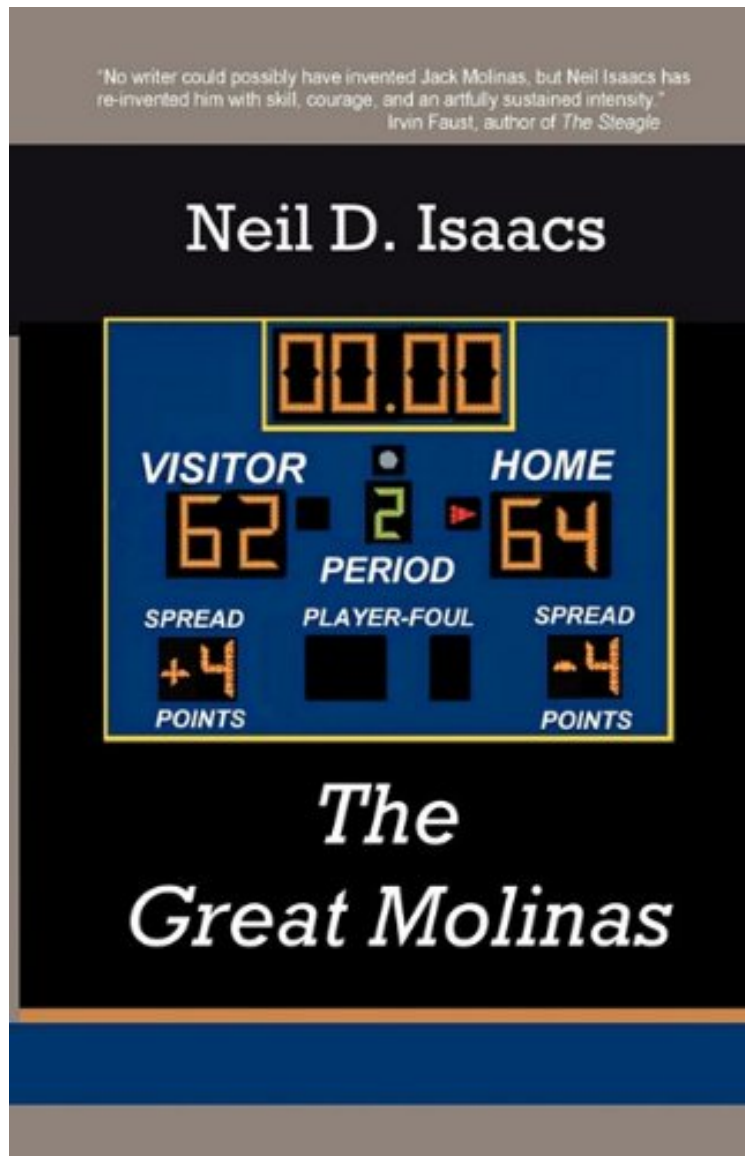


## The Great Molinas

*Neil D Isaacs*

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**Neil D Isaacs : The Great Molinas** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Molinas:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Caution: betting on a good read--the odds are great! By N. B.

Smith This is a cautionary tale--a cautionary tale about pathological gambling told from the perspective of Jesse Miller. Jesse Miller narrates a fictional account of the life of the athlete (early NBA basketball star), Jack Molinas, who also is a gambler, lawyer, and more. From the time of his youth until his death Jack Molinas plays it fast and loose. It is his flaunting of all rules, on and off the court, that leads to his death. Sports aficionados, as well as anyone who loves those who thumb their nose at authority, will love this fictionalized account of the late, great Molinas!

This is the long-awaited paperback edition of Neil D. Isaacs' novel about the rise and fall of Jack Molinas. Molinas was a brilliant basketball player whose skills on the court were subverted by a pathological addiction to gambling. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Sam Jones says this about the author and his writing: "Isaacs is not only an outstanding student of sports but a skillful and knowledgeable storyteller as well. ...you will not be able to put this down."

From Publishers Weekly Isaacs, an English professor at the University of Maryland, overburdens an intriguing conceit in this fictionalized biography of sports figure Jack Molinas, who was at the center of New York City's college basketball scandals in the early 1960s. Isaacs depicts Molinas as bright and attractive, a talented player who could have pursued a successful career and a comfortable existence but who was inexorably drawn to the dark side. Isaacs tries to give deeper meaning to the life of this legendary con man by placing it in counterpoint with the story of his own alter ego, a Molinas biographer and English professor whom he calls Jesse Miller. His account of his surrogate's life, more described than dramatized, undercuts what could have been a tight and powerful study of amorality. Awkward exposition and unlikely diction further diminish the novel's immediacy. The Jack Molinas story in itself has all the elements of an engrossing novel; Isaacs would have done well to stick to it. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Isaacs (English, Univ. of Maryland) has published several nonfiction sports titles in addition to scholarly work. His first novel is based on the life of Jack Molinas (1931-75), basketball great, lawyer, gambler, and ex-con. College English teacher Jesse Miller has worshiped the larger-than-life Molinas for years. After Molinas is murdered, Miller sets out to write a biography and come to terms with his own fascination. This novel is competently written and moves swiftly through Molinas's life story, a cautionary tale of great talent gone completely sour. Buy wherever sports fiction is popular.- A.J. Wright, Univ. of Alabama, Birmingham Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.