



The Kingfisher Soccer Encyclopedia

By Clive Gifford

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Soccer is the definitive guide to the world's most popular sport. From the sublime skills of Pele to the lifestyle of a professional soccer player, this gloriously illustrated book explores every aspect of the game. State-of-the-art digital illustrations and stunning photographs bring to life all the key rules, tactics, set plays, and skills. As well as offering practical advice, this informative book also provides an insider's view of the history of the game, profiles of the great clubs, and facts about women's soccer teams and players. The great players, from Pele and Eusebio to Zidane, Maradona, and Mia Hamm, make an appearance, and a section on the great games relives the excitement of the most memorable encounters. A reference section includes a glossary, key statistics, and a guide to the best soccer websites. Comprehensive and visually thrilling, Soccer captures all the drama and the passion of a game that unites billions of people across the globe. Special Features: The definitive guide to all areas of the game, including rules, skills, tactics, great games, and famous players. Unique, state-of-the-art digital diagrams and illustrations. Stunning photographs throughout. A world soccer book for the 2010 World Cup and beyond. Cross-references, glossary, and web resources.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 6 Up Gifford updates his 2006 encyclopedia. The changes are minimal beyond updating the stats. Chapters and page numbers are almost identical to the previous version. There is a slight change in the colorful, action photographs, some to-be-expected website adjustments, and new statistics added to charts such as The Longest Unbeaten League Runs. For the most part, the same superstars are highlighted with the identical biographical paragraphs from the previous edition. The author added only one sentence to update David Beckham's profile to include him joining the LA Galaxy in 2007. Compared to the World Soccer Books series (Rosen), this guide more clearly delineates the teams that play in various competitions such as the World Cup, the European Championships, the Olympics, and Regional Competitions, such as the Asian Cup, Soccer Leagues, and Club Cups. In a year with strong competition in soccer books, this single volume still stands out. But refresh a worn, older copy knowing that there were few revisions made to the earlier edition. *Blair Christolon, Prince William Public Library System, Manassas, VA*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 6 and up. This deceptively slim volume packs a considerable amount of information. The introduction traces the genesis of kicking games through rudimentary forms of soccer into current professional and Olympic competitions. Subsequent chapters address basic rules, physical tactics and skills, brief biographies of legendary players, profiles of well-known coaches and coaching strategies, summaries and win-loss records of national and club teams, and descriptions of major international competitions. The chapter "Soccer Fortunes" looks at public and commercial aspects of the game, such as the typical career path and subsequent demands of becoming a professional athlete, technical aspects of playing fields and stadiums, club politics and salaries, and fans as well as cheating scandals, stadium riots, and other "soccer nightmares." A final reference section provides facts and figures on soccer in the U.S. as well as recommended Web sites, books, and magazines; a glossary; and an index. Information is current through 2004.

Articles are divided into subsections that span two-page spreads. Subtitles, brief paragraphs, and fact boxes offering trivia, tables of statistics, diagrams, and more accompany numerous photos, primarily in color. Images spill across pages in a graphic-intense, dynamic presentation. An additional appealing feature is that coverage of women's teams and players is integrated throughout and not relegated to separate chapters or footnote status.

Keir Radnedge has authored two recent resources intended for adults: *The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Soccer* (Carleton Books, 2002) and *The Complete Encyclopedia of Soccer* (Carleton Books, 2004). This current offering is aimed at a younger audience but will appeal to fans of all ages. The glossy cover will attract browsers, and the international coverage will appeal to a wide audience. Public libraries, middle schools, and high schools may want to consider offering both circulating and reference copies of this reasonably priced, accessible overview. *Kathleen McBroom*

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Review

"A solid purchase where an all-encompassing encyclopedia is needed."

Elizabeth D. Schafer - Children's Literature

This comprehensive compilation of facts written by a soccer expert emphasizes modern professional soccer

players but also explores historical precedents and amateur and youth competitors. Color-coded sections profile playing positions and skills; rules and penalties; strategies; teams; competitions, including the Olympics; and remarkable coaches and male and female players. Other sections discuss referees, stadiums, and fans, revealing the economic and cultural impact of soccer worldwide and mentioning corruption, scandals, and tragedies associated with that sport. Describing triumphs and disappointments soccer personalities have experienced, brief passages tell how several famous players were discovered, citing the millions of dollars they earn annually and why teams recruited them. Abundant color images, black-and-white photographs, and a World Cup poster complement the text. Several two-page spreads highlight significant moments and people in soccer history. Diagrams show how notable goals were scored in landmark games. Sidebars recommend relevant websites and note facts elaborating soccer topics. Charts list players and teams statistics and results for major competitions, from their beginnings to the present. Information concerning World Cup and other important tournaments scheduled after publication is included. U.S. soccer information is confined to a brief reference section lacking photographs. A glossary defines some, but not all, of the terms used in the text. Supplement with Hugh Hornby's "Eyewitness Soccer" (2005), which provides historical information and images of artifacts and memorabilia not available in this encyclopedia. 2006, Kingfisher/Houghton Mifflin, Ages 9 up.

School Library Journal

Gr 6-10-Beginning with the history of the sport, Gifford covers the basic rules as well as skills such as defending the ball, goalkeeping, and attacking. He includes brief bios of the legends of the sport, both men and women, organized by their positions. Fascinating tales of great teams and memorable competitions in events such as the World Cup and the 2004 Olympics will entertain fans of the sport. The font tends to be small, creating a dense look to the pages, but the large as well as thumbnail color photos appear often and break up the text. This book could be used as a reference guide for reports or to answer specific questions. A solid purchase where an all-encompassing encyclopedia is needed.-Blair Christolon, Prince William Public Library System, Manassas, VA Copyright 2006 Reed Business Information.

Children's Literature

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San Francisco Book Review This mini coffee table book is a must for any world soccer fan, young or old. . . . This book helps capture that excitement, celebration, and even despair of this great game. I could tell Gifford is a real fan, he really loves soccer, and his love of the game came out in the book. Geared toward the American soccer fan (everywhere else the game is called "football"), this book would make an ideal holiday gift. Shelf Awareness There's plenty here to orient beginners (e.g., onfield formation diagrams) and enough in-depth coverage to more than satisfy longtime aficionados. "Fact File" and "Game Action" insets, profiles of key players, a generous helping of photos, stat boxes and diagrams make this the definitive book for soccer fans. Bound (MSN Superfan) [This] book is absolutely a love letter to soccer. Infodad.com For fans, would-be fans, committed fans, fans who probably ought to get a life but probably won't, fans who live for the thrill of the World Cup, fans who care only to support their local teams - for all these and more, Gifford's book is

both a fine introduction and an excellent reference.

This mini coffee table book is a must for any world soccer fan, young or old. . . . This book helps capture that excitement, celebration, and even despair of this great game. I could tell Gifford is a real fan, he really loves soccer, and his love of the game came out in the book. Geared toward the American soccer fan (everywhere else the game is called "football"), this book would make an ideal holiday gift.

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[This] book is absolutely a love letter to soccer.

For fans, would-be fans, committed fans, fans who probably ought to get a life but probably won't, fans who live for the thrill of the World Cup, fans who care only to support their local teams - for all these and more, Gifford's book is both a fine introduction and an excellent reference.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Percy Cole:

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information today can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a concern. What people must be consider when those information which is from the former life are challenging be find than now could be taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you get it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen in you if you take The Kingfisher Soccer Encyclopedia as your daily resource information.

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