



The World's Game: A HISTORY OF SOCCER (Illinois History of Sports)

By Bill Murray

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Traces the growth of what during pre-industrial times was called the simplest game through its codification in the nineteenth century to the 1994 World Cup. This title weaves the sport's growth into the culture and politics of the countries where it has been taken up.

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Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #1124021 in Books
- Published on: 1998-01-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .70" w x 6.00" l, .91 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 256 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Soccer, one of the most popular games in the world, is played by many and is supported fanatically by millions. So, how did this sport come about? What were its origins? Why has it flourished for so long? Bill Murray, an Australian sports historian, answers these questions and many more as he persuasively presents the case for why soccer is the premier sport of the world. Tracing the history of the organized game--from its origins as a leisure pastime for private-school alumni in London in 1863 to the World Cup held in the U.S. in 1994--Murray commentates on the evolution of soccer from past to present. Attention is paid to all aspects of the game, ranging from America's ambivalent attitude toward professional soccer to the progress of the women's game to the threat of hooliganism. The ground covered is vast, but Murray's readable style will be appreciated by anyone who has a passion for the game, and will inspire interest in those who know little about it. --*Jeremy Storey*

Review

"A landmark work on the sport of soccer." -- John Haydon, The Washington Times "Witty and passionate, scholarly and literate... Unhesitatingly, I would classify The World's Game as the most satisfying book on football that has ever come to my attention." -- J. Neville Turner, Bulletin of the Australian Society for Sport History "Well researched ... readable, factual and informative." -- John Weir, author of The Absolute Game "Presents an excellent case for why soccer is the sport of the globe." -- Adam Korengold, The American Reporter Book Review "One of the finest chronicles of soccer... Gives you reason to appreciate why the world's game has continued to flourish." -- Adelaide Advertiser, Australia "Bill Murray has accomplished the seemingly impossible. He has masterfully rendered the complexities of soccer's history into a single vividly written story." -- Benjamin Rader, author of Baseball: A History of America's Game "Spiced with colorful evidence and stories...The World's Game is a very interesting book packed with arresting detail." -- James Walvin, author of The People's Game: The History of Football Revisited

From the Back Cover

Known as much for the emotional outbursts and violence of its fans as for its own stars, soccer (or football, as it is known outside the United States) is a global game. Its international controlling body, FIFA, boasts more members than the United Nations. Bill Murray traces the growth of what during pre-industrial times was called "the simplest game" through its codification in the nineteenth century to the 1994 World Cup, held for the first time in the United States. Murray weaves the sport's growth into the culture and politics of the countries where it has been taken up, analyzing its reputation as a game that has seen more riots and on-field brawls than all other types of football combined. He vividly illustrates how soccer has become the world's most popular sport, one that has resisted the interference of politicians, dictators, and profiteers and - more recently - the demands of television, through which it has spread to virtually every corner of the globe. The World's Game will be entertaining and enlightening to anyone from the most avid, knowledgeable fan to those who merely hope to learn a little about the sport.

Users Review

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Robert Hester:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be update about what going on or facts even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era and that is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know what kind you should start with. This The World's Game: A HISTORY OF SOCCER (Illinois History of Sports) is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Joshua Smith:

Typically the book The World's Game: A HISTORY OF SOCCER (Illinois History of Sports) has a lot of information on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was authored by the very famous author. The author makes some research before write this book. This specific book very easy to read you may get the point easily after looking over this book.

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