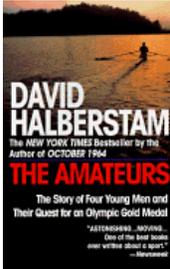


Boys in the Boat Recommended Reading List

For those who enjoyed the exciting action in Daniel James Brown's "Boys in the Boat" we recommend these similar books:



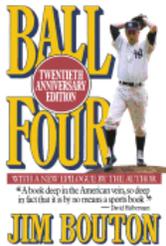
The Amateurs: The Story of Four Young Men and Their Quest for an Olympic Gold Medal

By *Halberstam, David*

1996-05 - Ballantine Books

9780449910030 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In *The Amateurs*, David Halberstam once again displays the unique brand of reportage, both penetrating and supple, that distinguished his bestselling *The Best and the Brightest* and *October 1964*. This time he has taken for his subject the dramatic and special world of amateur rowing. While other athletes are earning fortunes in salaries and-or endorsements, the oarsmen gain fame only with each other and strive without any hope of financial reward. What drives these men to endure a physical pain known to no other sport? Who are they? Where do they come from? How do they regard themselves and their competitors? What have they sacrificed, and what inner demons have they appeased? In answering these questions, David Halberstam takes as his focus the 1984 single sculls trials in Princeton. The man who wins will gain the right to represent the United States in the 84 Olympiad; the losers will then have to struggle further to gain a place in the two- or four-man boats. And even if they succeed, they will have to live with the bitter knowledge that they were not the best, only close to it. Informative and compelling, *The Amateurs* combines the vividness of superb sportswriting with the narrative skills of a Pulitzer Prize-winning correspondent.



Ball Four: Twentieth Anniversary Edition

By *Bouton, Jim*

Editor *Bouton, Jim*

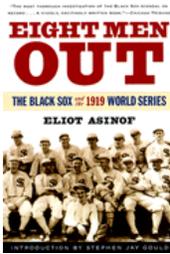
Editor *Shecter, Leonard*

1990-04 - Wiley

9780020306658 [Check Our Catalog](#)

When "Ball Four" was first published in 1970, it hit the sports world like a lightning bolt. Commissioners, executives, players and sportswriters were thrown into a state of shock. Stunned. Scandalized. The controversy was front-page news. Sportswriters called Bouton a Judas, a Benedict Arnold and a "social leper." Commissioner Bowie Kuhn tried to force the author to sign a statement saying that the book wasn't true. One team actually burned a copy of "Ball Four" in protest. And Bouton is still not invited to Oldtimers' Day at Yankee Stadium. Fans, however, loved "Ball Four" and serious critics called it an important document. It was also very popular among people who didn't ordinarily follow baseball, because "Ball Four" is not strictly a book about baseball, but one about people who happen to be baseball players. And it's hilariously funny. For the twentieth-anniversary edition of this historic book, Bouton has written a new epilogue, detailing his career as an inventor, his battles with the Wrigley Company over bubble gum, his take on the Pete Rose controversy, and how baseball looks

two decades after he changed its public image forever.



Eight Men Out: The Black Sox and the 1919 World Series

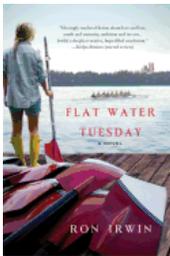
By *Asinof, Eliot*

2000-05 - Owl Books (NY)

9780805065374 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"As Jackson departed from the Grand Jury room, a small boy clutched at his sleeve and tagged along after him. 'Say it ain't so, Joe,' he pleaded. 'Say it ain't so.'"

But to the horror of the entire nation -- it was. The headlines proclaimed the 1919 fix of the World Series and attempted cover-up as "the most gigantic sporting swindle in the history of America!" In this timeless classic, Eliot Asinof has reconstructed the entire story of the infamous scandal in which eight Chicago White Sox players arranged with the nation's leading gamblers to throw the Series to Cincinnati. Scene by scene, he vividly describes the tense meetings, the hitches in the conniving, the actual plays in which the Series was thrown, the Grand Jury indictment, and the famous 1921 trial. Further, he perceptively examines the motives and backgrounds of the players and the conditions that made the improbable fix all too possible. Here, too, is a graphic picture of the American underworld that managed the fix, the deeply shocked newspapermen who uncovered the story, and the war-exhausted nation that turned with relief and pride to the Series, only to be rocked by the scandal. Far more than a superbly told baseball story, this compelling American drama will appeal to all those interested in the history of American popular culture.



Flat Water Tuesday

By *Irwin, Ron*

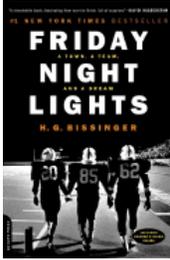
2014-05 - St. Martin's Griffin

9781250048721 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A stunning saga of love, sport, and buried secrets

Rob Carrey is a successful documentary filmmaker who has returned from a shoot to New York City, where he's prepared to separate from Carolyn, his long-time love. But when he finds an invitation to his boarding school reunion in his pile of mail, Rob begins a painful journey into his past--one that will alter the course of his life forever.

Years ago, Rob was a scholarship student at the elite Fenton School, where he became a star member of the rowing team. Generations of Fenton men had led the rowing team, known as the God Four, to victory--and Rob would be no exception. But as the team's most important race drew near, and tempers and lusts reached the boiling point, Rob found himself in a dilemma: If he sacrifices everything to win he stands to lose everything that matters. Which is the right path--and where will it lead him and the ones he loves? That is the question at the heart of Ron Irwin's "Flat Water Tuesday," a deeply affecting novel about what it means to fight for love and victory, in sport and in life.



Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream

By *Bissinger, H. G.*

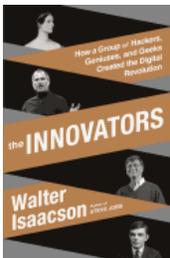
Photographer *Clark, Rob, Jr.*

2000-08 - Da Capo Press

9780306809903 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The classic, best-selling story of life in the football-driven town of Odessa, Texas, includes a new afterword that looks at the players and the town 10 years later.

Return once again to the timeless account of the Permian Panthers of Odessa--the winningest high-school football team in Texas history. Odessa is not known to be a town big on dreams, but the Panthers help keep the hopes and dreams of this small, dusty town going. Socially and racially divided, its fragile economy follows the treacherous boom-bust path of the oil business. In bad times, the unemployment rate barrels out of control; in good times, its murder rate skyrockets. But every Friday night from September to December, when the Permian High School Panthers play football, this West Texas town becomes a place where dreams can come true. With frankness and compassion, H. G. Bissinger chronicles a season in the life of Odessa and shows how single-minded devotion to the team shapes the community and inspires--and sometimes shatters--the teenagers who wear the Panthers' uniforms.



The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution

By *Isaacson, Walter*

2014-10 - Simon & Schuster

9781476708690 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

National Book Awards (2014)

Publisher Comments

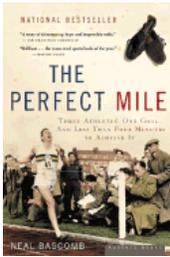
Following his blockbuster biography of Steve Jobs, "The Innovators" is Walter Isaacson's revealing story of the people who created the computer and the Internet. It is destined to be the standard history of the digital revolution and an indispensable guide to how innovation really happens.

What were the talents that allowed certain inventors and entrepreneurs to turn their visionary ideas into disruptive realities? What led to their creative leaps? Why did some succeed and others fail?

In his masterly saga, Isaacson begins with Ada Lovelace, Lord Byron's daughter, who pioneered computer programming in the 1840s. He explores the fascinating personalities that created our current digital revolution, such as Vannevar Bush, Alan Turing, John von Neumann, J.C.R. Licklider, Doug Engelbart, Robert Noyce, Bill Gates, Steve Wozniak, Steve Jobs, Tim Berners-Lee, and Larry Page.

This is the story of how their minds worked and what made them so inventive. It's also a narrative of how their ability to collaborate and master the art of teamwork made them even more creative.

For an era that seeks to foster innovation, creativity, and teamwork, "The Innovators" shows how they happen.



The Perfect Mile: Three Athletes, One Goal, and Less Than Four Minutes to Achieve It

By [Bascomb, Neal](#)

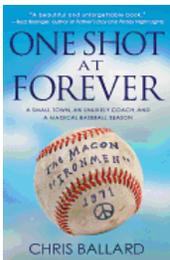
2005-04 - Mariner Books

9780618562091 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Spanning three continents and defying the odds, three runners' collective quest to run the four-minute mile captivates the world and steals headlines from the Korean War, the atomic race, and such legendary figures as Edmund Hillary, Willie Mays, Native Dancer, and Ben Hogan.

Publisher Comments

There was a time when running the mile in four minutes was believed to be beyond the limits of human foot speed, and in all of sport it was the elusive holy grail. In 1952, after suffering defeat at the Helsinki Olympics, three world-class runners each set out to break this barrier. Roger Bannister was a young English medical student who epitomized the ideal of the amateur -- still driven not just by winning but by the nobility of the pursuit. John Landy was the privileged son of a genteel Australian family, who as a boy preferred butterfly collecting to running but who trained relentlessly in an almost spiritual attempt to shape his body to this singular task. Then there was Wes Santee, the swaggering American, a Kansas farm boy and natural athlete who believed he was just plain better than everybody else. Spanning three continents and defying the odds, their collective quest captivated the world and stole headlines from the Korean War, the atomic race, and such legendary figures as Edmund Hillary, Willie Mays, Native Dancer, and Ben Hogan. In the tradition of *Seabiscuit* and *Chariots of Fire*, Neal Bascomb delivers a breathtaking story of unlikely heroes and leaves us with a lasting portrait of the twilight years of the golden age of sport.



One Shot at Forever: A Small Town, an Unlikely Coach, and a Magical Baseball Season

By [Ballard, Chris](#)

2013-04 - Hyperion Books

9781401312664 [Check Our Catalog](#)

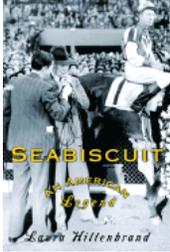
In 1971, a small-town high school baseball team from rural Illinois, playing with hand-me-down uniforms and peace signs on their hats, defied convention and the odds. Led by an English teacher with no coaching experience, the Macon Ironmen emerged from a field of 370 teams to represent the smallest school in Illinois history to make the state final, a distinction that still stands. There the Ironmen would play against a Chicago powerhouse in a dramatic game that would change their lives forever.

Publisher Comments

In this gripping, cinematic narrative, Chris Ballard tells the story of the team and its coach, Lynn Sweet: a hippie, dreamer, and intellectual who arrived in Macon in

1966, bringing progressive ideas to a town stuck in the Eisenhower era. Beloved by students but not administration, Sweet reluctantly took over the ragtag team, intent on teaching the boys as much about life as baseball. Together they embarked on an improbable postseason run that buoyed a small town in desperate need of something to celebrate.

Engaging and poignant, "One Shot at Forever" is a testament to the power of high school sports to shape the lives of those who play them, and it reminds us that there are few bonds more sacred than that among a coach, a team, and a town.



Seabiscuit: An American Legend

By *Hillenbrand, Laura*

2001-03 - Random House Trade

9780375502910 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

ALA Notable Books (2002)

Book Sense Book of the Year Award (2002)

Colorado Blue Spruce Award (2004)

Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award (2006)

L.A. Times Book Prize (2001)

National Book Critics Circle Award (2001)

Winner - 2002 ALA Non-Fiction Notable Selection

One of the greatest legends of the 20th century, Seabiscuit was a discarded, bottom-level runner who became a champion with the help of three men: a trainer, an owner, and a jockey. This is the spellbinding tale of how they did it.

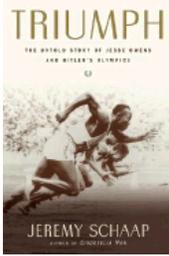
Publisher Comments

Laura Hillenbrand, author of the runaway phenomenon "Unbroken," brilliantly re-creates a universal underdog story in this #1 "New York Times" bestseller.

Seabiscuit was one of the most electrifying and popular attractions in sports history and the single biggest newsmaker in the world in 1938, receiving more coverage than FDR, Hitler, or Mussolini. But his success was a surprise to the racing establishment, which had written off the crooked-legged racehorse with the sad tail.

Three men changed Seabiscuit's fortunes:

Charles Howard was a onetime bicycle repairman who introduced the automobile to the western United States and became an overnight millionaire. When he needed a trainer for his new racehorses, he hired Tom Smith, a mysterious mustang breaker from the Colorado plains. Smith urged Howard to buy Seabiscuit for a bargain-basement price, then hired as his jockey Red Pollard, a failed boxer who was blind in one eye, half-crippled, and prone to quoting passages from Ralph Waldo Emerson. Over four years, these unlikely partners survived a phenomenal run of bad fortune, conspiracy, and severe injury to transform Seabiscuit from a neurotic, pathologically indolent also-ran into an American sports icon.



Triumph: The Untold Story of Jesse Owens and Hitler's Olympics

By [Schaap, Jeremy](#)

2007-02 - Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH)

9780618688227 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The story of Jesse Owens, the African-American son of sharecroppers who won four gold medals at the 1936 Olympic Games held in Nazi Germany, is that of a high-profile athlete giving a performance that transcends sports. But it is also the intimate and complex tale of the courage of one remarkable man.

Publisher Comments

From the ESPN national correspondent and author of the New York Times bestseller *Cinderella Man* comes the remarkable behind-the-scenes story of a defining moment in sports and world history.

In 1936, against a backdrop of swastikas flying and a storm troopers goose-stepping, an African-American son of sharecroppers won a staggering four Olympic gold medals and single-handedly crushed Hitler's myth of Aryan supremacy. The story of Jesse Owens at the 1936 games is that of a high-profile athlete giving a performance that transcends sports. But it is also the intimate and complex tale of the courage of one remarkable man.

Drawing on unprecedented access to the Owens family, previously unpublished interviews, and exhaustive archival research, Jeremy Schaap transports us to Nazi Germany to weave this dramatic tale. From the start, American participation in the 1936 games was controversial. A boycott was afoot, based on reports of Nazi hostility to Jews, but was thwarted by the president of the American Olympic Committee, who dismissed the actions of the Third Reich as irrelevant. At the games themselves the subplots and intrigue continued: Owens was befriended by a German rival, broad jumper Luz Long, who, legend has it, helped Owens win the gold medal at his own expense. Two Jewish sprinters were denied the chance to compete for the United States at the last possible moment, most likely out of misguided deference to the Nazi hosts. And a myth was born that Hitler had snubbed Owens by failing to congratulate him.

With his trademark incisive reporting and rich storytelling gifts, Schaap reveals what really transpired over those tense, exhilarating few weeks some seventy years ago. In the end, *Triumph* is a triumph -- a page-turning narrative that illuminates what happens when sports and the geopolitics collide on a world stage.