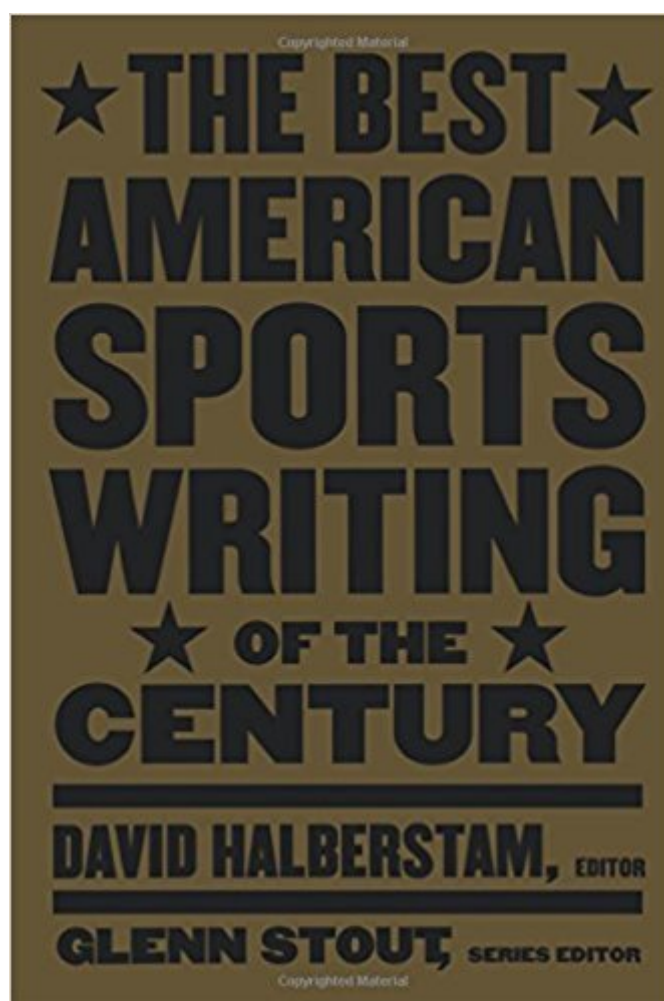


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The Best American Sports Writing Of The Century (The Best American Series)



Synopsis

The Best American Sports Writing of the Century showcases the best sports journalists of the twentieth century, from Jimmy Cannon, Red Smith, William Mack, Gary Smith, and Frank Deford to A. J. Liebling, Tom Wolfe, and Hunter S. Thompson, and includes such classics as "What Do You Think of Ted Williams Now?" by Richard Ben Cramer, "Louis Knocks Out Schmeling" by Bob Considine, and "The Rocky Road of Pistol Pete" by W. C. Heinz. This outstanding collection captures not only the century's greatest moments in baseball, boxing, horseracing, golf, and tennis, but some of the finest writing of our time. Guest editor David Halberstam is the author of *The Reckoning*, *The Summer of Forty-Nine*, *The Breaks of the Game*, and *The Children*. Series editor Glenn Stout has written biographies of Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams, and Jackie Robinson.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Given the overall vigor and volume of sports writing in America throughout the 20th century, the idea of compiling a single collection dubbed the "best" requires a daring balancing act of boldness and delicacy. And that's just what it is. Sports fans--but why limit this sparkling, spirited, passionate prose to just sports fans?--will revel in the equilibrium of David Halberstam's and Glenn Stout's wide range of selections. Their tribute to the knights of the keyboards is Hall of Fame-level from cover to cover. Halberstam and Stout don't waste any time. They lead off with one of the great tours de force of American nonfiction, Gay Talese's stunningly poignant, 1966 profile of a moody Joe DiMaggio, "The Silent Season of a Hero." Then, before you can finish digesting it, they loudly switch

gears to Tom Wolfe's "The Last American Hero," a razzle-dazzle look at Junior Johnson and the world of stock-car racing. By the time Best takes the checkered flag nearly 800 pages later, it has covered a remarkably rich and varied course that runs through the pens of such remarkable talents as Grantland Rice, Red Smith, Frank Deford, W.C. Heinz, Jim Murray, Murray Kempton, Ring Lardner, John Lardner, Jimmy Breslin, Al Stump, John Updike, John McPhee, Hunter Thompson, Norman Mailer, Jon Krakauer, Tom Boswell, Roger Angell, and David Remnick. Whew! Like the best sportswriting, of course, Best is much more than fun and games, though there's plenty of that in its pages. Best is history captured on the fly through the games we play and the memorable players--Jackie Robinson, Joe Louis, Mohammad Ali, Secretariat, Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Red Grange--who play them. From selection to selection, writes Halberstam in his introduction, "we watch the country change." Certainly, sports--and sportswriting--have provided America a marvelous box seat for the contemplation of its own metamorphoses. --Jeff Silverman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Stout, editor of the Best American Sports Writing series since its inception nine years ago, and Halberstam, author most recently of *Playing for Keeps*, a biography of Michael Jordan (Forecasts, Jan. 18), have compiled a strong collection that will send readers on a captivating trip through the diversity of styles and subjects that developed as sports became big business and big news. There's the direct address of Bob Considine (Listen to this buddy, for it comes from a guy whose palms are still wet, from *Louis Knocks Out Schmeling*) and the unique voice of Tom Wolfe (Ggghzzzzzzzeeeeong! from *The Last American Hero*, about racecar driver Junior Johnson). Although there are pieces about mountain climbing, tennis and chess, fully half of the selections are about two sports: baseball and boxing. The book begins with a Best of the Best section led by Gay Talese's 1966 profile of Joe DiMaggio, *The Silent Season of a Hero*. In the next two sections (which encompass deadline articles, columns, features and longer works), the strongest pieces, following Talese's lead, are penetrating profiles of the famous and difficult (e.g., Richard Ben Cramer on Ted Williams) as well as the largely forgotten (a run-of-the-mill boxer named Bummy Davis). The final section is a special six-piece tribute to man who himself claimed to be the best of the best Muhammad Ali. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Outstanding. This is an excellent compilation of sports writing from the 20th Century. Well worth the investment for any sports fan. It is a BIG volume with lots of stories and a nice variety too.

David Halberstam is often overlooked as a writer despite the success of his books during his lifetime. As one of the editors of this anthology, his introduction should be read by anyone wishing to understand why sports have become inseparable from American culture and how the skills of writers on the subject have concurrently matured. Although Halberstam was better known for his work as a journalist and historian, sports writing was his first love and the pieces in this collection must have been chosen accordingly. From Lardner to Updike and Deford these pieces all shine like gems illuminating uniquely American literature.

Read most of it before. I gave it away, stupid! I want to have this by my side when I can read it and marvel.

This book is a compilation of game stories and articles written by the most accomplished names in the business. From human interest pieces to game coverage and analysis, this book covers them all. I've had a hard time putting it down because of the interesting angles and perspectives the collective authors write their stories from. This book is a must have for the avid sports reader.

Great reading for all sports enthusiasts. Halberstam is one of the genre's best writers. Comparable in every way to Rice, Murray and those very few top shelf sports writers.

Great volume of writing

I purchased this book both last year and last month. One son liked it so much, I gave it to another son as part of his birthday gift. Great stories by even greater writers. I would recommend this book as a gift or just for reading yourself. Even if you're not a rabid sports fan, these stories are just too good not to read.

per request of a friend who had asked if I had ever read this book, and I have not even heard of this title, I bought it. It exceeds expectation is pretty much a must read for all sports fans.

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