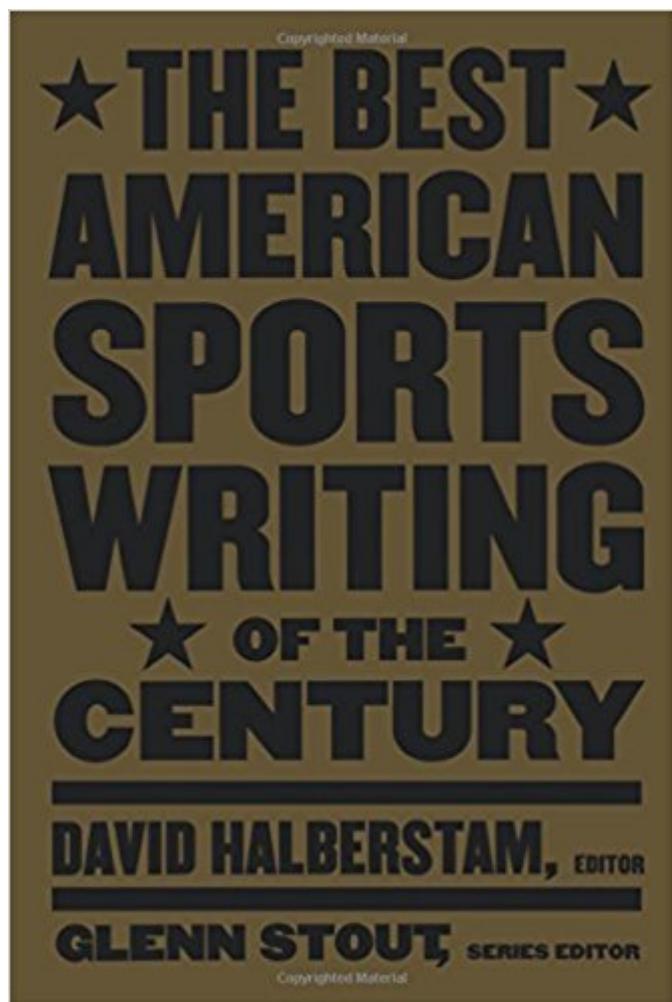


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The Best American Sports Writing Of The Century



Synopsis

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David Halberstam selects the fifty best pieces of sports writing of this century. *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, most recently, *The Children*. Series editor Glenn Stout has written biographies of Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams, and Jackie Robinson.

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Customer Reviews

My girlfriend first brought the Best American Sports Writing series to my attention in 1992 by giving me that year's edition as a Christmas present. I showed my gratitude by burying my head in its covers and ignoring the outside world (her included) until I had finished. Since that time I have been a keen follower of the series. Because I live in Australia I have little prior background to many of the stories, but this perhaps gives me an objectivity which enhances my enjoyment. The "Best American Sports Writing of the Century" is a seriously thick compilation of some fantastic pieces. Although

falling short of the editors' lofty aims of being a portrait of American life over the past 100 years, it nevertheless manages to identify many of the people and defining moments that have become integral to (admittedly, my perception) of modern American history. My favourite story - perhaps George Plimpton's 'Medora Goes to the Game', a wonderfully uplifting tale of a father's sneaky attempts to convince his 9 year old daughter to aspire to his alma mater, set against the backdrop of the 1980 Harvard-Yale game. Second place to 'Into Thin Air', Jon Krakauer's harrowing personal tale of tragedy on Everest. There are many other classics, too numerous to mention here - one that particularly fascinated me was Paul Solotaroff's shocking portrayal of steroid abuse in the body building world. Brickbats to Murray Kempton's play-by-play account of a baseball game, which failed to inspire me (to be fair, possibly because I am not familiar with the game's intricacies).

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