



A Brief History of American Sports

By Elliott J. Gorn, Warren Goldstein

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Elliott J. Gorn and Warren Goldstein show us where our games and pastimes came from, how they developed, and what they have meant to Americans. The great heroes of baseball and football are here, as well as the dramatic moments of boxing and basketball. Beyond this, the authors show us how sports fit into the larger contours of our past.

For this new edition, the authors have updated the book to include discussion of performance-enhancing drugs; player salaries, unions, and the business of internationalizing sport; Title IX and gender in American sports; race, especially the entry of Latino and Asian athletes; and the corporatization of amateur athletics. *A Brief History of American Sports* reveals that from colonial times to the present, sports have been central to American culture, and a profound expression of who we are.

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Review

"If history were baseball, Gorn and Goldstein would get credit for a triple play: they have skillfully and imaginatively integrated sports into the framework of American culture and society, produced a pioneering work which should have enduring influence, and given us a scholarly history which is delightful to read. It's a terrific book in every way."

--Lawrence W. Levine, University of California at Berkeley

"With [A Brief History of American Sports](#), Elliott J. Gorn and Warren Goldstein remind us that the very serious world of play provides a precise mirror of American life and aspiration, a deep, at times painful, but always abiding portrait of who we are."

--Ken Burns, documentary film director, and coauthor of [Baseball: An Illustrated History](#)

About the Author

Elliott J. Gorn is a professor of history at Brown University. He is the author of [The Manly Art: Bare-Knuckle Prizefighting in America](#) and editor of [Sports in Chicago](#) and [Muhammad Ali, the People's Champ](#). Warren Goldstein chairs the Department of History at the University of Hartford. He is the author of [Playing for Keeps: A History of Early Baseball](#).

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