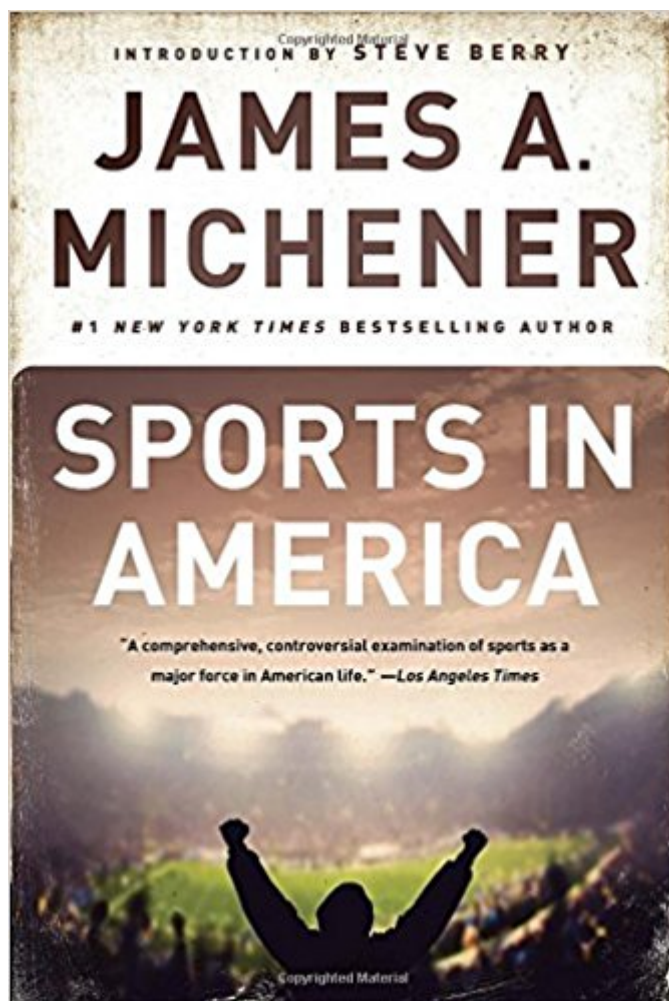


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Sports In America



Synopsis

Originally published in 1976, James A. Michener's explosive, spectacular *Sports in America* is a prescient examination of the crisis in American sports that is still unfolding to this day. Pro basketball players are banned for narcotics use, while a Major League pitcher is arrested for smuggling drugs across the Mexican border. The NFL's "injury report" grows longer every Sunday. Corruption and recruiting violations plague collegiate sports as the "winning is everything" mentality trickles down to the Little League level. With his lifelong enthusiasm for sports in evidence, the incomparable Michener tackles this subject thoroughly and leaves us amazed and appalled by what we've learned, yet still loving the games we grew up on. *Praise for Sports in America* "A comprehensive, controversial examination of sports as a major force in American life." *Los Angeles Times* "Michener's life was saved by sports twice. In return, he has issued a long, lovingly critical, prodigiously researched account of the passions and politics of America at organized play. Rich in anecdote, source material and his own shrewd commentary." *The New York Times Book Review* "Like just about everything James Michener has produced, *Sports in America* is a thoughtful, well-written document that's thoroughly researched. . . . For anyone interested in how the ball bounces in the U.S. of A., the answers are all here." *The Wall Street Journal* "Encyclopedic . . . amusing and sometimes alarming." *The Washington Post*

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Customer Reviews

“A comprehensive, controversial examination of sports as a major force in American life.” Los Angeles Times “Michener’s life was saved by sports twice. In return, he has issued a long, lovingly critical, prodigiously researched account of the passions and politics of America at organized play. Rich in anecdote, source material and his own shrewd commentary.” The New York Times Book Review “Like just about everything James Michener has produced, Sports in America is a thoughtful, well-written document that’s thoroughly researched. . . . For anyone interested in how the ball bounces in the U.S. of A., the answers are all here.” The Wall Street Journal “Encyclopedic . . . amusing and sometimes alarming.” The Washington Post

"A comprehensive, controversial examination of sports as a major force in American life." Los Angeles Times There is a crisis in American sports, and it's getting worse. Drugs, violence, and the corrupting effects of money and fame. Even before these problems made national headlines, master writer James A. Michener was growing concerned about the state of sports in America. Only Michener could tackle a subject so big and leave us amazed and appalled by what we've learned, yet still loving the games we grew up on. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I wish I had read a hard copy and not kindle because it is the kind of book I would have like to jump around in. Though dated as a lot has changed in sport since it was written, it was at the same time contemporary and good to read where current issues started and how things developed i.e Title 9.

michener was a very intelligent man and a great writer. this book is highly recommended for anyone interested in the dark side of america's obsession with professional sports. it is well-researched and chock-full of useful and fascinating ideas and information. michener was a visionary and so much of what he wrote in 1976 is still very relevant today. it took me a couple of weeks to read the book but i thoroughly enjoyed it and plan to read more of his work.

Much of the content is dated, but much of it still holds true. A worthwhile read.

Published in 1976. Michener was way ahead of the times. Comprehensive and insightful.

Wonderfully presented in library quality protective cover. Sited a study from this book in 1978 and

then couldn't find it again. There it is for all to see.

Great!!!

This book is well worth reading by everyone: players, viewers, or to know more about the subject. James Michener loved sports: they made the difference between life and death. As a youth he drifted into a bad crowd, but was saved by athletics. His skill in basketball led to a scholarship to college, rather than prison. Later in life he suffered a heart attack, and was delayed in getting to a hospital. He survived because his robust exercise helped his heart to develop alternate feed lines (p.8). Chapter IX discusses "The Inescapable Problem" of aging and the decline in physical ability. Walking, swimming, and tennis are doable from ages 5 to 85 (pp.274-5). Most other sports peak at ages 24 to 32; forty is the usual limit. The author notes that athletes are provably in better shape than the general public; but their life expectancy is worse. Could this be a side effect from the fame and glory? He discusses the case of those who get a sports scholarship. They spend their college time in sports, play professionally for a few years, then disappear. He shows that those who study in college (like accounting) can earn far more over a lifetime than those who quickly burn out.

Reading the publication date associated with the title one would conclude this volume had been rewritten and brought up to date, given its original 1976 publication date. I admired the first edition and hoped by buying this iteration I could be informed of new data. Alas, that is not to be. There is nothing to justify the 2014 date for this book beyond an attempt to mislead the reader/purchaser. I can find no date in the book later than 1976 for any fact or comment. I find that to be disappointing in the extreme and think it smacks of outright fraud. Avoid this book unless you are a historian. There is nothing new to see here. Buy a used original in an appropriate bookstore.

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