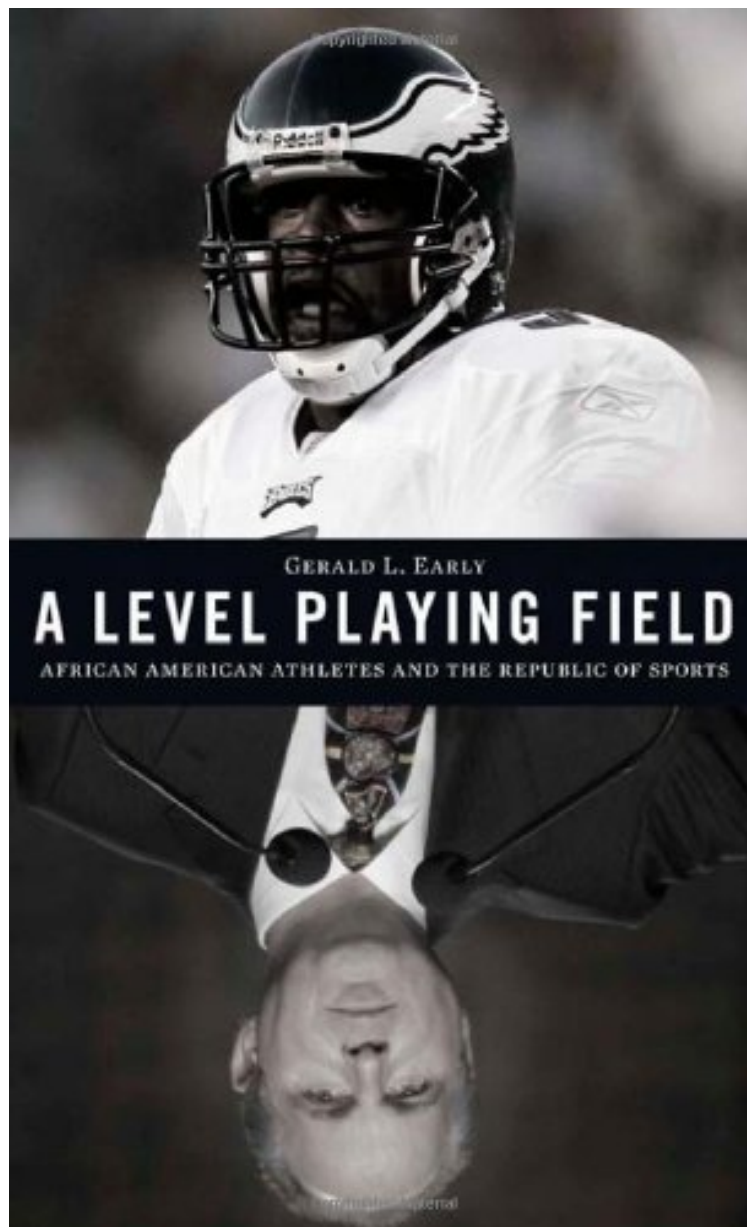


[Free] A Level Playing Field: African American Athletes and the Republic of Sports (Alain Locke Lecture Series)

A Level Playing Field: African American Athletes and the Republic of Sports (Alain Locke Lecture Series)

Gerald L. Early

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1404919 in Books 2011-04-29 2011-03-21Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF
1 7.35 x .75 x 4.25l, .73 #File Name: 0674050983288 pages | File size: 39.Mb

Gerald L. Early : A Level Playing Field: African American Athletes and the Republic of Sports (Alain Locke Lecture Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A

Level Playing Field: African American Athletes and the Republic of Sports (Alain Locke Lecture Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Intelligent Book on Sports and Civil Rights By Richard Dolnick An excellent and thought provoking book on the effect of sports on racial issues and the effect of social and racial issues on sports. The six essays delve deeply into the progress on intergration in sports and how it has in many cases played a lead in advancing the cause in society. The author discusses the importance of sports in our society and its place in terms of both social and economic terms. An important read for those who like books on athletic topics and are both spectators and participants. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A well written book By John W. Matney I'm a big fan of David Halberstams books on sports. Gerald Early's book on African American athletes is the equal of anything written by Halberstam. Blending the historical, political and culture influences and effects of sports, Early opens up a discussion for any serious fan of sports. I especially loved his chapter on Curt Flood, a very good ball player and a Hall of Fame man.

As Americans, we believe there ought to be a level playing field for everyone. Even if we dont expect to finish first, we do expect a fair start. Only in sports have African Americans actually found that elusive level ground. But at the same time, black players offer an ironic perspective on the athlete-hero, for they represent a group historically held to be without social honor. In his first new collection of sports essays since *Tuxedo Junction* (1989), the noted cultural critic Gerald Early investigates these contradictions as they play out in the sports world and in our deeper attitudes toward the athletes we glorify. Early addresses a half-century of heated cultural issues ranging from integration to the use of performance-enhancing drugs. Writing about Jackie Robinson and Curt Flood, he reconstructs pivotal moments in their lives and explains how the culture, politics, and economics of sport turned with them. Taking on the subtexts, racial and otherwise, of the controversy over remarks Rush Limbaugh made about quarterback Donovan McNabb, Early restores the political consequence to an event most commentators at the time approached with predictable bluster. The essays in this book circle around two perennial questions: What other, invisible contests unfold when we watch a sporting event? What desires and anxieties are encoded in our worship of (or disdain for) high-performance athletes? These essays are based on the Alain Locke lectures at Harvard Universitys Du Bois Institute.

The intersection of race and sports is one of the most dangerous in American culture Perhaps only a steady, steely academic like Gerald L. Early can take the turn wide open, pencil to the metal, without spinning out. Early has tricky moves and a way of bouncing off the wall of other writers theses. As a boxer, hed be a counter-puncher. As a hockey player, hed be a blind-side hip checker *A Level Playing Field: African American Athletes and the Republic of Sports* [is] a provocative and lively collection of lectures and essays. Its a welcome addition to the elite sports shelf [Early] displays the grandiosity of the critic and the passion of the fan. (Robert Lipsyte *New York Times Book* 2011-07-10) [A] powerful book Early illuminates in great detail the inner collisions of African-American athletes as they find their way in the (mostly white) public sphere. His is a valiant and largely successful attempt to explain what its like to be an African-American athlete today *A Level Playing Field* makes an excellent template from which to work when we want to look beyond the platitudes that mark the dialogue about race and sport. But it also reminds us how far weve come. (Doug Glanville *Wall Street Journal* 2011-08-06) Early is still opening eyes with unexpected, edgy insights about race and sports. This happens on every page of his new collection of essays, *A Level Playing Field: African American Athletes and the Republic of Sports* What really unifies [these essays] is Earlys piercing, unpredictable intelligence Whether Early is writing about a recent racial flap, Jackie Robinsons testimony about Communism before Congress or the myths of the black quarterback, he offers up a neglected or forgotten fact and an insightful way of conceptualizing race, sports and how they intersect that will leave you rethinking things. This book stretches the mind of a sports fan the way a brilliant coach expands the game of an athlete. (Chris King *St. Louis American* 2011-08-01) Early examines the contradictions of the sporting world for African Americans: they are lauded for their athletic prowess but denied social honor for their accomplishments. He is especially concerned with understanding the invisible contests that unfold when people watch sports and how the publics fascination with sports heroes reflects desires and anxieties. The topics covered include integration, focusing on Jackie Robinson; the use of performance-enhancing drugs; the struggles of Curt Flood, whose lawsuit against the reserve clause ended up in the Supreme Court; and Rush Limbaughs bashing of Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb Early gives each topic his own unique twist. (S. A. Riess *Choice* 2011-09-01) Gerald Early is not only the smartest person I know, he is also a constantly surprising thinker. This wonderful series of lectures and essays about the African American experience in sports teaches, challenges, and entertains with Gerald, thats a given but most of all, takes us places we never expected to go. There was a moment on every page when I found myself thinking: Wow, I never thought about it like that before. (Joe Posnanski *Sports Illustrated*) When are sports not just sports? Always, argues Gerald Early, and this fine collection of essays demonstrates why he, perhaps more than anyone else, can make this point most persuasively and most elegantly. Here, with pieces that range in topic from path breakers such as Jackie Robinson and Curt Flood to modern battles between figures such as Donovan McNabb and Rush Limbaugh, Early further solidifies

his place as a founding voice in the cultural analysis of American sports. (Amy Bass, The College of New Rochelle)Gerald Early is one of the great cultural critics of our time, and a collection like this one here is long overdue. These essays circle around a common question: what other, invisible contests unfold as we regard a sporting event? And what desires, dreams, anxieties, and insecurities are encoded in our worship of (or disdain for) the high-performance athlete? (Hua Hsu, Vassar College)About the AuthorGerald Early is Professor of English, African and African American Studies, and American Cultural Studies at Washington University in St. Louis.