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Book Review: Learning Culture through Sports: Exploring the Role of Sports in Society

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Reviewed by: Glaucio Scremin

In a day and age when we are inundated with clichés and superficial analyses about sports, *Learning Culture through Sports: Exploring the Role of Sports in Society* is a refreshing, thought-provoking departure from the sociobabble presented by mainstream sports media. The authors critically evaluate the role of sport in society. They present a critical view of how several socio-cultural issues are represented in and through sports.

The text is strategically divided into six sections. Each section offers a broad framework from which socio-cultural topics and their relation to sports are addressed. While the book pursues traditional topics of analysis within sport sociology (e.g., sport and race, sport and gender), the focus of discussion within these frequently discussed sport sociology themes is centered on hardly explored yet current and pertinent issues within sport. For instance, author Kyle Kusz critically reflects on the relation between the media images of white men in and out of sport by examining two popular motion picture movies, *Jackass* and *8 Mile*.

This is an uncomplicated read. It is suitable for the general public as well as sport studies scholars. It could serve as supplementary reading for a course in sport sociology. It offers multiple perspectives presented by

over thirty contributors on various issues related to sports and society. All authors are accomplished sport academicians and/or practitioners. Their critical insight into the issues facing sport and society deepens our understanding of various socio-cultural issues represented in and through sports.

Learning Culture through Sports: Exploring the Role of Sports in Society

Edited by Sandra Prettyman and Brian Lampman.

Published in 2006 by Rowman & Littlefield Education, Lanham, MD 20706

(207 pages, ISBN 1-57886-380-5).

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