



The Smart Girl's Guide to Sports: A Hip Handbook for Women Who Don't Know a Slam Dunk from a Grand Slam

By Liz Hartman Musiker

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A fun and accessible introduction to the wide world of sports

For every woman who feels out of her league when her significant other spends nights glued to ESPN or when “the guys” talk sports at work, *The Smart Girl's Guide to Sports* is here to level the playing field. A crash course in football, baseball, basketball, hockey, golf, boxing, soccer, and car racing, this couch-side companion explains the basics of each game, profiles who's who, defines key terms, and arms readers with enough trivia to talk sports through extra innings. With this female-friendly handbook, sports-shy women everywhere can step off the sidelines and get into the game.

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- Rank: #1888500 in Books
- Brand: Hudson Street Press
- Published on: 2005-11-03
- Released on: 2005-11-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.13" h x 6.70" w x 9.12" l, 1.10 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 320 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A former publicity director at Simon and Schuster, Musiker's motivation behind writing a book of her own was the revelation that one smartly tossed sports fact is worth as much in a boardroom full of men as a year's worth of equally smart conversation. A casual, "Jerry Rice was even more amazing than usual," and Musiker was no longer the invisible woman. "Then the walls came tumbling down," she writes. Ladies, read the title carefully: this is not a book for smart girls who played sports, love sports, follow sports or have an interest in sports deeper than their lipstick shade. Those with more than a passing interest in the sports she covers--football, baseball, basketball, boxing, hockey, golf and car racing--may take offense to tips like, "Set your sights on a hottie and root for him and his team." But for the smart girl with a desire to know of what her male counterparts speak, Musiker's is a book to study prior to the company golf outing. (Don't know what a dogleg is? You will now.) Women will be comforted by Musiker's "I'm-learning-along-with-you" writing style, but don't be fooled: her research and descriptions of the game, as well as useful sections on "Players to Know," movies to watch, books to read and great moments in sports are top notch. Call it a condensed version of the Sports For Dummies line of books. Only here, Musiker has replaced "Dummies" with "Girls." Smart girls.

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From [Booklist](#)

Armed with both facts and humor, Musiker has written what could become an invaluable resource for football, baseball, hockey, basketball, golf, boxing, or NASCAR widows. It's a good thing she is a sports fan herself, so there's none of that arm's-length ickiness that often drips from advice books that proffer, "Just pretend to be interested, girls!" Instead, Musiker presents valuable information for sports-weary women, encouraging them to give spectator sports a try--they might just love them like she does. Each sport gets its own chapter, subdivided by three sections: "Here's How It Works," "Players You Need to Know," and a glossary. Helpful sidebars--"The Gipper Revealed" (explaining the "win one for the Gipper" allusion and its Ronald Reagan connection) or "Baseball Records Cheat Sheet" (great for cocktail party opening lines)--make the book browsable and fun to use. Sure, some might quibble about certain overlooked points (How can you talk basketball or football without understanding the time-out?), but all in all, this guidebook will be a welcome helper for millions of sports-shy women (and men). *Mary Frances Wilkens*

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About the Author

Liz Hartman Musiker is a tireless sports enthusiast and a former publicity director at Pocket Books (Simon & Schuster). Although she lives on Long Island, she is more of a Yankees fan than a Mets fan, which horrifies her geographically loyal son and husband.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Violet Shook:

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