



## The Top 100 Sports Books of All Time

1. **The Sweet Science** A. J. Liebling ILL  
New Yorker essays- written by top **boxing** writer of all time
2. **The Boys of Summer** Roger Kahn 796.3.K122.b  
Account of Brooklyn Dodgers-**baseball** is more than a game
3. **Ball Four** Jim Bouton ILL  
Bouton writes about big league vices and virtues in the 1969 **baseball** season
4. **Friday Night Lights** H. G. Bissinger 796.332.B544.f  
Texas town school **football** gets out of hand
5. **You Know Me Al** Ring Lardner 817.49.L322.y  
Letters from a fictional **baseball** pitcher- orig. published in Sat. Evening Post
6. **A Season on the Brink** John Feinstein 796.32.F327.s  
Unsparring portrait of Indiana's combustible **basketball** coach
7. **Semi-Tough** Dan Jenkins J4163.s  
Raunchy **football** novel featuring running back Puckett
8. **Paper Lion** George Pimpton 796.33.P718.p  
Plimpton infiltrates the Detroit **football** training camp
9. **The Game** Ken Dryden 796.962.D847.g  
Story of Hall of Fame **hockey** goalie Ken Dryden
10. **Fever Pitch** Nick Hornby not avail.  
Witty account of an obsession with English league **soccer**
11. **A River Runs Through It** Norman Maclean M2227.r  
Tale of two brothers who share a love of **fly-fishing**
12. **Seabiscuit** Laura Hillenbrand 798.4.H5574.s  
Underdog horse with a colorful crew that becomes a **horseracing** winner
13. **Loose Balls** Terry Pluto 796.32.P747.I  
Oral history of the wild-and-woolly America **Basketball** Association
14. **Bang the Drum Slowly** Mark Harris H2428.b  
**Baseball** novel featuring star southpaw Henry Wiggen
15. **Heaven Is a Playground** Rick Telander not avail  
Intriguing account of inner-city **hoops**
16. **Levels of the Game** John McPhee 796.34.M2441.I  
Gripping 1968 U.S. Open **tennis** between Arthur Ashe and Clark Graebner
17. **The Breaks of the Game** David Halberstam 796.32.H128.b  
Pulitzer Prize winner focuses on the 1979-80 Trail Blazers **basketball** season
18. **The Summer Game** Roger Angell 796.357.A5834.s  
21 New Yorker pieces by **baseball's** greatest essayist
19. **The Long Season** Jim Brosnan ILL  
Well-rendered inside glimpse of **baseball**
20. **Instant Replay** Kramer and Schaap 796.33.K86.i  
**Football**-Green Bay Packers against the Cowboys

21. **Everybody's All-American** Frank Deford D3603.e  
Captures the romance and pageantry of 1950's **football** at North Carolina
22. **Fat City** Leonard Gardner G1834.f  
Gardner's tale depicts the seedy, second rate **boxing** scene in California.
23. **The City Game** Pete Axtheim ILL  
Author portrays parallel **basketball** world in Harlem and Madison Sq. Garden
24. **The Natural** Bernard Malamud M2875.n  
Novel about **baseball** career deferred by indiscretion
25. **North Dallas Forty** Peter Gent G288.n  
Darkly funny novel about drugs and depravity in **football**
26. **When Pride Still Mattered** David Maraniss B.L8387.Mw  
Pulitzer Prize author writes about **football's** famous coach, Vince Lombardi
27. **Babe: The Legend Comes to Life** Robert Creamer ILL  
Considered the final word between fact and fiction on **baseball's** Babe Ruth
28. **Golf Omnibus** P.G. Wodehouse ILL  
Short stories about **golf** and love by humorous Wodehouse
29. **About Three Bricks Shy of a Load** Roy Blount Jr. ILL  
Blount spends 1973 season with the Steelers **football** team
30. **A Fan's Notes** Frederick Exley E955.p  
Fictional memoir about **football** hero, Frank Gifford
31. **Joe DiMaggio: The Hero's Life** Richard Ben Cramer B.D591.Cj  
**Baseball** biography of Joe DiMaggio from boyhood to death
32. **The Game They Played** Stanley Cohen ILL  
Engrossing morality tale about 1949-50 City College **basketball** team
33. **Veeck As in Wreck** Bill Veeck, Ed Linn b.V517.Vv  
**Baseball** showman's autobiography reveals the game's history
34. **Ben Hogan's Five Lessons** Ben Hogan, Herbert Wind ILL  
Definitive primer on the game of **golf**
35. **Worst Journey in the World** Apsley Cherry-Garrard 919.9.C42.w  
Recounts experiences on tragic 1910 **Antarctic expedition**
36. **Beyond a Boundary** C.L.R. James ILL  
Trinidadian Marxist's **cricket**-drenched memoir
37. **A False Spring** Pat Jordan ILL  
Memoir of brief bittersweet **baseball** pitching career
38. **Life on the Run** Bill Bradley B.B728.BL  
Three weeks in life of New York Knicks star **basketball** forward
39. **The Red Smith Reader** Red Smith 796.S663.r  
Sports columns about Willie Mays, Vince Lombardi and Leon Trotsky
40. **An Outside Chance: Essays on Sport** Thomas McGuane ILL  
Humorous pieces on **hunting and fishing**

41. **The Unforgettable Season** Gordon Fleming 796.357.F629.u  
Re-creates the scintillating 1908 **baseball** pennant race
42. **The Celebrant** Eric Greenberg ILL  
Novel combining fact and fiction about New York Giants **baseball** pitcher
43. **Big Red of Meadow Stable** William Nack 798.4.N125.s  
Breathtaking description of Secretariat's Belmont victory -**horseracing**
44. **The Bill James Historical Baseball Abstract** Bill James 796.357.J231.n  
Essays and lists on **baseball** history
45. **End Zone** Don DeLillo D37986.e  
Funny novel explores the **football** –as-war-metaphor
46. **Foul! The Connie Hawkins Story** David Wolf B.H3143.Wf  
Story of a **basketball** great from Brooklyn
47. **Shoeless Joe** W.P. Kinsella JK6105.s YA  
Book that inspired **baseball** movie *Field of Dreams*
48. **Into Thin Air** Jon Krakauer 796.522.K858.i  
Suspenseful account of catastrophic **mountain climbing** season on Mt Everest
49. **Eight Men Out** Eliot Asinof 796.357.A832.e  
Final word on controversial 1919 Black Sox **baseball** scandal
50. **Baseball's Great Experiment** Jules Tygiel B.R5629.Tb  
New York Times called this a "rich, intelligent cultural history" of **baseball**
51. **Laughing in the Hills** Bill Barich 798.4.B239.I  
Author checks into hotel near track and stay s for the **horseracing** season
52. **Dollar Sign on the Muscle** Kevin Kerrane 796.357.K467.d  
Hard lives of the Phillies' **baseball** scouts in their heyday
53. **The Bronx Zoo** Sparky Lyle, Peter Golenbock 796.357.L988.b  
Hilarious as-told-to proves a **baseball** team can feud its way to the Worlds Series
54. **The Professional** W. C. Heinz H3548.p  
Month long run-up to a championship middleweight **boxing** bout
55. **The Baseball Encyclopedia** MacMillan (pub.) ILL  
Final authority-a **baseball** fact tome
56. **A Savage Business** Richard Hoffer not avail.  
Comeback of Mike Tyson in heavyweight **boxing** since prison
57. **The Glory of Their Times** Lawrence Ritter 796.357.R514.g  
Professional **baseball** players from the 1900's tell their stories
58. **The Complete Armchair Book of Baseball** John Thorn (ed.) not avail.  
Essays, fiction, profiles and columns about **baseball** from the best
59. **Among the Thugs** Bill Buford ILL  
Mesmerizing stories of **soccer** hooligans
60. **Lords of the Realm** John Helyar 796.357.H369.I  
Wall Street reporter looks at businessmen who have run **baseball**
61. **The Universal Baseball Ass.,** Robert Coover C7876.u

- Inc.**  
Novel about a man who invents a **baseball** board game
62. **Days of Grace** Arthur Ashe B.A824.Ad  
Groundbreaking career of the Wimbledon **tennis** champion
63. **Out of Their League** Dave Meggyesy not avail.  
National **Football** League linebacker's memoir exposing drug use
64. **Golf Dreams: Writings on Golf** John Updike 813.54.U66.g  
Fiction and nonfiction pieces about **golf**
65. **In These Girls, Hope Is a Muscle** Madeleine Blais 796.323.B576.I  
Pulitzer winner covers 1992-93 Amherst high school girls **basketball** team
66. **They Call Me Coach** John Wooden B.W8543.Wt  
Includes Wooden Pyramid of Success, a guide for life and **basketball**
67. **Cosell** Howard Cosell ILL  
**Sports announcer** Cossell's autobiography tells it like is was
68. **Down the Fairway** Bobby Jones B.J7247.JI  
Autobiography by 25 year old champion about excellence in **golf**
69. **Big Game, Small World** Alexander Wolff 796.323.W832.b  
17 Country intercultural **basketball** tour
70. **The Last Shot** Darcy Frey 796.323.F897.I  
Coney Island high school students see **basketball** as their ticket to college
71. **Arnold: The Education of a Bodybuilder** Arnold Schwarzenegger ILL  
Story of this **bodybuilder's** dreams
72. **Out of the Bunder and Into the Trees** Rex Lardner 796.352.L322.o  
Hilarious send-up of **golf** culture
73. **The Fight** Norman Mailer ILL  
Mailer lionizes **prize fighters** in the Ali-Foreman Rumble in the Jungle
74. **Only the Ball Was White** Robert Peterson ILL  
Landmark history of the Negro **Baseball** Leagues
75. **Harvey Penick's Little Red Book** Harvey 796.352.P377.h  
Six decades of **golf** tips from this great teacher
76. **Whatever Happened to Gorgeous George** Joe Jares ILL  
Affectionate depiction of **pro wrestling** in the 40's,50's and 60's
77. **Annapurna** Maurice Herzog 954.2.H449.a  
Nat. Geo. Adventure called this "the most influential **mountaineering** book"
78. **The Great American Novel** Phillip Roth R7423.gr  
Novel of fictional Patriot **baseball** league infiltrated by Communists
79. **Soccer in Sun and Shadow** Eduardo Galeano ILL  
Uruguayan writer's meditation for good **soccer**.
80. **The Story of American Golf** Herbert Wind not avail.

- Longtime New Yorker writer chronicles the game of **golf**.
81. **Inside Edge** Christine Brennan 796.91.B75.i  
Insider's tour of Olympic-level **figure skating**.
82. **Farewell to Sport** Paul Gallico 796.G136f  
13 year veteran New York Daily News author covers **many sports figures**
83. **Muhammad Ali: His Life and Times** Thomas Hauser ILL  
Oral history of some 150 voices speak of Ali's **boxing** career
84. **Can't Anybody Here Play This Game** Jimmy Breslin not avail.  
Hard-bitten newspaperman charmed by the 62' Met **baseball** bumblers
85. **The Complete Book of Running** James Fixx 796.426.F588.c  
Ex-Overweight smoker turned **runner** advocates changing life
86. **The Science of Hitting** Ted Williams 796.357.W675.s  
No one has more eloquently explicated the act of hitting a round **baseball**
87. **Only a Game** Robert Daley ILL  
Dark novel about a **football** running back
88. **The Joy of Sports** Michael Novak 796.N856.j  
Catholic theologian praises the "holy trinity " of "**baseball, football and basketball.**"
89. **The New Lords of the Rings** Vyv Simson ILL  
Expose of rampant corruption in the **Olympics**
90. **Road Swing** Steve Rushin ILL  
Hilarious travelogue of **sports** destinations
91. **Golf in the Kingdom** Michael Murphy M95352.g  
Recalls encounter with mystical Scottish **golf** pro
92. **Game Misconduct** Russ Conway not avail.  
Author uncovers how **hockey's** powerful Eagleson cheated players
93. **No Cheering in the Press Box** Jerome Holtzman ILL  
Oral history of 18 golden-age **sportswriters**
94. **Beer and Circus** Murray Sperber 796.043.S749.b  
Sperber argues that large universities use **sports** to numb students academically
95. **The Harder They Fall** Budd Schulberg S384.h  
Hard-boiled novel loosely based on life of **heavyweight** Primo Carnera
96. **The Tumult and the Shouting** Grantland Rice B.R3605.Rt  
Classic memoir of a great **sports journalist**
97. **SportsWorld** Robert Lipsyte ILL  
Concerned about our nation thinking "winning " is most important thing in **sports**
98. **The Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars and Motor Kings** William Brashler B73885.b  
Story of a black barnstorming **baseball** club in 1939.
99. **The Miracle of Castel di Sangro** Joe McGinniss 796.33.M1757.m  
Author spends a year in a tiny mountain hamlet covering local **soccer** team

100. **Little Girls in Pretty Boxes** Joan Ryan 796.44.R955.I  
Look at physical toll on competitors in **figure skating and elite gymnastics**

[http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/si\\_online/features/2002/top\\_sports\\_books/1/](http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/si_online/features/2002/top_sports_books/1/)

This is a condensed list from the Sports Illustrated website.

ILL- books can be obtained through our interlibrary loan system  
Not available-not included in state for borrowing