



MORE THAN A GAME

RACE, GENDER, AND POLITICS IN SPORTS

Description

Sports has never been only about what takes place on the playing field. Author and sports fan Matt Doeden explores past and current controversies including black boxer Jack Johnson's fight with the "Great White Hope" Tommy Burns, Jackie Robinson breaking baseball's color barrier, Muhammad Ali's refusal to fight in the Vietnam War, Colin Kaepernick's protests, #MeToo and the US gymnastics team, and much more. Doeden weaves in information about Jim Crow, the Civil Rights Movement, Black Lives Matter, and other essential background young readers will need. This book is sure to engage everyone interested in sports, history, and civil rights.

Critical Acclaim

- Chicago Public Library Best of the Best Books, **Winner, 2020**

"A worthy purchase that will serve as a good first stop for school projects."—*School Library Journal*

Doeden looks at the intersections among race, gender, politics, and social change within sports. Opening with Colin Kaepernick's taking a knee during the national anthem, this informational book is filled with short accounts of athletes, from Jesse Owens to Ibtihaj Muhammad, who broke barriers and used their roles to promote social justice. Numerous illustrations depict the athletes in action and activism.—**Book Links**

Exploring controversies past and present, the text is concise, evenhanded, and informative. Large, well-captioned photos, from archival black-and-white pictures to recent color shots, illustrate the book. Discussing social issues as they have played out in the field of sports, this engaging presentation places them within a broader historical context."—*Booklist*

"Sports, race, and gender have often clashed in American life and created greater impact than any individual game's outcome . . . This volume explores some of the chapters in this saga. . . historical context for today's controversial sports headlines."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"This seemingly brief title is packed full of information to show how the lines between American culture and politics blur with American sports . . . Doeden highlights a variety of events describing just how much athletes can influence and affect the broader social arena . . . Overall, his writing is focused and very age-appropriate for many of our readers."—*School Library Connection*

Interest Level: Grades 5-12

Reading Level: Grade 5

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