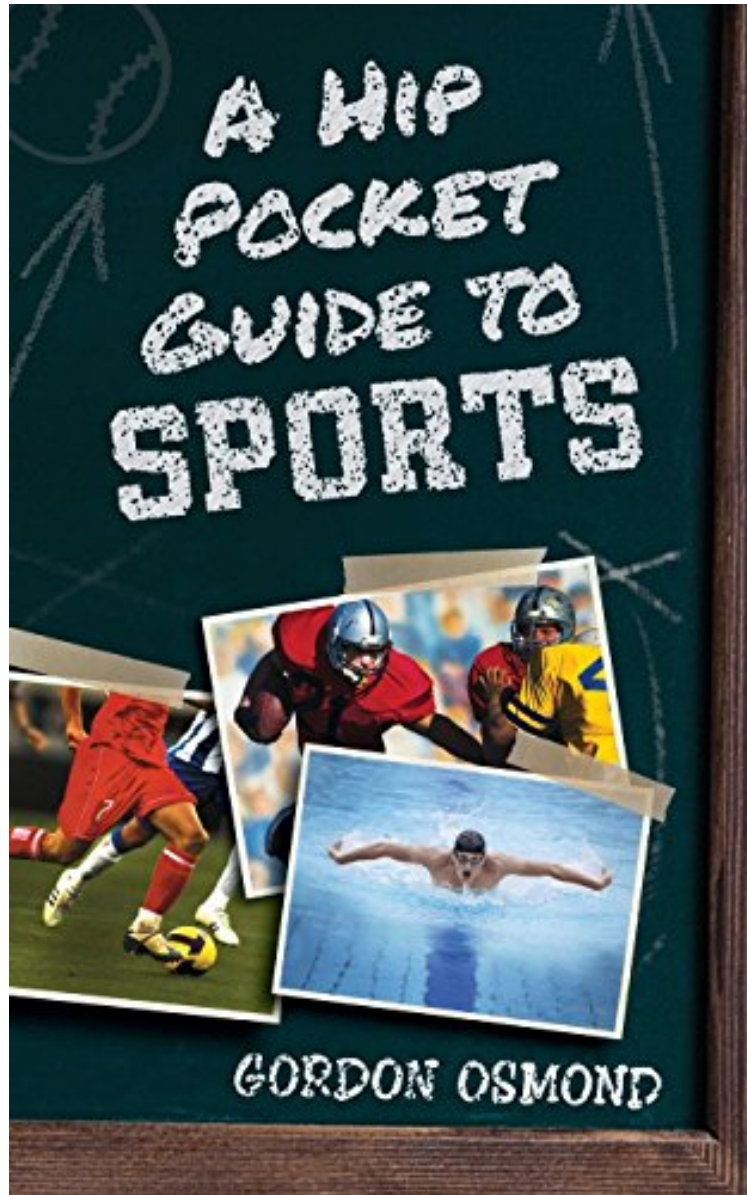


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A Hip Pocket Guide to Sports

Gordon Osmond

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Gordon Osmond : A Hip Pocket Guide to Sports before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Hip Pocket Guide to Sports:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A fun read for both the sports enthusiast and the sports "widow" (i.e., nearly everyone)By Andy LVery enjoyable to read. Osmond's work (and play) is an entertaining, fun, well written, unique combination of astute (and humorous) personal observation and memoirs, drawing parallels of

particular films and film characters to the related sport under his good natured microscope. Given how sport and entertainment are so much a part of our culture, and that it's always worthwhile to have a "different take" on something we may have taken for granted, this would be a fun read for both the sports enthusiast and the sports "widow". 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you are ever offered a like ride don't do it By Fred James A Hip Pocket Guide To Sports by Gordon Osmond Review by Fred James In 1999 sportswriter Rick Reilly wrote an hilarious article in Sport Illustrated called "On a Wing and a Prayer" in which he described a ride he endured in an F-14 fighter jet flown by the toughest guy he had ever met. This article was a non stop laugh because Reilly was not aware of what he was in for. Reilly wrote; If you are ever offered a like ride don't do it: "Move to Guam. Change your name. Fake your own death. Whatever you do, do not go. I know. The U.S. Navy invited me to try it. I was thrilled. I was pumped. I was toast!" He was warned the night before to eat bananas for breakfast. Why? "Because they taste the same going in and out!" Reilly was told as he strapped into the jet that there was a device to egress him in case of major trouble and that it would be so powerful it would knock him out as he egressed. Then he described the flight itself as it roared around the sky faster than sound, upside down and round about at 6 G's. "I egressed the bananas. I egressed the pizza from the night before. And the lunch before that. I egressed a box of Milk Duds from the sixth Grade. I made Linda Blair look polite. Because of the G's I was egressing stuff that I did not even want to be egressed. I went through not one airsick bag but two. Biff (the pilot) said I passed out. Twice. And on it went. I still smile and laugh at this parade of humor. That was a short article. Gordon Osmond, a former lawyer, playwright and current author, has just written a short book in roughly the same vein except the whole book is full of genuine laughs. More, Osmond is a gay guy writing about some very macho sports and yet he's not only funny but even handed to all. I think this short book (109 pages) is filled with wonderful asides and fun gossip. Sample. Osmond writes about the ideal nomenclature for what we now call straights, Gays, bi, Omni..whatever... He calls his own team, "the lavender lot." "The UK" he writes, "is absolutely infested with homosexuals and with heterosexuals who sound like them when they speak." Remarks like this are on every page. My stomach hurt as I read this book because of the constant laughing. So what does Osmond actually write about in this book? He discusses 18 different sports, ranging from his favorite, diving, to football, golf, soccer, gymnastics, boxing, surfing, tennis and ice skating. He spends the most personal time on swimming because he was on a swimming team in college. On polo? He gives us: "Polo is probably the toniest collaboration between man and horse. The sport does involve some obvious skill on the part of both. I must say I get a bit nervous with those long poles being flung about, but the fetching little helmets the riders wear is to cut down on the injuries." Fetching little helmets? That's Osmond's style. I'm still laughing over this. But he can be serious. Of Diving he writes, "Diving takes the sport of swimming to new heights, literally. Along with figure skating, I think diving is as close to a perfect union of sport and art as one could hope for." He calls golf outfits "kitsch." And he laments the fact that today's youth spend an inordinate amount of time sitting while staring into electronic devices as opposed to kids just a few generations ago who played outside all day and grew healthier as a result. Osmond does not confine his remarks to sports alone. He deals with the homosexual component in sports, the many different uniforms and how they affect play and observation of that play. He writes about the professional athlete who gets a contract and waxes on the necessity and protection that a contract provides. As Osmond is not only a playwright himself he is into films old, new and classic and provides interesting commentary on how films deal with sport. Osmond covers a lot of ground and remains funny and factual the whole way. He also has a great little bit on hunting, when it's appropriate and when it's not. A Hip Pocket Guide to Sports by Gordon Osmond is available on .com with reviews and in three formats, Kindle, Ppaerback and Audible. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun Read By Ranger The latest book by the polymath Gordon Osmond is, in his own words, "a highly subjective, often opinionated, analysis of those sports of which [he has] had personal experience or about which [he has] strong positive or negative evaluations." As a reader, you will find yourself searching out someone to whom you can share his observations, such as that "golf [is] just a drawn out game of pool performed in a healthier environment." As a bonus, and relying on his encyclopedic knowledge of films, he evaluates movies which feature the sport he is discussing. "It may be unfair, but nevertheless instructive to calibrate a sport, at least in part, by the kind of films it spawns." Although it can be read in a sitting or two, it would be better to savor this book slowly, one chapter at a time.

A Pocket Guide to Sports is part memoir, part analyses and evaluations of major sports, and part commentary on sports movies. The book's tone is iconoclastic, sarcastic, and, at time, outrageous. It also contains some valuable advice for living, including those based on sports analogies, and thoughts about the progress of minority rights - gays, women, and racial - in the world of sports. For fun, the book includes a rating system where readers can compare their own assessments of the value of various sports with those of the author. Finally, the book provides a prospective as to how sports, old, new, and future, can enhance the human condition.