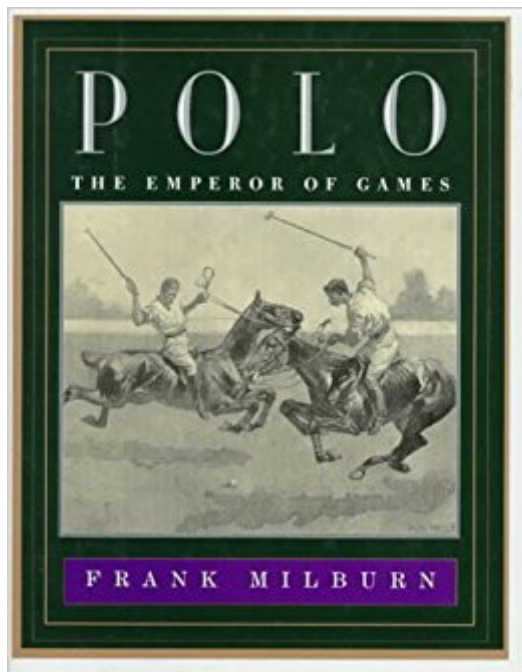


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Polo: The Emperor Of Games



Synopsis

A social history of polo focuses on the evolution of the game in the United States, from its popularity during the 1920s through its current comeback in appeal, discussing famous polo players and speculating about the future of the sport.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The grandson of Devereux Milburn, one of America's greatest players, Milburn (*Sheltered Lives*) provides everything the uninitiated need to know about polo, together with a history of the game from its origins in Tibet to its spread-first to India, then to England, then to America and finally to Argentina, which has dominated the international circuit since 1932. Disabusing readers of the notion that polo is an effete game, Milburn points out that a two-ambulance contest is standard and a four-ambulance battle not unheard-of. He suggests that polo is not a rich man's sport, but the mention of such names as Winston Churchill and Prince Charles weakens his argument considerably. He concludes that the golden age of polo was just prior to WWI and that the U.S. had its last great years in the late 1930s (Tommy Hitchcock, probably the greatest player ever, died in WWII). There are many photos of exciting plays and unexciting trophy presentations. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

For those interested in polo, Milburn has penned a loving yet tough social history of the game. While tracing its origins to Tibet and giving historical background of its development, Milburn concentrates on the United States, particularly Long Island. To his credit, Milburn does not shirk from reporting on the polo culture's blemishes, which include some unconscionable treatment of horses. He also

reports on the increasing role of women riders in polo matches. While the book is well written, its appeal is limited to the most knowledgeable and serious polo fan. Little space is devoted to exactly how this rich man's game is played. A marginal purchase, except where polo adherents may reside. David M. Turkalo, Suffolk Univ. Law Sch. Lib., Boston Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This book is a little gem for those who want to find out about the spirit and the history of the game. As an Argentine polo fan I enjoyed reading it because it tells the history of polo in the USA and of those great players of yesterday. Milburn has done a great job. It is very unusual to find someone so knowledgeable about the game and who is also such a splendid writer. The book transpires years of work and research. I strongly recommend it to those who enjoy reading a well elaborated book.

Thank You

Milburn does a marvelous job of discussing the history surrounding the game of Polo. While failing to examine the play of the game itself, Milburn does present an astute assessment of polo's past, present and future. Most noteworthy, is Milburn's astute representation of the origins of the sport. From the "noble" birth of the game to the dangers presented by its initiation into the world of modern professional sports, Milburn presents the reader with a brilliant and relatively objective view of the game. He avoids further facilitation of the aristocratic aura surrounding the sport and notes that increasingly, it is becoming a sport for all classes. He also, rather bravely, notes the inherent dangers of the sport, thus also dispelling any delusions one might have as to the nobility of a game played solely by kings and princes. In doing so, he is able to instill a sense of reality into a sport that may seem larger than life. Finally, Milburn emphasizes that the sport is about the play itself and not about an image. By retaining this ideal, the game of polo can continue indefinitely as a gentleman's sport.

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