AGAINST FOOTBALL

ONE FAN'S RELUCTANT MANIFESTO



STEVE ALMOND

"An important book on a topic that can only get bigger."

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of Sports: Football's Impact on America

Steve Almond Against Football: One Fan's Reluctant Manifesto



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an important browse. How do a sport that triggers brain damage become such an essential emblem for our organizations of higher learning? Does our addiction to soccer foster a tolerance for violence, greed, racism, and homophobia?. A New York Times Best Seller" —s biggest sacred cow: footballIn Against Soccer, Steve Almond information why, after forty years seeing that a fan, he can no longer watch the game he even now loves. Publishers WeeklyNew York Instances bestselling writer Steve Almond assumes America' Utilizing a synthesis of memoir, reportage, and cultural critique, Almond asks a number of provocative queries:•.• What will it imply that our society offers transmuted the intuitive physical joys of childhood—run, leap, toss, tackle—into a billion-dollar industry?•Powerful. There has never been a book that exposes the dark underside of America's favorite game with such searing candor.



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A powerful manifesto — but could be deeper Reading this book can provide as something of a litmus test. I've seen zero critic — I use the term loosely — in fact engage his arguments. Mainly they are flinging advertisement hominem non sequiturs. Those who react strongly against it - like the many who have flamed, insulted and aggressively mocked Almond in public areas forums come off looking like reflections of the flawed culture he identifies. Critics react with unthinking enthusiasm, unleashing mouthsful of pejoratives, frequently questioning Almond's manhood or sexuality in bemusingly "male" term. For example, suggesting he possesses feminine genitalia reveals an important misogyny; An excessive amount of. Make no mistake: Almond is a true fan of football, especially of - once we state in Broncos country - "the hated Raiders." But he's also a thoughtful guy who views the stark contradictions and dubious ethics of supporting our contemporary civic religion cum blood sport. Football is definitely sanctioned violence, exploitation of athletes and on and on.) professional football farm program being connected to institutions of higher learning, the amazing amount of time invested in passive observation, and more. One Star DO NOT BUY THIS THROUGH AUDIBLE! Also before I read it I had resolved to, shall we state, decrease my "using" of football this season: I'm not going to every home game for my college group and will limit watching football on Television. The Redskins. Maybe it'll be. Ouch Ug. Personally i think like someone died. Personally i think terrible after reading this book. I would say do not go through this if you want to maintain liking football and still have a heart and soul. I may't disagree with any of it. Football causes brain damage. He focuses a great deal of his manifesto - for this can be that, rather than a deeper research study - on the issue of brain injuries, but he identifies other, very real issues: misogyny, hyper-machoism, militarism-jingoism, wealthy owners fleecing and blackmailing taxpayers, tribalism over what's really little more than (in his terms), "colorful laundry," the obvious disconnect between an extremely professionalized (though its players are unpaid! "The struggle playing out in living spaces across the country is definitely that of a civilian class that has created, for its personal entertainment, a caste of warriors too large and solid and fast to enjoy a child's game without grievously injuring each other." (Page 147)I bought this publication in August of this year but waited before Philadelphia Eagles began to really suck before I started reading it. Football. As the betting will be a higher rate among lifelong soccer players but it is frustrating there is no baseline to compare the numbers to. Yeah. I'm going to try to not watch football. Disappointing Liberal Rambles and Rants This should have been an excellent book but it's disappointing. I'm thankful the author acknowledges the good parts about football. At least the nostalgia. What that has to do with soccer is unclear. The thrill of your team winning a big game, If indeed they ever do. Electric football.. My dad playing football. Hardly any research is shown and the guy's arguments don't exceed an average sports talk show. I've always loved watching the overall game, but I plan to learn how else I might spend that time. By the way, this is virtually all about the NFL, not really college or senior high school football. Anyway I hope this book is a landmark publication. Going just how of boxing This book, entertainingly written, is in place, the beginnings If the decline in football because the inevitability of "chronic traumatic encephlopathy" for all, middle school senior high school, college and pro players. Think they will have brain damage? Good. John Riggins. That is four stars instead of five because I believe Almond could have better served his purpose by investing more effort and turning it from manifesto right into a more substantive, documented piece of research. But NFL Soccer is a significant cultural psychological momentum to carefully turn around. What exactly are we likely to replace it with? Soccer? Hunting? It is also mind boggling that the NFL is certainly a non taxible non revenue corporation. Gee can I donate? Oh wait, I curently have, suggesting he must have a "big vagina" — seriously, it's a thing among his critics — is just stupid, a transparent and reflexive attempt to overlay deeply ingrained man insecurities and obsession with size. There were also about 20 large Washington Redskins posters. And when somebody says try they often mean fail. Still I'm thankful because of this book. If you can browse this and not change your football behaviors, you're either not attending to or dumb. Maybe I'll get a big ol Jesus poster. My other groups (Redskins and Giants – I can explain) aren't any better therefore it's an excellent year for me to nobly read the truth about a game that I have put a significant amount of importance on in my own lifestyle. He also makes comments about whites watching football as a kind of return to slavery, that is unsupportable, and he stereotypes anyone who watches the game, placing fans into a narrow-minded category instead of a diverse group from a number of backgrounds. Steve, as without doubt revealed in these webpages through wit and wisdom, reveals his VERY real have a problem with the ongoing soccer concussion crisis. Add in immediate blows to the helmet and it could be a rare person whose brain will not have problems with playing competitive football. We, like Steve, am a lifelong devotee of the violent, brutal game that is American football. I cannot guarantee a clean break because, like SO many, soccer has become among our all-consuming addictions. Unless we live under stone, football's promotions are just about everywhere and stoke our exhilaration to watch watching and.. Those plastic helmets in the gumball machine.. Thought provoking. More than this, heartwarming traditions surrounding viewership has infiltrated us. We HAVE to watch because what would we do while many people are at Uncle Billy's house watching the "BIG" video game. All of them are "BIG" games, aren't they? The NFL Advertising machine would want us to believe this. What Steve says here must be said for the better of the game. It would be Very difficult to imagine these USA without soccer but we can't, also, allow brutality upon this level go unrecognized either. As a life-long enthusiast - my dad took me to my first college game at age 6 and I still keep those season tickets and, try as I would, I've never successfully been able to avert my gaze from the game - I get Almond's manifesto persuasive and damning. YOU WILL BE CHARGED A MONTHLY HIDDEN Charge. Doug Williams. Even fairly minimal involvement is brain dammaging.. Maybe I'll get a life. Start thinking. Four Stars Eye-opening, informative, advertisement especially credible given the author's deep passion for the game. Good Book When He Sticks To Facts Almond begins his manifesto authoring the concussion dangers of playing the sport and then switches into the ridiculous cash cities and states toss at NFL teams. Had he halted there I doubt he'd have much people to disagree using what he writes. Concussions are a real danger and by the time a player has finished an NFL career it is likely he has been put through a huge selection of blows to his mind (the majority of which probably didn't even force him to leave the game) and there's almost certainly permanent brain damage consequently. When the head is moving at an excellent speed and is at the mercy of a sudden stop, the laws of physics don't allow the brain stop without colliding with the skull. Question is: will anyone take this well-documented admonition significantly or will we cast this thorny issue aside or, worse, pretend that it doesn't can be found at all? You can not be amazed by the price of CTE suffered by the players but I desire there was data on what many people that have hardly ever played football suffer from CTE. When I was 10, I had a small picture of Jesus on my bedroom wall structure, the kind with a swell glow at night cross. Sorry Jesus. It's just a very brief (with lots of white space) group of rants trying to make football politically appropriate. And there's way too much in it about him being truly a lover of the Raiders. Nerf Football. If he actually wanted to get this done right he should have taken the period to do proper research and delve deeply into those problems. His liberal bias shows up throughout the book, like the odd revelation that he has already established gay leanings and a twin brother who's gay. The fun as

children. Can the sport Americans love modification for the better and better protect the warriors who play it? Larry Brown. The extremely liberal writer touches mostly on concussions being harmful to players (duh), but contains simplistic arguments about how football hurts society in dealing with homosexuality, racism, and violence. Who cares? Five Stars fine



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