Latin American athletes have achieved iconic status in global popular culture, but what do we know about the communities of women in sport? Futbolera is the first monograph on women’s sports in Latin America. Because sports evoke such passion, they are fertile ground for understanding the formation of social classes, national and racial identities, sexuality, and gender roles. The book tells the stories of women athletes and fans as they navigated the pressures and possibilities within organized sports. The authors chart the rise of professional baseball in Latin America from the late 1950s to the early 1960s, when Fidel Castro overthrew Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista. César Brioso takes the reader through the triumph of the revolution in 1959 and its impact on professional baseball in the seasons immediately following Castro’s rise to power. Baseball in pre-Castro Cuba was enjoying a golden age. The Cuban League, which had been founded in 1878, just two years after the formation of the National League, was thriving under the auspices of organized baseball. Cuban teams had come to dominate the annual Caribbean Series tournament.

The Castro Revolution and the End of Professional Baseball in Cuba
CÉSAR BRIOSO
March 2019 304pp 25 photos
9781496205513 £23.99 HB
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS

Last Seasons in Havana explores the intersection between Cuba and America’s pastime from the late 1950s to the early 1960s, when Fidel Castro overthrew Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista. César Brioso takes the reader through the triumph of the revolution in 1959 and its impact on professional baseball in the seasons immediately following Castro’s rise to power. Baseball in pre-Castro Cuba was enjoying a golden age. The Cuban League, which had been founded in 1878, just two years after the formation of the National League, was thriving under the auspices of organized baseball. Cuban teams had come to dominate the annual Caribbean Series tournament.

But professional baseball became one of the victims of Castro’s Communist revolution. American players stopped participating in the Cuban League, and Cuban teams moved to an amateur, state-sponsored model. Focusing on the final three seasons of the Cuban League (1958–61) and the final two seasons of the Havana Sugar Kings (1959–60), Last Seasons in Havana explores how Castro’s rise to power forever altered Cuba and the course of a sport that had become ingrained in the island’s culture over the course of almost a century.

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Futbolera examines women’s sports during military dictatorships of the 1970s and 80s as well as the feminist and democratic movements that followed.

Futbolera
A History of Women and Sports in Latin America
BRENDA ELSYE & JOSHUA NADEL
May 2019 376pp
9781477310427 £21.99 HB
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PRESS
Empire of Infields
Baseball in Taiwan and Cultural Identity, 1895-1968
JOHN J. HARNEY
July 2019 246pp
9780803286825 £41.00 HB
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS
Harney traces the evolution and identity of Taiwanese baseball, focusing on three teams, and explores not only the development of Taiwanese baseball but also the influence of baseball on Taiwan’s cultural identity in its colonial years and beyond as a clear departure from narratives of assimilation and resistance.

Entre Nous
Between the World Cup and Me
GRANT FARRED
June 2019 264pp 4 illus.
9781478004707 £20.99 PB
9781478004097 £83.00 HB
DUKE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Grant Farred examines the careers of international soccer stars Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez, along with his own experience playing for an amateur township team in apartheid South Africa, to theorize the relationship between sports and the intertwined experiences of relation, separation, and belonging.

Her Own Hero
The Origins of the Women’s Self-Defense Movement
WENDY L. ROUSE
March 2019 288pp
9781479807291 £17.99 NIP
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PRESS
At the turn of the 20th century, women famously organized to demand greater social and political freedoms. However, few realize that the Progressive Era also witnessed the birth of the women’s self-defense movement. Through self-defense training, women debunked patriarchal myths about inherent feminine weakness. This book is a fascinating introduction to the history of the women’s self-defense movement.

Pastime Lost
The Humble, Original, and Now Completely Forgotten Game of English Baseball
DAVID BLOCK
April 2019 320pp 9 figures, 4 tables
9781496208514 £23.99 HB
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS
While rigorously documenting his sources, Block unearths baseball’s buried history and brings it back to life, illustrating how English baseball was embraced by all sectors of English society and exploring some of the personalities, such as Jane Austen and King George III, who played the game in their childhoods.

Reclaiming 42
Public Memory and the Reframing of Jackie Robinson’s Radical Legacy
DAVID NAZE
June 2019 246pp
9780803290822 £37.00 HB
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS
Reclaiming 42 illuminates how public memory of Robinson has undergone changes over the last sixty-plus years and moves his story beyond Robinson the baseball player, opening a new, broader interpretation of an otherwise seemingly convenient narrative to show how Robinson’s legacy ultimately should both challenge and inspire public memory.

Redskins
Insult and Brand
C. RICHARD KING
March 2019 258pp 11 photos, 1 illus.
9781496213471 £14.99 NIP
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS
By examining the history of the Washington Redskins’ name and the ongoing struggle over the team name, King shows how the Redskins name and team of its use today, King shows how the ongoing struggle over the team name raises important questions about how white Americans perceive American Indians, about the cultural power of consumer brands, and about continuing obstacles to inclusion and equality.

The Power of Sports
Media and Spectacle in American Culture
MICHAEL SERAZIO
April 2019 400pp
9781479887316 HB £27.99
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Power of Sports is a provocative, must-read investigation that both appreciates the importance of—and punctures the hype around—big-time contemporary American athletics. Based on in-depth interviews with leaders in sports media, Michael Serazio maps and critiques the cultural production of today’s lucrative, ubiquitous sports landscape.

We Average Unbeautiful Watchers
Fan Narratives and the Reading of American Sports
NOAH COHAN
July 2019 288pp
9780803295940 H B £37.00
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS
Cohan examines contemporary sports culture to show how mass-mediated athletics are in fact richly textured narrative entertainments rather than merely competitive displays. Sports take shape as stories, and it is scholars in the humanities who can best identify how they do so—and why that matters for American culture more broadly.