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# Game Over: How Politics Has Turned the Sports World Upside Down

*Dave Zirin*

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"[T]he perfect book for our time in sports."  
—Christine Brennan, USA Today sports columnist

# GAME OVER

HOW POLITICS HAS TURNED  
THE SPORTS WORLD UPSIDE DOWN



**DAVE ZIRIN**

FOREWORD BY MICHAEL ERIC DYSON

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**Dave Zirin : Game Over: How Politics Has Turned the Sports World Upside Down** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Game Over: How Politics Has Turned the Sports World Upside Down:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Smart and thought-provokingBy Emily ZakSmart and thought-provoking, Game Over continues to stay relevant in its commentary on social activism and sports today. I'm following

Zirin's work more closely because of this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Dave Zirin is one of our great sports writers. By D. Filipi If you like sports and your politics lean left you HAVE to be reading Dave Zirin's work. One of the most interesting sports writers we have today. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Behind the Oz-like Curtain of Sports By mgrdtch kaimakamian Zirin digs deep enough into sport as business to show, among many topics, the manipulation of the public in subsidizing the owners long before the first tickets are sold.

Sportscaster Howard Cosell dubbed it rule number one of the jockocracy: sports and politics just don't mix. But in *Game Over*, celebrated alt-sportswriter Dave Zirin proves once and for all that politics has breached the modern sports arena with a vengeance. From the NFL lockout and the role of soccer in the Arab Spring to the Penn State sexual abuse scandals and Tim Tebow's on-field genuflections, this timely and hard-hitting new book from the conscience of American sportswriting (*The Washington Post*) reveals how our most important debates about class, race, religion, sex, and the raw quest for political power are played out both on and off the field. *Game Over* offers new insights and analysis of headline-grabbing sports controversies, exploring the shady side of the NCAA, the explosive 2011 MLB All-Star Game, and why the Dodgers crashed and burned. It covers the fascinating struggles of gay and lesbian athletes to gain acceptance, female athletes to be more than sex symbols, and athletes everywhere to assert their collective bargaining rights as union members. Zirin also illustrates the ways in which athletes are once again using their exalted platforms to speak out and reclaim sports from the corporate interests that have taken it hostage. In *Game Over*, he cheers the victories but also reflects on how far we have yet to go. Combining brilliant set pieces with a sobering overview of today's sports scene in Zirin's take-no-prisoners style, *Game Over* is a must read for anyone, sports fan or not, interested in understanding how sports reflect and shape society and why the stakes have never been higher.

From *Booklist* Short of wearing out the subject of politics in sports (*Bad Sports*, 2010, and *A People's History of Sports in the United States*, 2008), sports analyst Zirin focuses here on the pushback by athletes and fans around the globe against injustices they see, whether in sports alone or on the larger political stage. For example, the NBA's Phoenix Suns changed their name to Los Suns for their 2010 Cinco de Mayo game versus the San Antonio Spurs to express their solidarity with Arizona's Hispanics over the state's tough anti-immigration laws. The NFL Players Association stood against Wisconsin governor Scott Walker's efforts to strip collective bargaining rights from public workers there. And there was worldwide support of South African runner Caster Semenya, who won silver in the women's 800-meter event at the 2012 London Games, over questions regarding the legitimacy of her stated gender. Other subjects include the Penn State scandal, the public reaction to Linsanity, and the continued objectification of women in sports. Readers who have responded to Zirin's other highly engaging books will find more of the same here. --Alan Moore's A damning indictment of all that is corrupting sports and a song of praise for athletes standing up for human rights and decency. *Kirkus* In his enlightening essay collection, *Nation* columnist and author Zirin (*Welcome to the Terrordome*) employs common sense and research to show that politics and sports are entangled, whether it's members of the Green Bay Packers supporting the collective bargaining rights of Wisconsin's public workers or the Phoenix Suns donning Los Suns uniforms to protest Arizona's controversial, immigrant-obsessed law, SB 1070. . . . Zirin steadfastly demonstrates how the games we watch are not just an escape from the everyday: they are a reflection that provides a perfect opportunity for protest and change. *Publishers Weekly*