



Lives of the Athletes: Thrills, Spills (and What the Neighbors Thought)

By Kathleen Krull

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Babe Ruth was the greatest slugger ever—and off the field snacked on pickled eels and chocolate ice cream. Johnny Weissmuller swam to Olympic fame—and on land practiced the Tarzan yell. “Krull hits another home run.”—*American Bookseller*

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 4-10?This talented author and illustrator team once again use their tried-and-true formula, this time to produce a book about some of the world's greatest former athletes. While readers will find out about the subjects' most prodigious physical feats, it's what else they'll learn about them that propels this title above most other books published in this subject area. Where else can one be entertained with tidbits such as Babe Ruth's penchant for public demonstrations of his loud digestive noises, or the fact that Red Grange liked to make friends with baby alligators after retiring in Florida? Home runs, touchdowns, and world records take a back seat to information about what these athletes liked to wear, eat, and drink, and the superstitions they held. The 20 sports stars featured in four-to-six page spreads excelled in a wide variety of endeavors including golf, swimming, volleyball, surfing, and the martial arts. Six women are included in this ethnically diverse group. A substantial bibliography featuring 38 titles for further reading is provided for those who will want to find out more about one or a number of these athletes. As in *Lives of the Artists* (1995), *Lives of the Writers* (1994), and *Lives of the Musicians* (1993, all Harcourt), Hewitt's watercolor and colored pencil caricatures and other drawings add immensely to the fun.?Tom S. Hurlburt, La Crosse Public Library, WI
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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 4⁺-7. The newest addition to Krull and Hewitt's series of offbeat collective biographies, this lively book discusses the public feats and private lives of 20 athletes. Each section begins with a colorful, full-page portrait of the person with significant objects or surroundings: clad in a one-shoulder leopard skin and an Olympic gold medal, Johnny Weissmuller swings on a tree branch over a swimming pool with the Hollywood hills in the distance. His character, career, and athletic feats are covered in a few pages of data, descriptions, and anecdotes. Other athletes profiled include Jim Thorpe, Babe Ruth, Red Grange, Babe Didrikson Zaharias, Sonja Henie, Jessie Owens, Jackie Robinson, Roberto Clemente, Wilma Rudolph, Arthur Ashe, and Bruce Lee. Hewitt's watercolor-and-colored-pencil artwork combines fact and fancy to create a series of entertaining and meaningful illustrations. Another winner in a consistently fine series.
Carolyn Phelan

Review

"Far juicier and more revealing reading than more usual pious sports biographies."—*Publishers Weekly*

"Krull hits another home run. . . . Interesting, entertaining, and fact-filled."—*American Bookseller*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jason Villalobos:

What do you concentrate on book? It is just for students since they are still students or the item for all people in the world, what the best subject for that? Only you can be answered for that question above. Every person has diverse personality and hobby for every single other. Don't to be obligated someone or something that they don't want do that. You must know how great as well as important the book *Lives of the Athletes: Thrills, Spills (and What the Neighbors Thought)*. All type of book is it possible to see on many solutions. You can look for the internet sources or other social media.

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