

Riverside Branch Library Sports Book Club  
Reading List 2009-2010

- Sept. 2, 2009  
7:00PM Providence Journal Sportswriter Bill Reynolds speaks about his book '78: The Boston Red Sox, A Historic Game, and A Divided City. Come to the Weaver Library to talk about the Red Sox!
- Oct. 10, 2009 Rome 1960: The Olympics That Changed the World by David Maraniss  
Maraniss weaves sports, politics, and history into a tour de force about the 1960 Olympics. Along with the unforgettable characters and dramatic contests, there was a deeper meaning to those days at the dawn of the sixties. Change was everywhere. Old-boy notions of Olympic amateurism were crumbling. Rome saw the first doping scandal, the first commercially televised Summer Games, the first athlete paid for wearing a certain brand... There was increasing pressure to provide equal rights for blacks and women. The world as we know it was coming into view.  
*From publisher description*
- Nov. 7, 2009 King of the World: Muhammad Ali and the Rise of An American Hero by David Remnick  
Pulitzer Prize winner Remnick turns what could have been simple sports homage into a sophisticated portrait of Sixties America and the metamorphosis of Cassius Clay into Muhammad Ali. Ali, the mouthy, beautiful 7-1 underdog who "shook up the world" by beating Sonny Liston in 1964, severing the Mob's claim on the heavyweight title, and trading in his "slave name" for a Muslim identity, is a transcendent enough social figure to draw on all of Remnick's journalistic powers.  
*From publisher description*
- Dec. 2009 The Education of a Coach by David Halberstam  
Pulitzer-winning journalist and author Halberstam focuses on Bill Belichick, one of the NFL's most successful coaches, and the game of football as a team sport with rich detail, exacting research and colorful anecdotes.  
*From Publisher's Weekly*
- Jan. 16, 2010 Searching for Bobby Orr by Stephen Brunt  
The legend of Bobby Orr is one of the most enduring in all of sports. Even those who have never played the game of hockey know the mystique and tradition surrounding Boston's immortal defenseman. In the glory years of the Original Six, he and Gordy Howe were the Ted Williams and Joe DiMaggio of their sport with equally as rabid a following. In Searching for Bobby Orr, Canada's premier sportswriter gives us a compelling and graceful look at the life and time of Bobby Orr that is also a revealing portrait of the game and a country in transition.  
*From publisher description*
- Feb. 13, 2010 Sports Book Club goes to a game! Details to be announced.

Mar. 13, 2010

When March Went Mad: The Game That Transformed Basketball by Seth Davis

In When March Went Mad, Davis recounts the dramatic story of the season leading up to that game, as Johnson's Michigan State Spartans and Bird's Indiana State Sycamores overcame long odds and great doubts that their unheralded teams could compete at the highest level. Davis also tells the stories of their remarkable coaches, Jud Heathcote and Bill Hodges—who were new to their schools but who set their own paths to build great teams—and he shows how tensions over race and class heightened the drama of the competition. When Magic and Bird squared off in Salt Lake City on March 26, 1979, the world took notice—to this day it remains the most watched basketball game in the history of television—and the sport we now know was born. *From publisher description*

Apr. 10, 2010

As They See 'em: A Fan's Travels in the Land of Umpires by Bruce Weber

In a no-holds-barred insider examination of the private world of baseball umpires, both minor and major leagues, Weber, a *New York Times* reporter, dives into the rough basic training school for the men who call balls and strikes in this irresistible book. As a 52-year-old student umpire, the author dons the mask and learns the fundamentals, while spending almost three years visiting baseball venues across the country, as well as interviewing former umpires, players and coaches. *From Publisher's Weekly*

May 8, 2010

BYOB~ Bring Your Own Book, that is! Read a book of your choice and come talk about it!

June 5, 2010

Playing the Enemy: Nelson Mandela and the Game That Made a Nation by John Carlin

A thrilling, inspiring account of one of the greatest charm offensives in history--Nelson Mandela's decade-long campaign to unite his country, beginning in his jail cell and ending with a rugby tournament. John Carlin, a former South Africa bureau chief for the London Independent, offers a singular portrait of the greatest statesman of our time in action, blending the volatile cocktail of race, sport, and politics to intoxicating effect. *From publisher description*

The Sports Book Club meets in the Riverside Branch Library program room at 12:30PM. Mike Bender, a lifelong sports fan, leads the discussions which last approximately 1½ hours. Books are available at the library. Contact Adult Services Librarian Joyce May at the Weaver Library, 41 Grove Avenue, East Providence, RI 02914, 434-2453 or [jmay@eplib.org](mailto:jmay@eplib.org) for more information.