

Recent Sports - December 2023

Southeast Asia Head Office  
Blk 231, Bain Street  
#03-05, Bras Basah Complex  
Singapore 180231  
Tel : +65-6883-2284/6883-2204  
Fax : +65-6883-2144  
info@marymartin.com  
www.marymartin.com

South Asia Head Office  
8/123, Third Street,  
Tatabad, Coimbatore â€ 641012  
India  
Tel : +91-422-2499030/2495780  
Fax : +91-422-2495781  
info@marymartin.com  
www.marymartin.com

Modern New Zealand Cricket Greats: From Stephen Fleming to Kane Williamson / Dylan Cleaver

A Mower Book, New Zealand 2023

256p.

9781776940196

\$ 40.00 / null

450 gm.

New Zealanders have just lived through a Golden Age of Cricket. That's not a sentence many brought up with a love of the great game in the 1990s thought they would read as the national side took the gains made in the 1980s - mostly through the deeds of the great Sir Richard Hadlee and the burgeoning talent of Martin Crowe - and flubbed them away in a drunken fog of amateurism while the rest of the world took a more rigidly professional approach. The green shoots of a recovery started to emerge under the young, urbane leadership of Stephen Fleming and, despite as many downs as ups, took flight when Brendon McCullum and coach Mike Hesson created an environment where failure was accepted as long as it came with grass stains, skinned elbows and a fearlessness never seen before on our cricket fields. Four ICC tournament finals later, including a heartbreaking tie in the 2019 ODI final and a win in the inaugural World Test Championship, has cemented this era as New Zealand's greatest. These are the modern legends of summer who paved the way: Stephen Fleming, Nathan Astle, Daniel Vettori, Shane Bond, Brendon McCullum, Ross Taylor, Tim Southee, Martin Gaptill, BJ Watling, Kane Williamson, Trent Boult, Neil Wagner.

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Rugby League In New Zealand: A People's History / Ryan Bodman

Bridget Williams Books Ltd, New Zealand 2023

366p. ; 29cm.

9781991033444

\$ 65.00 / null

1500 gm.

This is the history of a sport told through its communities. Rugby League in New Zealand: A People's History tells the story of a game and its supporters thriving against the odds. Beginning with the game's introduction to the country in 1907, Ryan Bodman reveals the deep-rooted connections between rugby league's development and the evolving cultural fabric of New Zealand. Inhabitants of blue-collar working-class suburbs, Irish Catholics, Kingitanga Maori, Pasifika migrants and West Coast clubs - the people behind the game share accounts of class conflict, prejudice, demographic shifts and industrial upheaval, while emphasising rugby league's lasting influence on New Zealanders' lives. Utilising oral history interviews, rugby league memorabilia and captivating illustrations, Bodman presents an engaging and unique perspective on the cultural significance of sport in New Zealand. The early animosity faced by rugby league from rugby union's governing bodies is shown as playing a pivotal role in the sport's subsequent popularity among marginalised communities across the country. By questioning the mythic status of rugby union in the nation's identity, Rugby League in New Zealand highlights how power, politics and people have collectively shaped the nation's sporting scene.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=857418>

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Ashes 2023 / Haigh, Gideon  
Scribe Publications, Australia 2023  
240 pages, 23cm  
9781761380907  
\$ 45.00 / null  
320 gm.

A great cricket series, as reported by a great cricket writer.

High hopes were held for the Ashes of 2023. They were exceeded in an instant classic of five Tests between a bold England and a battling Australia, finally shared two-all. 2023 captures all the drama and skill, as well as the controversy over a stumping at Lord's that followed in the tradition of Bodyline as a clash of cultures and of stereotypes. With a foot in both camps, Gideon Haigh wrote for The Australian in Australia and The Times in the UK. This book mixes his popular match reports with new material to create a priceless memento of an unforgettable series.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=860175>

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An Insider's Guide to The Japanese Martial Arts: A New Look at Japan's Fighting Traditions / Alexander Bennett []

, Japan 2023  
142p ; 26cm  
9784805317112  
\$ 50.00 / HB

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=856681>

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