

**Collection Development Bibliography:  
Sports (790s and Sports Bios)**

**Highly Recommended Books**

Frederickson, Kevin. **Steph Curry**. World Book, 2020. ISBN: 978-1645190486

**Summary:** Starting with a narrative hook, this book takes you through very basic biographical information on the sports star before digging into their career path and highlights. Each title has a nice career timeline and a map showing where the star has lived and worked. The end matter includes a link to graphics to become a research ninja (more useful for teachers) and a [graphic organizer for research notes](#) and encourage engagement with nonfiction book structure.

**Curricular Use:** Research

**Audience:** 3-7

Part of the series *Sports Superstars*. Includes: Aaron Rodgers, Deandre Hopkins, Drew Bees, Joel Embiid, Jose Altuve, Kevin Durant, Steph Curry, LeBron James, Lionel Messi, Mike Trout, Mookie Betts, Todd Gurley, Russell Westbrook, and more!

Hellebuyck, Adam, and Laura Deimel. **Tour De France**. Ann Arbor: Cherry Lake Publishing, 2020. ISBN: 978-1534147522

**Review (SLJ)** In this series, the history of each event is described with clear text. With the focus of the series on global citizenry, a chapter in each volume emphasizes the role sports have played in world history. The rules of each game and sportsmanship expectations are also outlined. Some of the sports that are more popular internationally, like cricket and rugby, will have the most new information for U.S. readers. Perhaps best of all is *Special Olympics*. While other sports spend millions, even billions, on their championship events, the Special Olympics are run almost entirely by volunteers and as such, it is the only nonprofit organization in the series. Jam-packed with information and easily readable, the text is supported with informational sidebars and prompts that encourage readers to do more research. VERDICT These thorough overviews of special sporting events, written by a pair of teachers, are absolutely perfect for report-writing students. Truly exceptional.

**Curricular use:** Research, History, Global Geography, Writing

**Audience:** 4-7

Part of the series *Global Citizens: Sports*. Includes: Cricket World Cup, FIFA World Cup, NBA Finals, Olympics, Rugby World Cup, Special Olympics, Tennis Grand Slam and Tour de France.

Levit, Joseph. **Basketball's G.O.A.T.: Michael Jordan, LeBron James, and More**. Lerner Publications, 2020.

**Review (SLJ)** Who's the G.O.A.T.? This series ranks the best players of all time and challenges readers to use their analytical skills to debate the list and create a top 10 of their own. The books include newer and older athletes, like Cristiano Ronaldo and Alfredo di Stéfano in *Soccer's G.O.A.T.* And they don't shy away from controversy, including mention of PEDs (performance-enhancing drugs) and segregation in *Baseball's G.O.A.T.* Both *Soccer* and *Basketball* commingle male and female players, acknowledging stars like Marta and Diana Taurasi alongside Pelé and Wilt Chamberlain. The biggest beef readers will have with these books is the exclusion of some huge stars, like soccer's Neymar and baseball's José Altuve. Also, parents may bristle at LeBron James outranking Michael Jordan, but the author offers compelling arguments along the way. VERDICT A great exploration of educated opinion writing.

**Curricular use:** Writing, organizing thoughts and making weighted lists, history, research

**Audience:** 2-6

Part of the series *Sports' Greatest of All Time*. Series includes: Auto Racing's G.O.A.T., Baseball's G.O.A.T., Basketball's G.O.A.T., Football's G.O.A.T., Hockey's G.O.A.T., Soccer's G.O.A.T.

Savage, Jeff. **Fitness Routines of the Superstar Athletes**. Mitchell Lane Publishers, 2020. ISBN: 9781680204698 (Michael Phelps)

**Review (SLJ):** Though these books may look little, they're packed with plenty of information. A short biography of each athlete is followed by their body statistics, as well as a description of their typical training routine and diet. Readers who know how hard professional athletes have to train to be the best won't be surprised to see that Drew Brees never takes days off from his workouts. Tom Brady is so fanatical about his nutrition

that he has a personal chef and has specific foods he never eats. Michael Phelps has a famously robust diet to be able to fuel his high-powered workouts. Female athletes like Lindsey Vonn, Serena Williams, and Simone Biles not only work hard but put up with harsh criticism of their bodies. Readers will be inspired to work as hard on their goals as their favorite athletes do on theirs. VERDICT: A unique spin on the athlete biography. Worth the purchase.

**Curricular uses:** Nutrition, goal planning, Math (think about reps, distance, calories)

**Audience:** 3-6 Anyone who is interested in the training regimes of athletes. Series Includes: Simone Biles, Tom Brady, Drew Bees, Roger Federer, LeBron James, Michael Phelps, Linsey Vonn, Serena Williams.

Sherman, Jill. *Ronda Rousey*. Amicus/Amicus Ink, 2020.

**Summary (Publisher):** Accessible text and action photos of the stars bring the athlete's stories to life. A photo-illustrated biography for early readers on UFC champion "Rowdy" Ronda Rousey. Describes her childhood, her early skill in judo and how she became the first woman to compete for and win the UFC title. Includes a fact sheet with highlighted accomplishments, table of contents, glossary, books, and websites

**Curricular use:** Biography, high interest.

**Audience:** 2-4 Other titles include: Aaron Judge, Aaron Rodgers, Bryce Harper, Cam Newton, Carli Lloyd, Chloe Kim, J.J. Watt, LeBron James, Maya Moore, Megan Rapinoe, Ronda Rousey, Serena Williams, Simone Biles, Stephen Curry, Sylvia Fowles, Von Miller.

### Supplemental Books

Huddlestone, Emma. *NBA Hot Streaks*. The Child's World, 2020. ISBN: 9781503832275

(Series: Hot Streaks)

Jökulsson Illugi. *Women's World Cup, 2019*. New York: Abbeville Press Publishers, 2019. ISBN: 9780789213280

#### **FROM 2018, 2019- But worthy!**

Coulson, Art, and Nick Hardcastle. *Unstoppable: How Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Defeated the Army*. Capstone Editions, 2019. (B Tho)

Howell, Brian. *LeBron James vs. Michael Jordan*. SportsZone, an Imprint of Abdo Publishing, 2018.

**Summary (Publisher):** This title compares classic star Michael Jordan and contemporary champion LeBron James. From scoring and rebounding to defense and leadership, chapters explore and compare each player's skills on the court. The title also features end-of-chapter fact boxes for side-by-side player comparison, as well as a glossary. It will be up to the reader to decide who is the all-time basketball hero.

**Audience:** 3-6

Titles in the series "*Versus*" includes: LeBron James vs. Michael Jordan, Serena Williams vs. Billie Jean King, Tiger Woods vs. Jack Nicklaus, Lionel Messi Vs. Pele, Sidney Crosby vs. Wayne Gretzky, Tom Brady vs. Joe Montana