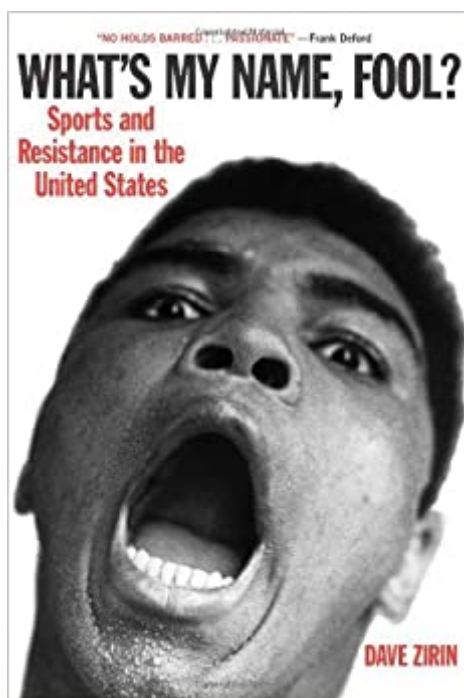


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# What's My Name, Fool?: Sports And Resistance In The United States



## Synopsis

“Zirin is America’s best sportswriter.” —Lee Ballinger, *Rock and Rap Confidential* “Zirin is one of the brightest, most audacious voices I can remember on the sportswriting scene, and my memory goes back to the 1920s.” —Lester Rodney, *N.Y. Daily Worker* sports editor, 1936–1958 “Zirin has an amazing talent for covering the sports and politics beat. Ranging like a great shortstop, he scoops up everything! He profiles the courageous and inspiring athletes who are standing up for peace and civil liberties in this repressive age. A must read!” —Matthew Rothschild, *The Progressive* “This is cutting-edge analysis delivered with wit and compassion.” —Mike Marqusee, author, *Redemption Song: Muhammad Ali and the Spirit of the Sixties* Here [EdgeofSports.com](http://EdgeofSports.com) sportswriter Dave Zirin shows how sports express the worst, as well as the most creative and exciting, features of American society. Zirin explores how Janet Jackson’s Super Bowl flash-time show exposed more than a breast, why the labor movement has everything to learn from sports unions and why a new generation of athletes is no longer content to “play one game at a time” and is starting to get political. *What’s My Name, Fool!* draws on original interviews with former heavyweight champ George Foreman, Olympian and black power saluter John Carlos, NBA basketball player and anti-death penalty activist Etan Thomas, antiwar women’s college hoopster Toni Smith, Olympic Project for Human Rights leader Lee Evans and many others. Popular sportswriter and commentator Dave Zirin is editor of *The Prince George’s Post* (Maryland) and writes the weekly column “Edge of Sports” ([edgeofsports.com](http://edgeofsports.com)). He is a senior writer at [basketball.com](http://basketball.com). Zirin’s writing has also appeared in *The Source*, *Common Dreams*, *College Sporting News*, *CounterPunch*, *Alternet*, *International Socialist Review*, *Black Sports Network*, *War Times*, *San Francisco Bay View* and *Z Magazine*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This fascinating book combines historical narratives, interviews, and social research into a unique lens of sports in America. Issues covered include racism (breaking the color barrier in sports), labor (unionization and ownership/management), economics (publicly funded sports stadiums), gender parity (equal pay for equal play), class (players, ticket buyers and other fans) and much more. It goes from the first progressive sports writer, to modern day athletes both serving in the military and protesting the military. If you've got an affinity or aversion to professional sports, this book provides insight not present in mainstream coverage of the press. One review comments that it's nothing more than "left-wing propaganda" - not true. For example, the perspectives of George Foreman and Muhammad Ali are compared and contrasted. Each is provided a space to present and defend their position. Dave Zirin never depicts athletes as static, unidimensional products, rather, athletes are presented as changing and growing over time. Conservatives and liberals are covered; however as a progressive book the focus is on social dissenters in sports, their backgrounds, experiences, effect(s) on career and society, and ultimately provides space for some of them to reflect and tell their own stories. One of my favorite elements of the book are these interviews, which let the athletes say it in their own words.

If you're one of those folks who think professional athletes are dumb jocks who care about nothing but raking in cash, you need to open your eyes and expand your mind with Dave Zirin's fantastic book. From football to baseball to soccer to tennis to boxing to the Olympics, Zirin digs into the history and shines a light into the dark corners that the major leagues would prefer remain unexplored. Zirin discusses racism, classism, sexism and homophobia, and also profiles uplifting examples of athletes fighting the power and speaking the truth. We've all heard the stories about Ali, Jack Johnson, the Black Power moment at the 1968 Olympics. Those stories (with in-depth

interviews and analysis) are in "What's My Name, Fool?" But Zirin goes way beyond the obvious to look at the labor movement in sports; the all-but-invisible retirement of one of the world's greatest soccer players; athletes risking it all by publicly resisting war; and much more. If you're a sports fan, this book will expand your horizons. If you're not a sports fan, this book will give you someone to root for.

A decent book. I had it as a textbook for a Sports, Media and Social Change class, but it was entertaining enough to be a worthwhile read on its own.

I'm now a big fan of Dave Zirin. A thinking man's sports writer with a sharp (left) political analysis. He's had me completely rethink (and develop an appreciation for) Barry Bonds, Terrell Owens and Ricky Williams. My only complaint is that it was mostly short essays. While that made it hard to put down ("Oh, I'll just read one more..."), I really wanted a complete and connected narrative. I guess I'll have to read A People's History of Sports in the United States for that.

Perfect gift for a sports/ politics enthusiast!!!

Was what I wanted. Came fast

Great book. Does get a little too political sometimes . Never ceases to amaze me how sports reflect society.

Awesome!! Thank you!!!

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