

## Book Review

part of a chapter on factors that have influenced feminism. Additionally, in some cases, writing styles are drastically different. Thankfully, even with different writing styles, the editors made sure that all sections were written in a manner that is easy to read and understand. The comprehensive nature of the book can be considered as both a strength and a weakness. A prospective reader would be encouraged to review the table of contents to appreciate the scope of the material and enhance the utility of the book. One feature that we all thought would enhance the utility of the set even further is to include alphabetical section tabs for easier referencing. Despite a few apparent weaknesses, the encyclopedia set is the most contemporary international reference available and it is a "must own" set for every college and university library.

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Gottesman, Jane, *Game Face: What does a female athlete look like?* New York: Random House, (2001). \$35.00. Edited by Geoffrey Biddle. Foreword by Penny Marshall With support from Mass Mutual Financial Group and its subsidiary Oppenheimer Funds, Inc.

This is a beautiful book of high quality photographs chosen to illustrate the fact that female athletes come in all shapes, sizes, ages, and skill levels. The book is divided into sections called Getting Ready; Start; Action; Finish; Aftermath; and these are followed by a lengthy timeline that takes the reader through both a history of women's successes and failures in the world of sports. Essays are included in each section, and they are written by women who represent a broad spectrum of sporting experiences. The sports represented in this book cover the gamut of skill, speed, endurance, strategy and power.

While very much like most of the photos that were chosen for the

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book I feel that including photos of professional athletes detracts from the purity of the other images. To me, seeing Brandy Chastain in her sports bra yet again, Tara Lipinski's "smile" after a successful jump, or even the female sprinters at the Olympic games, is the antithesis of an image like "Mutton Busting" which shows a young girl riding a ewe bareback at a fair.

I'm not suggesting that we shouldn't celebrate success, nor would I suggest that money and media coverage are all bad for women's sports, but I think there is a real disconnect between the images in the book of women and girls playing sports for fun or out of boredom, and the images of larger-than-life professional athletes frozen in time by the international media.

The authors of this book show particular strength in the essays that accompany the images. The essays are written by athletes who may or may not be known by the average reader, but I found that they all shared a common attitude. The women in these stories don't whine or complain about the difficulties they went through to be able to practice their sport. For the most part they are just very puzzled by a world that doesn't want them to move their bodies in an athletic manner. All of the women in this book are internally motivated to do their sport. They are not driven by outside forces, or dreams of power and money: this innocence is expressed through the photographs and it is that element that makes this book so compelling.

As I look through the book again and again I find that I have become dissatisfied with the faces I see there. Where are the women whose profession requires them to be athletic? Where are the ranchers, the mountain bike cops, firefighters, physical education teachers, soldiers, sailors, dancers, ski patrol, bicycle messengers? Where are the women from other cultures, other countries, other ethnic groups?

It may well be that my dissatisfaction is in fact a hunger in disguise: a hunger to see athletic women in motion and standing still; in street clothes and in the clothes of their sport. For a long time I have longed to see what women look like when they're "doing their thing" but I didn't even realize it.

We will know that the women's movement has achieved a major