
Joli Sandoz brings together a collection of stories, poems, and novel excerpts in her book *A Whole Other Ball Game: Women's Literature on Women's Sport*. This book provides a unique anthology of women's sport from the sports-women's point of view. Published in 1997 by Noonday Press, *A Whole Other Ball Game* (321 pp.) contains 40 chapters that reveal a wide variety of women's experiences, feelings, struggles, and passions toward their common love of sport. Although not mutually exclusive, three themes related to women's sport emerge within the selections of this book, (1) sport as a way to transcend reality, (2) sport as a mediator of lesbian experience, and (3) sport participation as a site of struggle for women.

In “Double Play,” Eloise Klein Healy transcends the reality of playing in the outfield. She describes the outfield not only as a place to play but a place “to dream, where slow moons fall out of the sky and rise clean over the green horizon (p. 233).” In her poem “Morning Run,” Margie Piercy transcends the physical experience of running. Piercy describes the enjoyment she finds in sharing stories about cooking and photography while running. Selections in *A Whole Other Ball Game* related to sport as a medium to transcend reality provide valuable insight in a world of women’s sport participation that is far deeper than competition and performance alone.

A second theme seen in many of the selections in *A Whole Other Ball Game* is sport as a mediator of lesbian experience. For example, Sara Maitland writes of a lesbian couple in which one partner is an attractive distance runner with “... beautiful legs, hard, stripped down, with no wastage (p. 163).”
Maitland’s story, written from the perspective of the “non-running” partner, reveals how the relationship is initiated and structured by the demands of competitive running. Pat Griffin’s story, “Diamonds, Dykes, and Double Plays,” takes a lighthearted approach to describing her attempt to break into a lesbian community after moving to a new town. Griffin’s poignant descriptions (e.g., “What I needed to find was the jocks. Where were the beer drinking, sportsminded dykes who were into competition, not contemplation, who were into personal relationships, not political action? [p. 198’]) keep the reader engaged in an amusing story filled with lesbian humor.

With the final theme in A Whole Other Ball Game, Sandoz sheds light on sport participation as a site of struggle for women. In her poem, “Throwing Like A Boy,” Nancy Boutilier reveals the internal conflict created when femininity collides with an ability to “throw like a boy.” In Boutilier’s case, the maintenance of a feminine image overshadowed athletic ambition after puberty. In “Revenge,” a short story by Ellen Gilchrist, Rhonda is a young girl growing up in the World War II era that struggles between a desire to long jump, broad jump, and pole vault and doing the things “sweet girls” do. Rhonda’s struggle leads her to the pole vault pit one night after a formal social event. Having removed an elegant dress and pair of shoes, Rhonda successfully completes several pole vaults. After experiencing success, the grown up Rhonda telling her story states, “Sometimes I think whatever has happened since then [the night of the pole vault] is of no real interest to me (p.103).” In Rhonda’s case, the “solid, balanced, and alive (p.102)” feeling she had while pole vaulting quickly overshadowed the struggle she endured to pole vault and the message she received while growing up that pole vaulting is “. . . only for boys (p. 88).”

While some readers might be surprised at the language and/or topics that occasionally fill the pages of A Whole Other Ball Game, we enjoyed this book tremendously and highly rec-