



Sports Term One, 2006

Contributors to this booklist are – Kerry Aluf, Carol Arden, Joanna Baynes, Helen Beckingsale, Crissi Blair, Anne Coppell, Sarah Fordyce, Lois Huston, Libby Limbrick, Wayne Mills, Lorraine Orman and Rosemary Tisdall.

booklist

The Big Ball of String

Ross Mueller
Ill. Craig Smith
Allen & Unwin 2004
Hb ISBN 1741140447

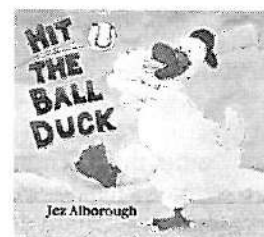
George wants to play soccer and all he has is his big ball of string. But his mum won't let him kick the ball in the house, so he goes to the nearby park and begins to play soccer. By the time he has kicked his ball around the park and all the way home, the ball of string seems to have disappeared. George must return to the park to solve this mystery! A delightful story, with repetitive text and appealing illustrations. Fun for 3+. KA



Hit the Ball Duck

Jez Alborough
HarperCollins 2005
Hb ISBN 0007130120

Duck and his friends go to the park to play baseball. Duck whacks the ball up high into a tree. The glove and bat follow the ball as Duck, Sheep, Frog and Goat attempt to get the ball down. Finally a group effort succeeds and it's back to the game. Bright, vivid illustrations accompany this amusing story. 3+. KA



Soccer Counts!

Barbieri McGrath & Peter Alderman
Ill. Paul Estrada
Charlesbridge 2003
Pb ISBN 1570915547

This book combines soccer information with counting up to 15. The rhyming text is quite simple and would be enjoyed by four-year-olds and up, particularly if they have a sibling who



already plays the sport or are keen to play themselves. Each number has additional in-depth information about the sport that gives a comprehensive overview of the history and rules of soccer. Bright and informative illustrations help clarify the text. 3+. CB

Boxing Day Test
Sharon Whillis
Scholastic 2002
Pb ISBN
1869435524



A small boy who receives a cricket set for Christmas is disappointed that no-one will play with him until his grandmother organises the 'Brodie Family Boxing Day Test'. Madcap and fun. 4-7. HB



The Lighthouse Keeper's Tea
By Ronda and David Armitage
Scholastic
Children's Books
UK 2001
Hb ISBN
0439999456

Mr Grindley is on the lookout for a new hobby. After a few false starts he decides that surfing would be a great hobby, but first he will have to learn to swim, and then learn to surf. On the day of the Wild Horse Bay Sea Carnival, Mrs Grindley goes looking for Mr Grindley and gets a big surprise. Entertaining for 5-7yrs. KA

Wonder Goal!
Michael Foreman
Andersen Press
2002
Hb ISBN
1842700855



As a boy kicks for goal at his weekly football game, the moment freezes, and he explores his passion for football and his ultimate dream of scoring for England in a World Cup Final. Suddenly fast-forward to the future and the ball is hitting the net, the first goal in the World Cup Final. Foreman captures the excitement, emotions and aspirations of a young footballer in both text and image. Ideal for boys 5-9yrs. KA

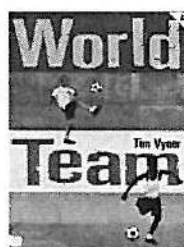
Boyz Rule series
Felice Arena and Phil Kettle
Macmillan Education

Designed for beginning/reluctant readers, each story in this series shows friends and their everyday mishaps. Most titles feature sport, and each has a quiz and information

related to the topic. The sport-related titles are:

Gone Fishing
Park Soccer
Golf Legends
Bike Daredevils
Water Rats
Skateboard Dudes
Test Cricket
Tennis Ace
Basketball Buddies
Bull Riding
Battle of the Games
Hit the Beach
Olympic Champions
Race Car Dreamers
Also see the website
www.mac4kids.com.au/boyzrule/
Good for 5yrs+. AC

World Team
Tim Vyner
Red Fox 2002
Pb ISBN
00099427583



In this clever picture book, we see that while Joe is playing in the afternoon at school in England, the sun is rising on Tico's game in Brazil and it is setting on Ravi's practice in India. At the same time, Suki, in Japan, is staying up to watch the World Cup live on television, just as Mickie, in outback Australia, is listening to the same game on his radio. Stunning illustrations bring each country to life and each of the children's dreams of winning the World Cup. A clever combination of geography and the concept of time zones, within a favourite topic – football/soccer. All ages. RT

Rattled!
Michael Wagner
Ill. Terry Denton
Black Dog Books 2005
Pb ISBN
1876372567

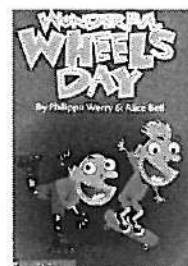


Maxx Rumble and his fellow cricketers of the Stone Valley Saints face new opposition each week – and each week you can guarantee an exciting game full of action and humour. This is the first in a series of eight. 6-10. JB

Skateboarders
Gaelyn Gordon et al
Ill. Trevor Pye
Scholastic NZ 1993
Pb ISBN 1869436288

An entertaining picture book about old Griselda Gravel. Cross about noisy skateboarders, she confiscates one of their boards. When the children try to retrieve it they discover she has learned to ride and joins them in all their clever tricks. Lively illustrations. The text was a collective effort from a writing workshop led by Gaelyn Gordon. Great read-aloud. CB

Wonderful Wheels Day
Philippa Werry
Ill. Alice Bell
Scholastic 2004
Pb ISBN
1869436040



Room 4 is to have a special treat – a 'Wonderful Wheels Day'. Henry is not happy, he doesn't know how to skate. Maybe he'll be 'sick' on the last day of term, or sabotage the class's efforts with his anti-wheels plan? Taking beginner skating lessons, Henry struggles to stay upright. But who is the mystery skater? Is it possible that 'Wheels Day' could turn out to be fun? An entertaining story for 7-10 yrs. KA

TooCool series
Phil Kettle
Ill. Craig Smith
Scholastic
Pb various ISBNs

TooCool is a boy who likes to be involved in everything! This series covers sports as diverse as rugby and rodeo. Written with humour and boys in mind all the titles are guaranteed to have the reader begging for more. Each of the 20+ titles include a glossary, factual information and a quiz. Recommended for boys 7-10. JB

I Hate Sport (Aussie Chomps series)

Prue Storer
Ill. Lisa Coultts
Puffin 2004
Pb ISBN 0143301799



Karen lives with a sporty family but she hates sports. She's even written a list of the Top 10 reasons she hates sports (1. Sport wrecks your hair...). Her parents don't understand her attitude and come up with a deal – they'll get her a computer, if she takes up a sport. Great fun for ages 7+. AC

Getting Bored?

David Hill
Ill. Ross Kinnaird
Puffin 2004
Pb ISBN 0143318187

Cody loves skateboarding though he admits he needs to practice. But even he couldn't have envisaged being coached by his dog! In a strange turn of events Cody, coached by Bix, take on the bullies at the local skate park. Recommended for boys 8-10. JB



All Stars netball series

Black Dog Books 2005
Various authors and ISBNs

Maddy, Goal Defence; Bree, Centre; Josie, Wing

Attack; Jess, Wing Defence.

The first four books in a series of eight, these feature the various members of a girls' netball team. Not being chosen for the school team, they decide to form their own. Each child has various issues going on as well as playing netball. This is not just for netball players - the characters are believable, there is plenty of action in the plots and girls of 8+ will want to know what happens next. HB

Boots and All

Sherryl Clark
Penguin 2003
(Aussie Chomps)
ISBN
0143300350



Parental pressure is a problem

experienced by many children who play sport and in this story Tony wants to please his dad (who is also team coach) but he is also a talented artist which dad thinks is a waste of time. Add a young sister who is a keen and able footy player (but Dad won't put her in the team) and there is frustration all round. This is a believable story and various issues are satisfactorily resolved. 9-12. HB

NIPS XI

Ruth Starke
Lothian 2000
Pb ISBN
07344 01132



NIPS XI is a great story about a

group of Asian boys who, fed up with International Day being all about ethnic food, decide to do something really Australian - they form a cricket team. Despite lack of experience they demonstrate true sportsmanship when they finally get to play. This book will appeal to adults as well as 9-12 year olds. An Honour Book in the 2001 CBCA Awards: Younger Readers. HB

The Xtreme World of Billy Kool

Phil Kettle
Scholastic
Pb various ISBNs



Billy Kool used to be nerd. But not now! Billy, Nathan and Sally are the stars of a new extreme sports TV show for kids. Factual information and exciting story lines, eight titles in the series. Recommended for boys 9-12. JB

Toby Jones and the Magic Cricket Almanack

Michael Panckridge
HarperCollins Publishers 2003
ISBN 0207199825



Toby loves playing cricket. He plays in the under-13 school team and checks out the online

cricket chatroom after school. His sports-mad teacher even allows projects on cricket! At the Melbourne Cricket Ground archives, the old caretaker Jim shows Toby the Magic Cricket Almanack. The numbers and words whirl on the pages, indicating to Jim that Toby has the 'gift' – to be able to travel back in time to see cricket matches. The first book in a series combining cricket with fantasy, boys 9 to 13 love it! RT



Last Cast

Steve Dickinson
Scholastic
2001
Pb ISBN
1869433144

Zac and Rex are the sons of two fishermen who have been friends for years. At first the boys enjoy line fishing off the wharf then rod fishing off the rocks but their friendship becomes strained by their competitiveness. A youth game fishing contest sees plenty of action and a mending of their friendship. Accurate information, action and plenty of dialogue makes a good read for 9-13 year olds. CA

Old Scores

Sharon Whillis
Scholastic 2005
ISBN 1869436210



This short novel reflects the importance of rugby to a small NZ community. The school jubilee committee has decided that the historic goalposts are an eyesore and must be removed but Luke knows their importance to his family and organises a petition to save the goalposts. The story has many familiar elements, especially the school speech competition. An enjoyable read for 10+. HB

It's a Try!

Vince Ford
Scholastic 2000
Pb ISBN 1869434773



Vince Ford comments that *It's a Try* is more about friendship and fame than about rugby. Even so it is still rugby which provides the impetus to the plot when Hamish is chosen to be ball boy at an All Blacks match and discovers that temporary fame has its problems. 10-14. HB

Netball or Nothing

Bernadette Hellard
and Lisa Gibbs
Angus & Robertson
2000
Pb ISBN 0207199604



Rachel is desperate to be selected for the rep team – with the ultimate dream of being selected for Australia. Just when she thinks her chance has come, events conspire against her. Rachel has to change school and netball club, and get used to a new group of school- and team-mates, and her growing interest in a certain boy. Followed by: *Netball Mission; Netball Diary*. A great series for netball-mad girls age 10 and up. AC



My Dad, the All Black
Sandy McKay
Longacre 2003
ISBN 1877135690

An appealing story for boys from about 10-12 years old who have an interest in rugby. Will Cann feels he has to live up to the reputation of his All Black father who died in an accident when Will was young. It is not only a story immersed in rugby but a sensitive and humorous account of a young boy resolving memories of his father with new realities that emerge. For rugby fans there is an extra bonus. Each chapter starts with an historical comment on the game of rugby. LL

Fired Up
Sarah Ell
Scholastic 1998
Pb ISBN
1869434153

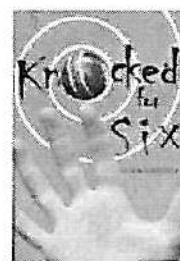


Geraldine is a promising young P-class sailor. Her hope of success in a national competition is thwarted when the yacht club and several boats, including Geraldine's, are destroyed in a fire, but this incident subsequently involves her in local politics and greatly increases her confidence. Recommended for 10-14yrs. CA



Henry and the Flea
Brian Falkner
Mallinson
Rendel 2003
ISBN
0908783779

Daniel wants to play for the New Zealand Warriors. So what if he is only 12? Daniel has a secret that allows him to join the team. He copes with gorilla-strong professional rugby players, disbelieving parents and possible girlfriends. *Henry and the Flea* celebrates persistence, friendship and daring to aim for what you really want. 10+. LH



Knocked for Six
Alison
Robertson
Scholastic
2001
Pb ISBN
1869433130

Cricket is Tony's life, but his mother doesn't see it that way. To her, family is way more important. Gran is ill, possibly dying, and Mum has organised a visit. She doesn't seem to care that Tony will miss out the cricket rep trials. Things get worse. His best friend is leaving, his gear is stolen, and his mother – how could she? – wants him to sing in public! A funny and totally believable New Zealand sports story.

Winner of the Tom Fitzgibbon Award in 2000. Suitable for ages 10 and up. LH

Keeper
Bill Peet
Walker Books
2003
Pb ISBN
0744590256



The world's best sports reporter is interviewing the world's greatest soccer goal-keeper on the eve of the keeper's retirement. The interview begins innocently enough, about the keeper's early life in the rainforests of the Amazon, but as his life story unfolds a supernatural element emerges. The reporter is mesmerised. It won the Branford Boase Award for best book by a new author. Ages 11+. WM

Playing to Win
Fleur Beale
Scholastic 1999
Pb ISBN 1869434102



Denny is new in town and desperate to make it on to the rugby team but not at the expense of his family commitments. A novel about teens, friendship, fitting in, fair play and Rugby. Absorbing. 12+. HB

Juggling With Mandarins
V. M. Jones
HarperCollins 2003
Pb ISBN
1869504623



Philip doesn't enjoy playing soccer, despite his father's enthusiasm. He finds that indoor climbing at the local recreation centre is far more to his taste. But he confronts some tough challenges before he can finally find the courage to face up to his father. Recommended for boys 12+. LO