

RANDOM HOUSE  BOOKS



Players

Tim Harris

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Charles Alcock - The first professional sports administrator. Inventor of the FA Cup, Ashes cricket, professional football and the County Championship; he also inspired the first international rugby matches.

Muhammad Ali - A boxing revolutionary and the first global sporting superstar.

Robert Barclay Allardice - The 19th-century strongman who first made athletics popular.

Jacques Anquetil - The cyclist who changed the style of his sport for ever.

Roone Arledge - The US broadcaster who created modern televised sport.

Arthur Ashe - The Wimbledon winner who led the US sporting boycott of South Africa.

Sydney Barnes – Cricket's first master of spin.

Captain Martin Becher – The eccentric talent who inspired the Grand National.

Franz Beckenbauer – The World Cup-winning player and coach who created the 'attacking defender' role.

Lord George Bentinck – The Jockey Club steward who created the modern racecourse and today's rules of racing.

Carlos Bilardo – The anti-footballer and World Cup-winning creator of 3-5-2.

Jack Blackham – The inventor of modern wicketkeeping.

Fanny Blankers-Koen – The Olympic star who highlighted the restrictions on women's sport.

Jan Boklöv – The ski jumper who became the first to out-jump the hill.

Bernard Bosanquet – The inventor of the googly.

Jean-Marc Bosman – The midfielder who inadvertently brought massive salaries into soccer.

Don Bradman – The supreme batsman who inspired bodyline, changed the laws of cricket and created the one-day international.

James Braid – The champion golfer who created the PGA.

Michel Bréal – The inventor of the marathon.

Mike Brearley – The creator of the cricket helmet, saver of the bat, captain extraordinaire.

John Broughton – The Champion of the Ring who killed his rival and invented the first boxing rules.

Avery Brundage – The scheming IOC leader who tried to kill off both women's sport and the Winter Olympics.

Frank Bryan - The inventor of modern table tennis bats and footballs.

Phil Bull - The creator of the Timeform system, which revolutionised betting.

Sir Charles Bunbury - The man who oversaw and won the first classic horse races.

Beryl Burton - The first female endurance cyclist to beat the men.

Walter Camp - The player and coach who created American football.

Tullio Campagnolo - Cycling's pioneer of the quick-release hub and derailleur gear.

Francis Maule Campbell - The man who split football from rugby.

Federico Caprilli - The cavalryman who rewrote the rules of jumping.

Amadeo Carrizo - The first modern-style goalkeeper.

Don Catlin - The headline-grabbing detector of drug scandals.

Vic Cavanagh Snr - The inventor of the ruck.

'Cavendish' - The creator of modern tennis scoring.

Neville Chamberlain - The inventor of snooker.

John Graham Chambers - The true creator of boxing's 'Queensberry' rules.

Colin Chapman - F1's inventor of the fibreglass monocoque, in-board suspension, side-mounted radiators, ground-effect bodies, active suspension and much more . . .

Herbert Chapman - The man who created modern football management.

William Clarke - The one-eyed Nottingham brickie who made cricket a national game.

Harry Clasper - The man whose designs changed rowing for all time.

Brian Close - The teak-hard England captain behind cricket's over rate rules.

John Cooper - The creator of the rear-engined racing car.

Henry Cotton - The first golf pro to make it into the clubhouse.

Pierre de Coubertin - The Olympic founder whose ideas still rule the Games today.

Danie Craven - The number 8, centre and scrum half who invented the dive pass and ruled South African rugby.

Alfred Critchley - The hyperactive businessman who brought greyhound racing to Britain.

Hansie Cronje - The biggest name in cricket's betting scandals.

Johan Cruyff - Football's most original star.

Stan Cullis - The Wolves manager who inspired the European Cup.

Adi Dassler - The German shoemaker who supplied the stars, helped Germany win a miracle World Cup and founded an empire.

Horst Dassler - The puppetmaster behind modern sport.

Herman David - The Wimbledon boss who opened up tennis.

Joe Davis - The player and promoter who ruled snooker for 20 years.

Michael Davis - The 'Leonardo da Vinci' of rowing, inventor of the sliding seat and much more.

Ron Dennis - The perfectionist who brought carbon fibre into motor racing.

Henri Desgrange - The scoundrel who ran the Tour de France.

Peter Dimmock - The founder of *Grandstand* who captured the world's sporting treasures for the BBC.

Reggie and Laurie Doherty - The tennis-playing brothers who saved Wimbledon.

Basil D'Oliveira - The great South African all-rounder who helped bring about the boycott of apartheid sport.

Dickie Downs - The inventor of the sliding tackle.

George Eastham - The mercurial winger whose transfer changed British football.

Bernie Ecclestone - The man who transformed Formula One from a hobby into a multinational business.

Eclipse - The 18th century's superhorse, father of three Derby winners, ancestor of most successful thoroughbreds today.

Arthur Elvin - The wheeler-dealing tobacconist who saved Wembley stadium.

Manfred Ewald - The joint mastermind of the GDR's hugely successful doping policy.

'Felix' - Cricket's pioneer of pads, caps and gloves.

Enzo Ferrari - The racer turned team manager turned constructor who became racing's most famous (and dangerous?) character.

Bernard Fitzalan-Howard, 16th Duke of Norfolk - The inventor of the Group system of racing and the man who lifted the lid on racehorse doping.

Dick Fosbury - The high jumper who went from 48th to 1st in the world by going backwards.

William Foulke - The heavyweight goalie who inspired the ballboy and the penalty rules.

C.B. Fry - The man who killed off lob bowling.

Masaru Furukawa - The human submarine who changed the rules of swimming.

Dave Gallaher - The all-conquering All Black who created modern rugby tactics.

Mike Gatting - The England captain who brought us neutral umpiring the hard way.

Spencer Gore - The inventor of the volley.

E.M. Grace - W.G.'s brother, who flouted convention with his leg-hitting.

W.G. Grace - The cricketing legend who broke almost every record and every rule.

Clarrie Grimmett - Slow bowler who created the flipper.

Walter Hagen - Golf's first international star.

Wyndham Halswelle - The 400 metre runner whose walkover helped create the IAAF.

F.E. Hancock - The English Welshman who invented the tree-quarter line.

Alan Hardaker - The creator of the League Cup, play-offs and multiple gaffes.

David Harris - The first master bowler.

Lord Harris - The MCC's pioneer of imperial cricket.

Coburn Haskell - The inventor whose new ball transformed golf.

João Havelange - The FIFA boss who transformed sport's finances.

Lord Hawke - The aristocrat who made Yorkshire the dominant county.

Howard Head - The aeronautical engineer whose inventions transformed both skiing and tennis.

Sonja Henie - The skating star who first danced to music.

Helenio Herrera - The Argentine coach who perfected the sweeper system and created the Italian style of squad management.

George Rowland Hill - The man who split rugby into league and union.

Jimmy Hill - The man who transformed footballers' wages, ran 'The Team of the 1960s' and became UK sport's first media star.

Bernard Hinault - The ferocious Breton cyclist who won and controlled the Tour de France.

Roy Hofheinz - The creator of the Houston Astrodome.

Jimmy Hogan - The pioneering Europe-wide football coach, promoter of the short-ball game and co-creator of the Austrian *Wunderteam*.

Nettie Honeyball - The Victorian pioneer of women's football.

George Horine - The high jumper who created the western roll.

Len Hutton - The man who broke the professional/amateur divide in cricket.

Ludwig Jahn - The German secret serviceman who created gymnastics.

Carwyn James - The pioneering coach who transformed British rugby's fortunes.

John Jaques - The wood-turner whose company equipped Britain for sport, invented table tennis and much more besides.

Douglas Jardine - The inventor of bodyline.

Sanath Jayasuriya - Cricket's first pinch-hitter.

Knud Jensen - The Olympic cyclist whose death started drug testing.

Ben Johnson - The athlete who (briefly) smashed the Olympic 100 metre record.

Jack Johnson - The first great black boxing champion and sporting rebel.

Robert Trent Jones - The architect who made golf massive.

Bobby Jones - The amateur sporting star who reinvented the golf course.

Michael Jordan - The basketball star whose name is still worth millions.

Duke Kahanamoku - The inventor of the crawl who took surfing to the world.

Annette Kellerman - Australia's outrageous (for her times) swimming star.

Billie Jean King - The creator of women's professional tennis.

Don King - The ex-con who made boxing global.

John Barton King - The man who created swing in cricket.

Phil Knight - The creator of Nike.

Bill Koch - The creator of the skating style in skiing.

Alvin Kraenzlein - The multiple Olympic winner who became the first modern hurdler.

Jack Kramer - The mastermind behind professional tennis.

George Lambton - The aristocratic trainer who blew the whistle on doping.

Marie-Reine Le Gougne - The judge who revealed the Winter Olympics' greatest scoring scandal.

Archibald Leitch - The man who built Old Trafford, Twickenham, Ibrox, Hampden Park and most of the rest.

'Cecil' Leitch - The lady golfer who first took on and beat the men.

Greg LeMond - The first scientific cyclist.

Suzanne Lenglen - The pioneer tennis pro who transformed women's tennis, created the professional game and took it out of the Olympics.

Walter Lindrum - The man who killed off billiards.

Ray Lindwall - Cricket's unbeatable bowler who prevented the ball size changing.

Per Henrik Ling – Sweden’s founder of gymnastics.

Clive Lloyd – The boss of all-out cricket.

Greg Louganis – The hard-as-nails multiple gold-winning diver who became US sport’s first openly gay star.

Joe Louis – America’s first black sporting hero.

Spiridon Louis – The marathon runner whose questionable triumph launched the Olympics.

Hank Luisetti – The basketball innovator.

Arnold Lunn – The British founder of Alpine skiing.

Mark McCormack – The ‘big daddy’ of sports promotion.

Bill McCracken – The man who created the modern offside rule.

William McCrum – The inventor of the penalty.

William McGregor – The Scotsman who created the English Football League.

Alister MacKenzie – The golf architect whose Augusta course changed the way golf was played.

Jem Mackie – The rugby player who actually first picked up the ball and ran with it.

Graham McNamee – The first ball-by-ball commentator.

Ray Mancini – The man who shortened boxing matches.

Oubass Markötter – The improver of the scrum.

Leonard Maton – The sturdy Wimbledon Hornet who first wrote the rules of rugby.

Raymond Mays – The founder of the British racing car industry.

Gus Mears’s Scottish terrier – The dog that created London football.

Ian Meckiff - Cricket's sacrificial victim.

Eddy Merckx - The 'Cannibal' who tore up 60s and 70s cycling.

'Dally' Messenger - The union star who first made rugby league international.

Rinus Michels - The inventor of Total Football.

Mick the Miller - The canine star who made the dogs more popular than football.

Alice Milliat - The rower who opened up sport for women.

François Mingaud - The man who perfected the cue.

Sheikh Mohammed - Transformer of racing, and now ruler of Dubai's Sport City.

Old Tom Morris - The golf pro who inspired the Open.

Young Tom Morris - The first modern golf pro.

Ed Moses - The 400 metre hurdler who ruled his sport for a decade.

Max Mosley - The barrister who became F1's leader.

Albert Mummery - The Victorian rebel who invented modern mountaineering.

Muttiah Muralitharan - Sri Lanka's greatest and most controversial cricketer, creator of the 'doosra'.

James Naismith - The inventor of basketball.

Patrick Nally - The inventor of modern sports marketing.

Sarfraz Nawaz - The creator of reverse swing.

Miklós Németh - The reinventor of the javelin.

Jack Nicklaus - The golf star and creator of the 'TV age' course.

George Nissen - The inventor of the trampoline.

Sondre Norheim - The inventor of modern skis and skiing.

Henry Norris - The arch-schemer who created London's 'soccer map'.

Northern Dancer - The undersized mischievous horse who became racing's greatest sire.

Tazio Nuvolari - Motor racing's brake-hating master driver.

Vincent O'Brien - The first trainer to transport horses by air and to winter them abroad.

Kerry Packer - The Australian TV mogul who transformed cricket.

Arnold Palmer - The golfer who became one of TV's first sporting stars.

Adriaan Paulen - The creator of athletics' World Championships.

Pelé - Football's first global star.

Fred Perry - Britain's first modern sports star.

Jim Phillips - The crusading umpire who 'saved' cricket.

Lester Piggott - The master jockey who changed the style of race riding.

Martin Pipe - The Henry Ford of horse training.

Dick Pound - The IOC and WADA boss who funded the Olympics and confounded drugs cheats.

William Prest and Nathaniel Creswick - The pioneers of the Sheffield clubs, arguably the men who founded football.

Ferenc Puskás - The man who destroyed British football's 'invincibility'.

Sonny Ramadhin - The West Indies' unreadable spinner.

Alf Ramsey - England's first and most successful manager.

Ranji - Britain's first non-white sporting captain and inventor of the leg glance.

Karl Rappan - The soccer coach behind the Swiss bolt.

John Rattray - The man who wrote the rules of golf.

Willie Renshaw - Tennis's inventor of the serve and volley.

Carlos Ribagorda - The basketballer who blew the whistle on disability sport.

Viv Richards - The batsman who turned the tide in cricket.

Jackie Robinson - The sporting all-rounder who got black players back into US sport.

Leigh Richmond Roose - The man behind the goalkeeping rules.

Admiral Rous - The creator of modern handicapping in horse-racing.

Stanley Rous - The man who wrote the rules of football, pioneered coaching and took the FA into FIFA.

Arthur Rowe - The Spurs manager behind 'push and run'.

Clive Rowlands - The man who kicked rugby into a new era.

'Babe' Ruth - The Sultan of Swat. Holder of 56 separate baseball records.

Samuel Ryder - The St Albans seed merchant who invented the golf contest.

Jarno Saarinen - The motorcycle champion who won by getting off the bike.

Arrigo Sacchi - Football's last big thinker.

Juan Antonio Samaranch - The man who killed off amateurism and kept the Olympics alive with 'pork barrel'

politics.

G.H. Sampson - The first footballer to head the ball.

Robert Sangster - The man who turned racehorse owning into a profession.

Hannes Schneider - The father of modern skiing and creator of the Arlberg method.

Irving Scholar - The Spurs owner who first took UK football to market.

Ayrton Senna - The driver whose life and death transformed racing.

Joseph Sherer - The British officer who helped bring polo to a wider world.

Tom Simpson - The cyclist whose death prompted routine drugs testing in sport.

Matthias Sindelar - Soccer's first playmaker.

Tod Sloan - The jockey who changed the way all jockeys ride.

O.P. Smith - The creator of greyhound racing.

Tommie Smith - The 200 metre record smasher who became an icon.

Edward Smith Stanley - The creator of the Oaks and Derby.

Karsten Solheim - The man who turned golf design on its head.

Albert Spalding - The baseball pitcher who ran the league, founded an empire and rewrote the game's history.

Frederick Spofforth - The Aussie fast bowler no batsman could live with.

Lumpy Stevens - The inventor of length bowling.

Jackie Stewart - The champion who made racing a test of skill not bravery.

Adrian Stoop - The man who changed rugby back play.

William Sudell - The Preston manager who made football professional.

John L. Sullivan - The boxer who became the US's biggest sporting star.

Michael Sweeney - The master of the scissors style of high jumping.

Madge Syers - The skating star who took on and beat the men.

Maurice Tate - The first seamer.

J.H. Taylor - The golfer who created the PGA.

Peter Taylor - The judge whose report changed British football grounds for ever.

Edward Thring - The headmaster who created modern school sports.

John Thurston - The creator of the billiard table.

Bill Tilden - The tactical master of tennis who transformed the image of the game.

Harry Vardon - Golf's first international star.

Harry Vassall - Rugby's pioneer of inter-passing.

Willy Voet - The man behind the Tour de France's greatest scandal.

Wavell Wakefield - The British rugby captain who brought new skills into the game.

Frederick Wall - The FA secretary who drove women from the game.

Shane Warne - The man who brought back leg spin.

Maud Watson - The tennis player who became Britain's first female sports star.

James Weatherby - The man whose family have run British horse racing for 200 years.

Johnny Weissmuller - The perfecter of the crawl (and Tarzan).

John Wiles - Cricket's pioneer of round-arm bowling.

Frank Williams - The man at the heart of British GP racing for 30 years.

J.P.R. Williams - The first attacking full back.

Tom Wills - The creator of Aussie Rules.

Edgar Willsher - Cricket's pioneer of overarm bowling.

Walter Wingfield - The inventor of lawn tennis.

Katarina Witt - The skater who was too smart and sexy for her sport.

Tiger Woods - Golf's mega-earning master of distance and control.

Babe Zaharias - The extraordinary sporting all-rounder who created the Ladies' PGA.

Emil Zátopek - The triple gold medal winner who stood up to governments.

Mathias Zdarsky - The inventor of alpine skis, steel bindings and the steep descent.

John Bosley Ziegler - The 'god-damned nut' who brought steroids into Western sport.

Picture Section

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About the Book

It may be natural to play games, but the sports we love aren't natural at all. Each and every one of them has been invented, tweaked, pushed and pulled to come up with better rules, cleverer tactics and more effective techniques. There are no prizes for guessing who invented the Cruyff Turn or the Fosbury Flop - but who invented the header or the sliding tackle? The dive pass or the scrum? The lob or the smash? The sand wedge or the tee? The googly or the flipper?

This book introduces 250 men, women and animals, each of whom has transformed at least one major sport. Famous or infamous, remembered or forgotten, god-like or god-awful, the game was never the same after them.

In making his selection, Tim Harris, author of *Sport*, has drawn on years of passion, argument and research to produce a list that is at once personal and authoritative, provocative and challenging: the rogues, rulers and revolutionaries who shaped the games we play today.

About the Author

Author Tim Harris is a former advertising copywriter and creative director who became increasingly obsessed by sporting history after a pub argument about why football shirts tend to be striped and rugby shirts hooped. He is the author of *Sport: Almost Everything You Ever Wanted to Know*.

Also by Tim Harris

SPORT: Almost Everything You Ever Wanted to Know

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For my parents, Sidney and Susan Harris.

Players

250 Men, Women and Animals who
Created Modern Sport

Tim Harris



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Introduction and Welcome

It may be natural to play games, but the sports we love aren't natural at all. Each and every one of them has been invented, tweaked, pushed and pulled to come up with better rules, cleverer tactics and more effective techniques. There are no prizes for guessing who invented the Cruyff turn or the Fosbury flop - but what about the header or the sliding tackle? The dive pass or the scrum? The lob or the smash? The sand wedge or the tee? The googly or the flipper?

This book introduces 250 men, women and animals, each of whom transformed at least one major world sport. Famous or infamous, remembered or forgotten, god-like or god-awful, the game was never the same after them.

At the top are the 'Rulers' - extraordinary talents such as Muhammad Ali, Michael Jordan or Suzanne Lenglen, who achieved new levels of skill and drew the eyes of the world. Some of them, like Don Bradman in cricket or Babe Ruth in baseball, were so good that the rules or equipment had to be changed to give others a chance. One or two were so brilliant that they even killed off their sport as a genuine contest. Most are attacking players, but not all. Footballer Bill McCracken and cricketer Jack Blackham both changed their sports through their defensive skills.

Next are the 'Rogues', the schemers and scammers, duckers and divers who dreamt up new cheats, dodges and ruses to win. Some of their inventions, such as reverse swing in cricket, the single-handed shot in basketball or the modern racing eight, have become part of the game - but there are some out-and-out villains too. Dopers, cheats and

crooks have also played their part in sport's rich pageant, and here we salute their rat-like cunning.

The third group are the 'Revolutionaries' - the inventors of new rules, tactics and techniques that we all take for granted today. A few are geniuses who dreamt up massively popular sports such as tennis, basketball or greyhound racing. Some suddenly turned years of sporting orthodoxy on its head and found different ways to ride horses or motorbikes. Most simply found a new way to win the game. The one-two punch, the three-man defence, the four-wheel drift . . . they're all here.

Writing this book has been a lot of fun. For a start, there's been finding out how and why the great sports stars became so successful. Then the digging out of the more obscure characters and the stories behind the creation of the penalty, the scrum or the marathon. And finally there are the often surprising connections between them all. These links are indicated by underlining in the text and I hope they encourage you to jump around and get thoroughly lost.

In choosing these 250 names, I've tried to strike a balance between the blinking obvious and the deliberately perverse. I hope you have as much enjoyment disagreeing with my choices as I did coming up with them.

'I believe in rules. Sure I do. If there weren't any rules, how could you break them?'

LEO 'THE LIP' DUROCHER

Giacomo 'Ago' Agostini

Giacomo Agostini, motorcyclist and team manager, born Brescia, Italy 16 June 1942. Career: MV Agusta 1964-74, Yamaha 1974-7, world champion 350 cc 1968, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 500 cc 1966, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 75. Overall record: 186 Grands Prix, 122 wins, 117 fastest laps. Motorcycle Hall of Fame 1999.

DESPITE A RECORD number of Grand Prix wins, the most significant race in the world-beating career of Giacomo 'Ago' Agostini was one in which he *didn't* take part.

With 122 GP victories between 1964 and 1977, Agostini was motorcycling's first superstar. The handsome and wealthy Ago tricked his family into allowing him to race - by implying that he meant to become a cyclist - and soon became the undisputed king of the sport. He very rarely crashed and only Jarno Saarinen's 'hanging-off' style ever really threatened him. In 1974, Ago's move from MV Agusta to Yamaha signalled the final takeover of 500 cc racing by the Japanese manufacturers - but the race that made the biggest difference to the sport had taken place two years earlier.

On the morning of 9 June 1972, the 125 cc British Grand Prix took place around the Isle of Man TT course in heavy rain, low cloud and mist. The course was dangerous enough in perfect conditions - long and hard to learn, with narrow twisting roads, flanked by buildings and stone walls covered by only the most basic padding. Here, on the multiple bends known as Verandah, Agostini's friend Gilberto Parlotti crashed into a concrete post and wire fence and was killed.