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# The ESPN Pro Football Encyclopedia (Review)

Sue Polanka

Wright State University - Main Campus, sue.polanka@wright.edu

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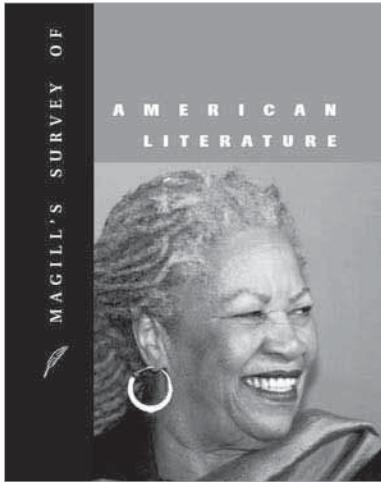
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September 2006  
6 volumes; 2,600 Pages  
ISBN: 1-58765-285-4  
LIST PRICE: \$499



## Adult Reference

**The ESPN Pro Football Encyclopedia.** Ed. by Pete Palmer and others. 2006. 1,454p. Sterling, paper, \$24.95 (1-4027-4216-9). 796.33203.

Based on the successful *ESPN Pro Baseball Encyclopedia*, the first edition of the *ESPN Pro Football Encyclopedia* has yards of statistics on every aspect of the professional game, from the earliest days in 1920 through the 2005 season. The majority of the book is a register of the full roster of pro football players and is divided into three areas: "The Player Register," "The Kicking Register," and "The Defense and Specialist Registers." These registers include alphabetical lists of all professional players, years and games played, teams, and important statistics like rushing, yards, tackles, interceptions, and more. The statistics don't end there. The starters, head coaches, games, playoffs, Super Bowls, all-time leaders, all-pro teams, awards, and the pro football draft all have sections with pertinent statistics, which are highly sought

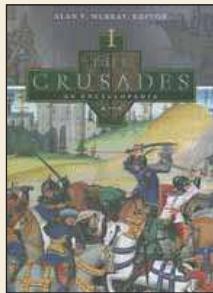
after by fantasy football players. Each section of statistics begins with a lengthy description of the data and abbreviations contained in the section and how to interpret them. The introduction discusses football history.

This is the first encyclopedia of football since *Total Football* (Total Sports Publishers) was published in 1999. While much of the data can be gleaned from various Web sites, the compilation in one source at an affordable price makes it an easy purchase. ESPN plans to publish annually, keeping the book up-to-date and affordable. This book puts the reality in fantasy football and should be in every public library and bar and grill—and on every football fanatic's coffee table. —*Sue Polanka*

**Gale Encyclopedia of Everyday Law.** 2v. 2d ed. Ed. by Jeffrey Wilson. 2006. 1,552p. index. Gale, \$325 (1-4144-0353-4). 349.73.

The first edition of this set was published in 2002. The format of the second edition is the same—more than 20 major topics subdivided, with the subsections having articles of two to six pages, most ending with a short bibliography

☆ **The Crusades: An Encyclopedia.** 4v. Ed. by Alan V. Murray. 2006. 1,314p. illus. index. ABC-CLIO, \$385 (1-57607-862-0). 909.07.



"The study of the crusades touches many different aspects of history, from war, politics, and economics to religious and cultural diversity." Recognizing both the complexity of the issues involved and the baggage the term carries today, the team of international scholars responsible for this new reference work successfully and dispassionately describes the individuals, places, events, and topics that cover the crusading movement.

The set contains about 1,000 alphabetically arranged entries, each signed by the author and concluding with a supplemental bibliography. While the entries are accessibly written for the general reader, they draw upon source material and secondary scholarship in a variety of languages. Consequently, references

in the supplemental bibliographies are often to sources in languages other than English. The encyclopedia also includes a general bibliography on the Crusades and the geographical areas affected by them. Black-and-white illustrations are found throughout. A nice addition in the fourth volume is an appendix, entitled "Texts and Documents," that provides translations into English of a few letters, poems, and songs from the period.

As expected, coverage includes entries on such well-known figures as *Urban II*, the pope who called the First Crusade, and *Richard I the Lionheart*, king of England and a leader of the Third Crusade. But the encyclopedia demonstrates its geographic breadth by including an entry for the *Artuqids*, a Turkoman dynasty that skirmished with the Franks in Syria; a survey article on the *Ottoman Empire* in addition to individual entries for some of the sultans (e.g., *Süleyman I*); and various entries on the Abbasids, Fatimids, and Saljuqs, among others. Two articles on *Naval history* (*Naval history, 1096–1099* and *Naval history, 1100–1249*) and one on *Ships* describe the types of vessels used at the time of the Crusades, what provisions were required to support a crew, and how precarious sea travel was at this time. Finally, an entry entitled *Criticism of crusading* presents not only contemporaneous European critiques of the manner in which the Crusades were prosecuted and the misbehavior of the crusaders themselves but also critiques of the movement itself.

Two recently published, single-volume sources on the Crusades are worth mentioning. *The Encyclopedia of the Crusades* (Greenwood, 2003) is, in many ways, a lite version of the reference work being reviewed. Its coverage extends to Muslim and Turkish figures and also includes illustrations, an index, and a chronology of the Crusades. *The Historical Dictionary of the Crusades* (Scarecrow, 2003) pretty much covers Europe only and lacks both illustrations and an index. Both are the product of single authors. Given its broad coverage and its accessible yet scholarly content, *The Crusades: An Encyclopedia* is the preferred work. Recommended for academic and large public libraries. —*Christopher McConnell*