12-1-2006

The ESPN Pro Football Encyclopedia (Review)

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Magill’s Survey of American Literature

Profiles of 340 writers at the heart of literary studies, accompanied by career analysis as well as critiques of individual titles.

The Survey was originally published in 1991 to widespread critical acclaim. This revised edition updates and adds to the remarkable original. Fiction, drama, poetry and nonfiction are all included. A number of Canadian authors have been added and there are more minority and women writers included. Authors of young adult fiction are also represented.

Adult Reference


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


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.