

“BOOKMARK!” HIGHLIGHTS BOOKS FOR A VARIETY OF GRADE LEVELS AROUND A PARTICULAR THEME.

Two years ago at this time, the city of Vancouver was gearing up to host the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, and the entire country was united as we cheered on our athletes. This summer, London will play host to the 2012 Summer Olympic Games. CCBC Library Coordinator Meghan Howe has put together a selection of books published since 2006 (with the exception of one noted below) that celebrate the summer sports.

## Summer Olympic Sports

### PICTURE BOOKS, EARLY READERS AND NON-FICTION FOR KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

#### Brady Brady and the Ballpark Bark

written by Mary Shaw  
illustrated by Chuck Temple  
(Brady Brady Inc., 2007)

With the season opener only days away, Tree is swinging like a gate and missing every time. Brady is trying to help, but Hatrick keeps getting in the way.

#### Captain Lilly and the New Girl

written by Brenda Bellingham  
illustrated by Clarke MacDonald  
(Formac Publishing, 2009)

Lilly's new soccer team includes the coach's niece, Sara. When they come up against another team, the competing coach doesn't want to let Sara play because she's wearing a hijab (headscarf). The soccer players, tired of listening to the adults argue, head off to have a game for fun, showing the grown-ups what really matters.

#### Flip It Gymnastics

(Sports Starters)  
written by Paul Challen  
(Crabtree Publishing, 2010)

From floor exercises to balance beams and parallel bars, it's all here, explained through clear text and colourful images. Kids will also meet some of the brightest stars of the world of gymnastics, past and present!

#### Great Play, Morgan

(First Novels)  
written by Ted Staunton  
illustrated by Bill Slavin  
(Formac Publishing 2008)

On the soccer field, Morgan takes it easy, but Aldeen is a maniac. The team blame Morgan when they lose, so he wants to quit. If he does, they won't have enough players for the big tournament. Morgan and Aldeen find unexpected ways to help the team win.

#### Take Me Out to the Ball Game

written and illustrated by Maryann Kovalski  
(Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2006)

Set to the lyrics of the seventh-inning-stretch baseball anthem, this book is an exuberant romp through the excitement

of banners, hot dogs, a roaring crowd and rooting for the home team.

#### Judo in Action

(Sports in Action)  
written by John Crossingham and Bobbie Kalman  
(Crabtree Publishing, 2006)

What is judo? This book is a colourful look at its history, etiquette and inventive moves. Bright photos and exciting text reveal the throws, holds and locks of this energetic martial art. The Sports in Action series also includes *Karate in Action*, written by Kelley MacAulay and Bobbie Kalman, which reveals the essentials of the world's most popular martial art.

### JUNIOR NON-FICTION AND FICTION FOR GRADES 3 TO 6

#### Basketball Basics: How to Play Like the Pros

written by Jay Triano  
(Greystone Books, 2009)

NBA coach and Hall of Fame player Jay Triano presents the drills and fundamental skills that every young player needs. Focusing on conditioning, offense, defense, rebounds and plays that make a difference, Triano provides step-by-step instructions for everything from balance and stretching to dribbling and passing, from shooting and catching to layups and free throws.

#### Bobbie Rosenfeld: The Olympian Who Could Do Everything

written by Anne Dublin  
(Second Story Press, 2004)

An extraordinarily multi-talented athlete, Bobbie Rosenfeld was named Canada's Female Athlete of the First Half-Century (1900-1950). This award-



winning biography tells the tale of a sports figure, admired as much for her strength of character as her athletic prowess. Wonderful photographs complement the well-written text.

#### Cyclist Bike List: The Book for Every Rider

written by Laura Robinson  
illustrated by Ramón K. Pérez  
(Tundra Books, 2010)

This book is the essential guide for cyclists, whether they're first-timers or dedicated riders. Loaded with historical and practical information, it also includes a section dedicated to famous cyclists through history, including Canadian Olympian Clara Hughes.

#### Gold Medal for Weird

written and illustrated by Kevin Sylvester  
(Kids Can Press, 2007)

All the medals awarded in this entertaining book are for the inept athletes, shameful scandals, freakish weather and worse — but it's also about athletes who went from chumps to champs.

#### H is for Horse: An Equestrian Alphabet

written by Mike Ulmer  
illustrated by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen  
(Sleeping Bear Press, 2004)

From basics such as mucking out the stall and knowing when to call the vet to historical facts on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Ulmer relays the fun and fundamentals of horses. An insightful look into the equestrian world.

#### Just Run

(Sports Stories)  
written by Deb Loughead  
(James Lorimer, 2011)

Fourteen-year-old Daisy Howson is a take-charge kind of girl — she wants everything to run smoothly, especially on her relay team. But when someone tries to sabotage the boys' relay team, Daisy suspects her own team may be involved. Can she sort it all out before the championship meet?

#### The Man Who Ran Faster Than Everyone: The Story of Tom Longboat

written by Jack Batten  
(Tundra Books, 2009)

Read how this Six Nations member became one of the world's best runners. Photos complement this story of triumph over hardship, and his legacy continues to inspire. Winner of the 2002 Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children's Non-Fiction.

#### The Martial Arts Book

written by Laura Scandiffio  
illustrated by Nicolas Debon  
(Annick Press, 2010)

Discover the martial arts from their origins to the present day, with a final chapter to help readers select a style for study, as well as a helpful glossary, pronunciation guide and index. Reissued in 2010, *The Martial Arts Book* is a valuable resource and a popular choice for any curious child.

#### Saving Armpit

written by Natalie Hyde  
(Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2011)

Things couldn't be worse for Harmony Point — the sign has been vandalized, the baseball team is hopeless, and the town is falling into disrepair. Clay and his friends strive to save the town and the team in this light-hearted novel that features lots of baseball and civic action.

#### Simon Says Gold: Simon Whitfield's Pursuit of Athletic Excellence

written by Simon Whitfield with Cleve Dheensaw  
(Orca Book Publishers, 2009)

This fascinating biography documents Simon Whitfield's personal journey to Olympic glory at the 2000 Sydney Summer Games — where he became the first Olympic triathlon champion — to the anguish of the Athens Olympics in 2004 and then to his dramatic comeback at the Beijing 2008 Games, where his race to take the silver medal enthralled millions of fans.

#### Swim to Win

(Sport Stories)  
written by Vallery Hyduk  
(James Lorimer, 2011)

Birch Hill Swim Club has a new coach, and eighth-grader Lasha Boyko couldn't be more excited. The coach has a track record of producing Olympians, and Lasha wants to be her next star. The hitch is that she's one of the fiercest trainers in world.

#### The Toilet Paper Tigers

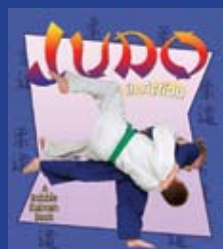
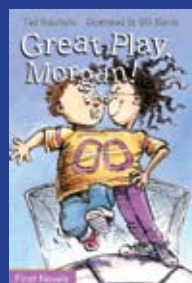
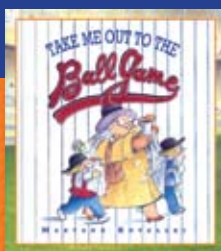
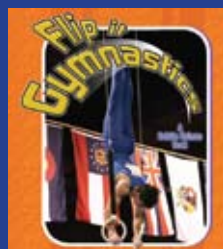
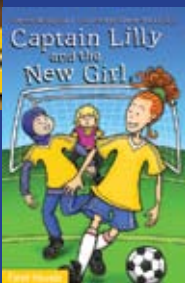
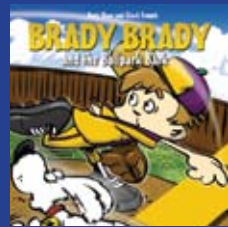
written by Gordon Korman  
(Scholastic Inc., 2010)

Corey never dreamed Little League could be so humiliating. Then he joined the Feather Soft Tigers. With a pack of players who struggle through games and no leadership from the coach, the Tigers' season is going straight down the toilet!

#### Total Offence

(Sport Stories)  
written by Robert Rayner  
(James Lorimer, 2011)

Toby and Maddie's soccer team is sponsored by Fat Vinnie's Family Diner, which provides the kids with shirts and equipment. Then a city-wide ban is placed on sponsorship by companies that promote unhealthy





eating. Can the kids of Brunswick Valley come up with a way to keep their team going? Another enjoyable read in Rayner's series about the Brunswick Valley team.

### SENIOR NON-FICTION AND FICTION FOR GRADES 7 TO 9

#### **Big League Dreams: Baseball Hall of Fame's First African-Canadian, Fergie Jenkins** (Recordbooks)

written by Richard Brignall  
(James Lorimer, 2010)

Ferguson Jenkins' father wasn't allowed to play major-league baseball because he was black, but by the time Fergie was old enough to play, the colour barrier had been broken. He became Canada's first inductee into the Baseball Hall of Fame, was named TSN Pitcher of the Year and won the Cy Young Award.

#### **Casey at the Bat** (Visions in Poetry)

written by Ernest L. Thayer,  
illustrated by Joe Morse  
(Kids Can Press, 2006)

Thayer's famous poem about the agonizing downfall of a baseball hero is brought to life by an innovative graphic novel-like treatment rendered in oil and acrylic.

#### **Fire on the Water: The Red-Hot Career of Superstar Rower Ned Hanlan** (Recordbooks)

written by Wendy A. Lewis  
(James Lorimer, 2007)

How did the son of Irish immigrants out-row blueblood scullers from Oxford and Cambridge to become one of the most fa-

mous athletes of his time? Wendy A. Lewis recounts the compelling story of the "Boy in Blue," from his childhood on the Toronto Islands to laurels won around the world.

#### **First Descent**

written by Pam Withers  
(Tundra Books, 2011)

Rex loves taking his kayak out on a river, the faster and more powerful the better. Then he gets the opportunity to tackle the El Furioso in Colombia. He anticipates the river's challenges, but finds himself in a situation where the real danger is human and where the politics leave him very much out of his depth.

#### **The Kayak**

written by Debbie Spring  
(ThistleDown Press, 2010)

While out cycling, Teresa is hit by a truck and left at the side of the road. Now using a wheelchair, she feels independent only in her kayak. After rescuing a windsurfer, she finds new friends who help her realize she is still able to do many activities. But what does her new boyfriend know about her hit-and-run assailant?

#### **The Matchless Six: The Story of Canada's First Olympic Team**

written by Ron Hotchkiss  
(Tundra Books, 2006)

The memorable story gives us six amazing female track-and-field athletes — the first Canadian women Olympic champions. Archival photos, postcards and quotes comple-

ment this riveting account. See also *Bobbie Rosenfeld: The Olympian Who Could Do Everything*, Anne Dublin's 2004 biography of the extraordinarily multi-talented athlete who was one of the six.

#### **Looking for more?**

Here are some YA titles for Grades 9 and up that, while not specifically sports-oriented, feature characters who play sports as part of the story. Check out basketball players Stan in Alan Cumyn's *Tilt* (Groundwood) and Sophie in Teresa Toten's *Me and the Blondes* series (Penguin). *Crescent Star* by Nicholas Maes features protagonists from Israel and Palestine who meet on the soccer pitch.

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