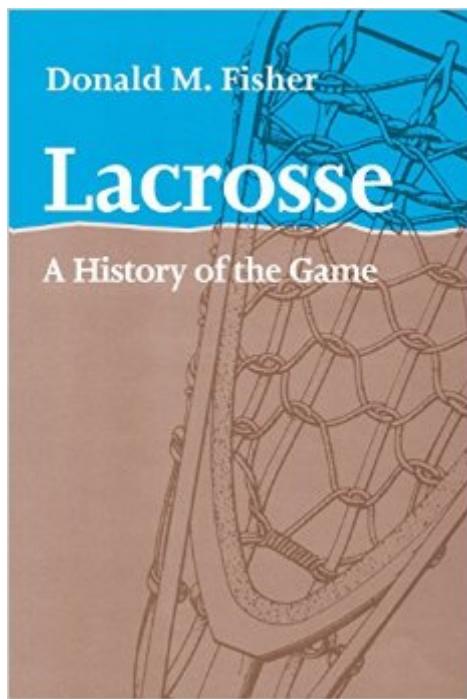


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# **Lacrosse: A History Of The Game**



## Synopsis

North America's Indian peoples have always viewed competitive sport as something more than a pastime. The northeastern Indians' ball-and-stick game that would become lacrosse served both symbolic and practical functions—preparing young men for war, providing an arena for tribes to strengthen alliances or settle disputes, and reinforcing religious beliefs and cultural cohesion. Today a multimillion-dollar industry, lacrosse is played by colleges and high schools, amateur clubs, and two professional leagues. In *Lacrosse: A History of the Game*, Donald M. Fisher traces the evolution of the sport from the pre-colonial era to the founding in 2001 of a professional outdoor league—Major League Lacrosse—told through the stories of the people behind each step in lacrosse's development: Canadian dentist George Beers, the father of the modern game; Rosabelle Sinclair, who played a large role in the 1950s reinforcing the feminine qualities of the women's game; "Father Bill" Schmeisser, the Johns Hopkins University coach who worked tirelessly to popularize lacrosse in Baltimore; Syracuse coach Laurie Cox, who was to lacrosse what Yale's Walter Camp was to football; 1960s Indian star Gaylord Powless, who endured racist taunts both on and off the field; Oren Lyons and Wes Patterson, who founded the inter-reservation Iroquois Nationals in 1983; and Gary and Paul Gait, the Canadian twins who were All-Americans at Syracuse University and have dominated the sport for the past decade. Throughout, Fisher focuses on lacrosse as contested ground. Competing cultural interests, he explains, have clashed since English settlers in mid-nineteenth-century Canada first appropriated and transformed the "primitive" Mohawk game of tewaarathon, eventually turning it into a respectable "gentleman's" sport. Drawing on extensive primary research, he shows how amateurs and professionals, elite collegians and working-class athletes, field- and box-lacrosse players, Canadians and Americans, men and women, and Indians and whites have assigned multiple and often conflicting meanings to North America's first—and fastest growing—team sport.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There are a few good books out there on lacrosse, but this one should be regarded as the Bible of the sport. If you have a serious passion for lax, you have to read this book from cover to cover. It's thoroughly researched, well-written, thought-provoking and enlightening. The book talks about both field lacrosse in the US and the indoor box game in Canada. It covers lacrosse on Indian reservations and even in the Olympics!! It's a very rich and complex history that really makes you think. It's hard to summarize 150+ years of lacrosse history in this review, so you have to read it for yourself. The book also includes a bunch of neat photos.

Got this for my son; he chose this as the source material for a Social Studies/history term paper. The history is all there. This book is full of detail; it's good in that respect. But the writing style is ponderous and makes for a slow read. Recommended for serious students of the game's history, perhaps those who are die-hard fans undertaking a master's degree in history.

Don Fisher has provided Lacrosse enthusiasts with some valuable, and refreshing facts. His book is packed with lots of interesting insight into the game and its history. His knowledge on the subject comes from his experiences of playing Lacrosse in college in Upstate New York. I highly recommend Don's book for anyone with an interest about the subject of Lacrosse. You will definitely find his knowledge intriguing and helpful. Thanks for the book, Don!

Anyone with an interest in the game of Lacrosse will find Don Fisher's volume most helpful. Don provides a very concise look into the history of the sport, taking the reader where most writers have not yet ventured. Although the author never played Lacrosse in any professional capacity, the knowledge that he offers herein shines throughout this book. I recommend Don's book to everyone out there. Jeffrey Bryan White Oak, NC

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