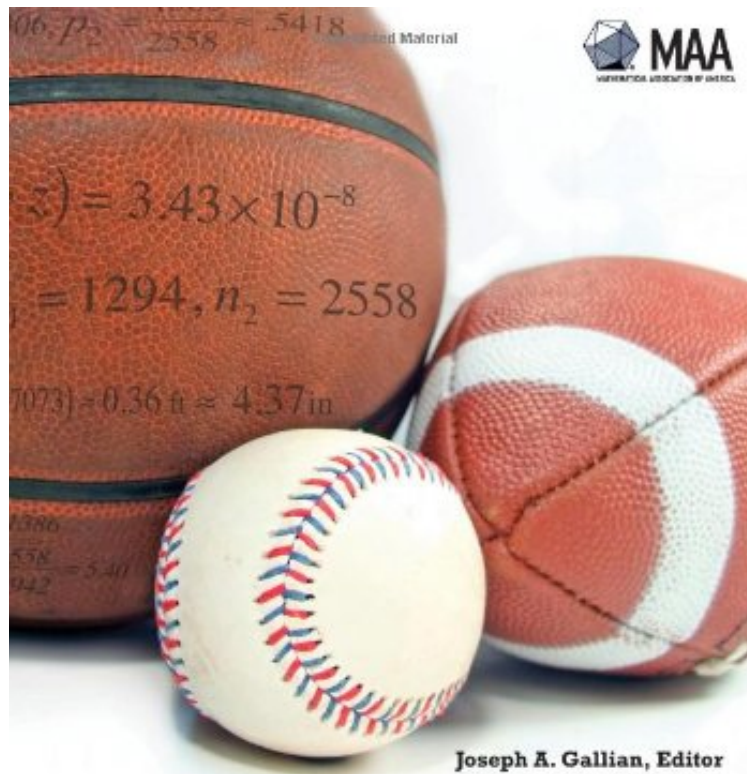


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From Brand: Mathematical Association of America : Mathematics and Sports (Dolciani Mathematical Expositions) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mathematics and Sports (Dolciani Mathematical Expositions):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Various sports topics lightly covered By Elihu Feustel When I read this book, I thought of Mathletics. There are numerous short papers covering a variety of topics in sports. Most of the papers have no bearing on sports betting and modeling, but are interesting trivia. Some of the better topics are very dated. Papers on ratings and rankings (which includes a submission by Amy Langville) are obsolete in part, due to Langville\ Meyer's "Who's #1". There was a well written piece on golf metrics, but "Every shot counts" (Marc Broadie)

has expanded on that area. It's interesting trivia, but I would not recommend it to sports bettors. 0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. yesBy JoelI really just enjoyed this product and everything about it in every unique way possible that I can't even start to imagine

This book is an eclectic compendium of the essays solicited for the 2010 Mathematics Awareness Month web page on the theme of Mathematics and Sports. In keeping with the goal of promoting mathematics awareness to a broad audience, all of the articles are accessible to college level mathematics students and many are accessible to the general public. The book is divided into sections by the kind of sports. The section on football includes an article that evaluates a method for reducing the advantage of the winner of a coin flip in an NFL overtime game; the section on track and field examines the ultimate limit on how fast a human can run 100 meters; the section on baseball includes an article on the likelihood of streaks; the section on golf has an article that describes the double-pendulum model of a golf swing, and an article on modeling Tiger Wood's career. The articles provide source material for classroom use and student projects. Many students will find mathematical ideas motivated by examples taken from sports more interesting than the examples selected from traditional sources.

Who will win the tennis match - a steady and consistent player such as Chris Evert or a big-serve, big-hitter such as Martina Navratilova? Which team is better - the undefeated one with an easy schedule or the team that loses a game against a much tougher opponent? These are some of the questions discussed in this interesting book on sports and math. This book was fun to read. The 25 articles on the sports of baseball, basketball, football, golf, NASCAR (car racing), soccer, tennis, and track and field include the mathematical topics of statistics, data analysis, probability, linear algebra, Markov processes, discrete math, calculus, geometry, and plenty of modeling. These works were contributed by the authors to commemorate the 2010 Sports-and-Math theme for Mathematics Awareness Month. The Preface of this book states: "With its abundance of data, great variety, numerous strategies, and widespread popularity, sports is an ideal venue to demonstrate the illuminating power of mathematics to a larger audience" (p. vii), and that's exactly what this book does. I enjoyed the quantitative aspects of sports as well as the innovative mathematical modeling in this book. The articles contain some of the usual statistical analyses of team and individual performances and rankings along with some new and exciting ideas on specific equipment, actions, tactics, strategy, and formation. I particularly liked G. Edgar Parker's article on "Percentage Play in Tennis" and Tim Chartier's explanation of "Bending a Soccer Ball with Math." Roland Minton's article on "G.H. Hardy's Golfing Adventure" truly surprised me. Hardy, a pure mathematician who detested applied mathematics, wrote in his book, *A Mathematician's Apology* (London 1941) that: "Pure mathematics is on the whole distinctly more useful than applied. For what is useful above all is technique, and mathematical technique is taught mainly through pure mathematics." "I am interested in mathematics only as a creative art." Yet here Hardy applies his pure mathematics to sports. *Mathematics and Sports* was an interesting and enlightening book that contains a great variety of mathematics, sports, as well as the nature of applications. For teachers of mathematics, there are many useful references to making the ideas presentable to students. By the way, if I dated myself and lost you when I referred earlier to Evert-Navratilova, you can substitute Nadal-Roddick and current men's tennis to come up with the same modern-era comparison. --Chris Arney, Mathematics and Computer Education

About the Author Joseph A. Gallian obtained his B.A. from Slippery Rock University in 1966, an M.A. from the University of Kansas in 1968, and a Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame in 1971. Among his honors are the MAA's Haimo Award for distinguished teaching, the MAA Allendoerfer and Evans awards for exposition, MAA Polya Lecturer, MAA Second Vice President, MAA President, co-director of the MAA Project NExT, associate editor of the *American Mathematical Monthly* and the *Mathematics Magazine*, advisory board member for *Math Horizons*, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Minnesota Professor of the Year, and recipient of the University of Minnesota Duluth Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Research.