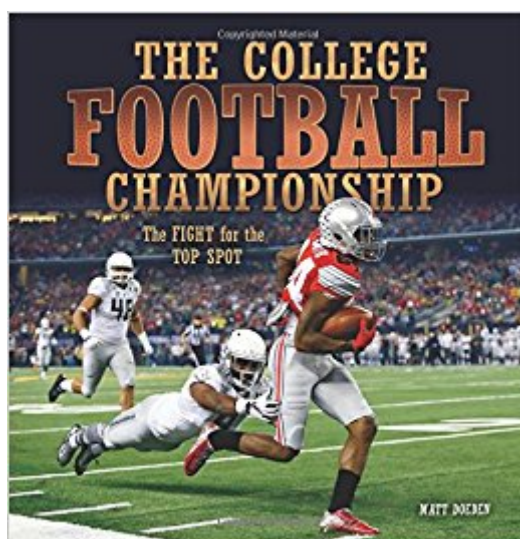


The book was found

The College Football Championship: The Fight For The Top Spot (Spectacular Sports)



Synopsis

In 2015, when Ohio State took on the University of Oregon in the first College Football Playoff championship game, millions of sports fans tuned in. But back in 1869, when Rutgers University and Princeton University played the first-ever college football game, no one predicted the national spectacle that a college football championship game would become. Author Matt Doeden takes readers on a journey from the disorganized games of the early years to the most recent playoffs to determine the best college team in the nation. Along the way, discover some of the most incredible moments, games, blunders, and statistics in the history of college football championships.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 5-8 • In this well-designed and informative title, Doeden describes how college football evolved from its beginnings as a rugby-soccer hybrid into a game millions of Americans enjoy watching on autumnal Saturdays. Early on, college football's many fans clamored for a way to determine the number one team in the country. The convoluted polls of the Associated Press and United Press collided with countless bowl games, creating an infuriatingly fallible system. Between the polls and bowls, many seasons ended with split championships or disputed titles. In 2015, the first true championship game pitted the top two teams in the nation against each other, answering without a doubt the question of who was number one. With analysis of memorable national title games, college football's great dynasties, and unforgettable moments from championship games, Doeden expertly describes the high stakes of NCAA football. He discusses the future of the game, specifically emphasizing the need to address the health and safety concerns inherent to the

sometimes brutal, always exciting game. When it comes to college football books, the pickings are slim, with very little apart from thin volumes devoted to one school or the NCAA. This engaging book pairs lively sports writing with vivid photographs, filling a gap in collections with its attention to the history and future of college football. VERDICT Highly recommended for sports enthusiasts. — Abby Bussen, Cudahy Family Library, WI

Matt Doeden was born in southern Minnesota and lived parts of his childhood in Golden Valley, Minnesota, and Madison, Minnesota. He studied journalism at Mankato State University, where he worked at the college newspaper for three years. In his senior year, he served as the paper's Sports Editor, which put him in charge of the entire sports section, the sports writers, and the photographers. He covered mostly college sports, but also the Minnesota Vikings, who held training camp at MSU. His work allowed him to meet and interview people like Dennis Green, Cris Carter, Robert Smith, and more. Matt went on to work as a sports writer for the Mankato paper, and then he got a job as an editor with a small children's publisher called Capstone Press, and in 2003 he decided to start his own business as a freelance writer and editor. Since then Matt has written and edited hundreds of books. Lots of them are on high-interest topics like cars, sports, and airplanes. He also writes and edits on geography, science, and even math.

Ahhh, the most wonderful time of the year--college football season! Starting this week, Saturdays will begin to be dominated by college football, with everyone's eyes, even from week one, on the question, Who will make the four spots in the college football playoff? In *The College Football Championship*, Matt Doeden covers the history of the college football championship. From the early polls, to the growing number of bowl games, to the BCS, to the playoff, which began with the 2014 season, the question of who is the best team in the land has never, really and truly, been satisfactorily answered. Doeden tells the history of how the champion has been determined, and the many controversies over that determination. He covers memorable championship games and memorable plays in championship games. He describes some of the dynasties that have dominated the game. My big disappointment with the book is that, due to Baylor's losing a game they should have won in West Virginia, plus a few other teams winning a game or two against the odds, Baylor did not get to play in the first college football playoff. (Five major conferences, four places in the playoff. Someone will always be disappointed.) I would have liked the book much better if Baylor would have been on the cover instead of Ohio State! That quibble aside, this is a great resource, gathering some highlights of college football history and whetting my appetite for football season.

With lots of pictures and short sections, his target audience is probably elementary and middle school audiences, but football fans of all ages can appreciate looking back at these championship highlights. Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for the complimentary electronic review copy!

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