Black Gold: The Aboriginal and Islander Sports Hall of Fame

Summary

Beautifully illustrated with black and white photographs, Black Gold showcases our Olympic heroes, superb sportswomen, football giants, boxing legends, lightning sprinters and more — from darts champions to world-class weightlifters and woodchoppers.

In 1995, Professor Colin Tatz and a panel of sportspeople and historians selected 129 athletes for the inaugural Aboriginal and Islander Sports Hall of Fame. Since then, forty-three new stars have been inducted and Black Gold features all 172 members, from thirty sports.

Some of the people in this book are members of the Stolen Generations who were raised in ‘assimilation’ homes but pursued their dreams against all odds. Many grew up in remote, impoverished settlements where ‘sports facilities’ were bumpy dirt tracks, scrubby pitches or dustbowl ovals with sticks for goalposts. Black Gold honours all who have leapt the twin hurdles of racism and competition to realise their talents in the elite arenas of national or international sport.

Reviews and endorsements

Colin and Paul's Black Gold is the most comprehensive published collection yet of past, present and future Aboriginal sporting achievement. The range of sports that Indigenous Australians have excelled in continues to surprise and delight me, so I know that in the wider Australian community, this fact will still be a complete revelation. I travel the country to find and encourage young Aboriginal sporting talent and can really appreciate how much this book will inspire them. Moreover, I can see the day, when all Indigenous youngsters have an equal and level start with other young Australians that ‘Black Platinum’ will be published ... it will need to be five times as big.

— Evonne Goolagong-Cawley AO, MBE

The skill, enthusiasm and excitement Indigenous Australians bring to sport is enthralling and should not be underestimated. Black Gold expertly demonstrates the enormity of the challenge that confronted Indigenous sportspeople throughout Australia's clouded history. I sincerely thank Colin and Paul Tatz for recognising the sporting prowess of the South Sea Island people in this book, a heritage I am very proud of.
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Tags: History, Photography, Sport

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**BLACK PEARLS**

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Mal Meninga AM
The Aboriginal and Islander Sports Hall of Fame was established in 1994 to recognise Indigenous Australians (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people) that have achieved at the highest level of their chosen sport. The Hall of Fame was an outcome of Chris ‘Honky’ Clark, a director of Aboriginal owned and operated sports complex in Condobolin, New South Wales. Clark saw the need to inspire indigenous youth through sports photographs. The costs of establishing a permanent photographic exhibition was MiaCulpa: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sports people have performed exceptionally in national and international fields. Eddie Gilbert is mentioned in "Black Gold" and given his full story in "Eddie Gilbert". 0 0. Black Diamonds: Aboriginal and Islander Sports Hall of Fame by Colin Tatz (MiaCulpa). MiaCulpa: "Black Gold" is the updated and greatly expanded version of "Black Diamonds" but both give a great insight to leading Australian Aboriginal sportsmen and women over the years. •Lists. None. Tatz, C. and Tatz, P., Black Gold: The Aboriginal and Islander sports hall of fame (2000). Vail, J. F., The road to Cooperstown: A critical history of baseball's Hall of Fame selection process (2001). Vamplew, W., “Facts and artefacts: Sports historians and sports museums,” Journal of Sport History, 25, 268-282, 1998.