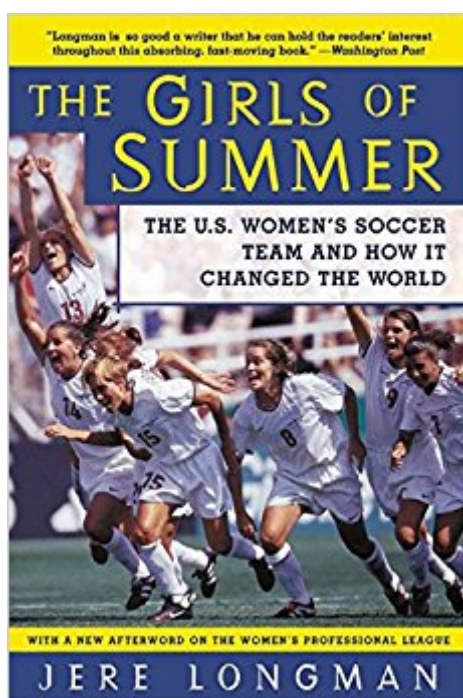


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# The Girls Of Summer: The U.S. Women's Soccer Team And How It Changed The World



## Synopsis

Now with a new afterword, *The Girls of Summer*, by the award-winning New York Times sportswriter Jere Longman, takes a serious, compelling look at the women who won the 1999 World Cup and brings to life the skills and victories of the American team. Longman explores the issues this unprecedented achievement has raised: the importance of the players as role models; the significance of race and class; the sexualization of the team members; and the differences between men and women's sports. Provocative and insightful, this book reminds us that the real struggles are off the field -- and some remain to be won.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

On July 10, 1999, the world of women's sports changed forever as the U.S. defeated China in the Women's World Cup soccer final in front of 90,000 spectators at the Rose Bowl--and millions more watching on television around the world. In *The Girls of Summer*, Jere Longman tells the story of the women's team, their rise to world dominance, and their struggle with the United States Soccer Federation (U.S.S.F.) for the support, respect, and salary they deserve. Drawing on extensive personal interviews recorded before, during, and after the World Cup, Longman offers up portraits of all the players on the team--Akers, Hamm, Chastain, Milbrett, Overbeck, and the rest. Longman also addresses some of the issues surrounding the team and the Women's World Cup--how U.S.S.F. and the national media seriously underestimated the level of interest the tournament would generate; the questions of race and sexuality; and the positive role models these women provided to a nation of young girls--showing them that they, too, could achieve their dreams. Some of

Longman's statements ring false--millions of Europeans would be appalled to hear soccer described as a "Third World sport"--but overall, *Girls of Summer* is a fine tribute to the world champions. --M. Stein --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Soccer fans and even the uninitiated are unlikely to forget last summer's extraordinary game when the U.S. women's team defeated China for the world championship. Who doesn't recall the seemingly endless overtime plays and the victorious Brandi Chastain tearing off her jersey? With the 1999 team etched into sporting history, a reprise of the winning season was inevitable. The stories of the team members are particularly evocative, especially the struggles of individual players to overcome physical hardship. (For example, Longman eloquently describes Michelle Akers's severe chronic fatigue syndrome, which frequently caused her to collapse after games.) But excerpts of fans' conversation and naysayers' commentary appeal less. Longman, a sportswriter for the New York Times, interviewed coaches, players, fans and members of the competition for this detailed account of the championship season. Soccer fans wanting to savor the games and learn of behind-the-scenes events will probably enjoy this book. Yet Longman tries to cover so much groundAfrom the biographies of the players to the political aspect of the game to the fans' perspectiveAthat the work as a whole remains uneven. Photos not seen by PW. (July) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

good

It tells the backstory of them

My teenage daughter really enjoyed this book. She plays high school girls soccer and this was a book that she really enjoyed.

Received as described. This is a well made, very sharp product at a great price point. I'd definitely recommend it and would buy other products from the seller. Another nice touch is that the seller contacted me to ask if I was satisfied. I am. best service. great, and very happy. as a gift to my colleague,

Jere Longman's, *The Girls of Summer*, is by far one of the best non-fiction books I have ever read. I

am a huge Womens National Team fan. I am always in search for a great book, depicting the life and success's of the entire team. He coheres through the professional and personal lives of the women that grabbed the hearts of the United States. Their success is revealed in this wonderful book. I personally, could not put this book down when I purchased it. I finished it in two days, it was just so up-lifting. It's a great motivational book. You always wish you were there to experience the moments that the team lived through. From country to country, trial to trial, this team is very special. If someone would like to know the US history of womens soccer, this is a perfect buy. I could picture myself there, it was detailed and deeply moving. I really enjoyed reading on the players whom fought so hard to gain respect and recognition. I'm sure, if we saw the final game against China in 1999, we can all say where we were, and how we reacted. For many of us, such as I, we cried for joy. That game was the turning point in womens sports. And Longman made me remember once again what it was like to watch that game, and see the 90,000+ fans going wild after Brandy Chastain scored the final PK. It is a fantastic book for any soccer fan, man or woman. It is a book to read if you feel you need to be inspired. It's worth the buy.

Unlike a few of my fellow reviewers, I found the structure of the book to be interesting and would recommend it to anyone who caught up in the U.S. Women's run to the Women's World Cup Championship. Briefly, the author used the Women's World Cup Final game as background, while intermittently weaving historical descriptions of the team members and women's sport in general, with a focus on Title IX. I felt there was only one occasion when I found this style to be confusing (Mia Hamm comments with a bad transfer to a different subject). I personally enjoyed the commentary of the affect of Title IX on team members and their generation, especially when the author compared the state of women's sport in the U.S. to other countries. The only real criticism I can offer is that I found the editing to be poor. There seemed to be a few instances in which sentence structure or word choice was incorrect - not that I'm an expert (my opinion only) :).

I thought that this was a great book. I enjoyed reading it because my favorite female athletes were the subjects in this book. This book shows the struggle that athletes go through and the publicity that is always there no matter what. This was probably the best book that I ever read because I play soccer and I like to see what goes around on the professional level. The US womens soccer team has gone through their ups and downs and this book went through it step by step. I felt as though I know what they were going through because it was so real. Mia Hamm is right now the best womens soccer player in the world. She is well known in any state and country. She has been on ads and

various things to promote the women's soccer team. Others team mates have done the same but none to the level of Mia Hamm. This book shows what she has been through and her own personal struggle to make it as a professional athlete. Now that I have read this book I have even more respect for the women's national soccer team and all professional athletes because I am aware of what they have gone through. I have been able to read about my favorite female athletes and know about their past. I recommend this book to anyone who is a female athlete or loves the game of soccer. It's not just for girls it is great for men to learn about professional athletes. alex rothemich

I read this book at a critical time in my professional life as a fundraiser, and it couldn't have come at a better time. As a budding athlete (a runner), I hadn't played soccer since I was on a YMCA team in the 2nd grade, but I was very interested in learning more about these women athletes who seemed so dedicated to their sport in an era of big-money sports and disintegrating team loyalty. I figured, hey, I need a role model, and here I have an entire team of them! But what struck me the most as I read the book was exactly that: the team. I mean the whole concept of the team itself, beyond the individual personalities that comprise it. Anyone with a desire to learn how to achieve team work in any setting -- whether on the soccer field or in the office -- should read this book. At a time in my job when teamwork at my all-women office seemed to be at its lowest ebb, with backstabbing and harsh hallway gossiping eating away at office morale, it was a joyous relief to read of a group of strong, hard-driving, hard-playing women who feared each other, respected each other, screamed at each other, laughed with each other, cried with each other, all the while pursuing and ACHIEVING a common goal with such ferocity and drive and sheer dignity that was breathtaking to behold. It left me with tremendous hope for my own group of strong, hard-driving, hard-playing women and our certain ability to achieve our lofty goal ... for a cause we each personally believe in. Sure, we don't have 90,000 people watching us, but we do have 3,000 -- and more -- who do depend on us and the money we hope to bring in. I have the urge to buy a copy of this book for every woman in my office. Although I wasn't privileged enough to have witnessed that seminal moment in soccer history at the Rose Bowl in '99, I do feel blessed to have encountered this graceful and inspiring team in this marvelous book. I run with greater purpose in my stride, my eye firmly set on a sweet ... victory, and I work with a lift in my spirit and renewed faith in my co-workers, my teammates.

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