

A WORDSWORTH OF SPORTS HISTORY

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Are the readers of Word Ways aware of the illustrious line of sports writers that stretches back even into antiquity? I hope that the following list will illuminate the magnificent tradition:

TENNIS Kurt Vonnegut, Lord Byron, Richard Lovelace, Joseph Addison, Miguel Cervantes, Robert W. Service, Ivy Compton Burnet, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Tennis E. Williams
TRACK Jonathan Swift, Howard Fast, John Crowe Ransom, John Bunyan
BOWLING Mickey Spillane, Pindar, Edwin Markham, Malcolm X
HORSE RACING Stephen Vincent Benet, Joyce Carol Oates, Mackinlay Kantor, Walter de la Mare, Alfred Hitchcock
FOOTBALL Joyce Cary, John Dos Passos, Robert Bloch, Cicero
Jousting Richard Armour, Norman Mailer, John Masefield, William Shakespeare
ARCHERY Beaumont and Fletcher
SKIING C.P. Snow, Robert Frost, James Hilton
RIFLERY John Gunther, Robert Bolt, John Cocteau, Kingsley Amis, The Venerable Bede, Nevil Shute, Adolph Hitler
GOLF Graham Greene, Sarah Teasdale, E.M. Forster
CREW Percy Shelley, Iris Murdoch, Marianne Moore, Harper Lee, George Orwell, Henry David Thoreau, George Crabbe
BASKETBALL John Fowles, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Francis Scott Key
RODEO Pearl Buck, Thomas Bulfinch, Noel Coward, Albert Camus
BASEBALL Henry Fielding, Richard Steele, Honore de Balzac, Plato, . . . and the dean of them all, Homer.

In nearly every case, part or all of the surname forms a relevant sports term.