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.