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# Rugby: The Golden Age: Extraordinary Images From 1900 To 1980



## Synopsis

Played for at least two centuries, with roots stretching back into the Middle Ages, rugby remains a rough sport played by rugged men. Nearly 300 remarkable black-and-white photographs present the early days of the sport as most have never seen it. Images capture supporters making their way to the match, field workers preparing the pitch, action shots of such legendary players as Bill Beaumont and Cec Ryan, and teams including South Africa's famed Springboks. Both amateur and professional rugby is featured, with photographs documenting the frenzied tries and brutal scrums, as well as famed stadiums including England's Wembley and Leytonstone.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

John Tennant has designed and art directed magazines for over 25 years. During that time he has worked for, among others, The Sunday Times Magazine, the Observer Magazine and the Daily Mail. He launched and edited the Sunday Herald Magazine in Australia and was Creative Director of the Daily Express from 1996-2000. This book combines two of his passions: sport and photography.

Great photos. I wish there would have been more rugby action photos, and a bit less of behind the scenes photos. Still, there's some great photography, especially of the old stadiums like the old Cardiff Arms Park and the old Twickenham. The newer stadiums don't have anywhere near the same character. I also like that the culture of the British Isles becomes very apparent through the photography of the time: teams are in blazers and club ties, or at least dressed in sports jackets or suits at after match functions, for instance. One sees that formality was part of everyday life then,

even with followers sitting or standing in grandstands or terraces at matches.

This book is huuuge! I mean huuge! like the guys in the pictures lol... the display of images is well organized, appealing to the eyes, and comes along with interesting information that could really appeal to anyone, not just rugby enthusiasts. I'm glad I bought it since where I live (Ecuador - South America) the sport is not that popular, but with this book, I could really start promoting the origins and the spectacular game scenarios you'll come across with, while watching rugby!

Beautiful book! I was so happy with it - a great gift for the rugby fan. Most pictures are from the 30s-50s, FYI.

I play rugby at Saint John's University, and my teammates thought it was awesome to see the origins of our sport.

Classic rugby in black and white, large format film glory! This is a great photo book. It's interesting to see how the game used to look: twentysomething men in tweed suits, often smoking pipes, with hair styles that suggest one's grandfather. They hold huge rugby balls, wear huge shorts and long socks. They don't appear anywhere as fit and muscular as today's pros, but they were stropky, tough and admirable men... rugby just doesn't look like this anymore. You also get images of some of the greats: Napier, Wakefield, Prince Obolensky, etc. I once wrote an article about some of the old school ruggers depicted in this excellent coffee table book - [...] - read it and you'll get a taste for the content in this book. Tennant mentions that in the photographic era before modern digital photography the game was depicted differently than today; you can certainly see this in the photos in this book, and it's fascinating. Qualified recommendation: my wife only paid \$[...] for it, not the \$[...] plus I see right now. Not sure it's worth more than \$[...]...

What a better gift to offer in Rugby World Cup Year? Great pics that take you back to the days of the glorious amateur sport of rugby football. The communal baths were all the players would bathe after the game, the muddy pitches with any signs of grass, etc. etc. This is the sole high level sport that resisted the calls of professionalism into the last decade of the 20th century. Enjoy the Rugby World Cup, the world's third biggest sporting event!

If you love rugby you will love this book. It is a coffee table tome full of fantastic photos from the

1800s to the 1980's. These are not mainly photos of match action, but cover the ethos and spirit of the sport with sensitivity, artistic value, and imagination. For its size and content, this book is a great value. A must!

This is a great coffee table book, filled with pictures you might not otherwise see. It shows the rugby that most of us as players know- having to work a real job, deal with the home life and the kids before lacing them up on Saturday afternoons.

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