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The Elusive Fan: Reinventing Sports in a Crowded Marketplace (Business Books)

By Irving Rein, Philip Kotler, Ben Shields



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Sports are a multibillion-dollar global business that will continue to grow by leaps and bounds into the foreseeable future. The bad news is: It's never been harder to attract, engage, and retain the sports fan.

Today's sports fans are bombarded by choices. Traditional sports, such as baseball, football, and basketball, compete for fans' dollars with snowboarding, lacrosse, poker...even paintball. The old business formulas, developed in the age of three TV networks and creaky stadiums, no longer apply.

World-renowned communication expert Irving Rein, international marketing guru Philip Kotler, and communication specialist Ben Shields deliver an innovative new business model centered squarely on fan satisfaction and retention. They give you the tools to transform your sports product into an enduring brand-immune to the vagaries of winning and losing-that quickly adapts to changing market conditions. Along the way they illustrate their points with fascinating case studies, including

- Manchester United's transformation from a plucky home team to a billion-dollar international franchise
- Professional golf phenomenon Michelle Wie's quest to maximize her talents and marketability
- Southlake Carroll High School football team's benchmarking of professional and college football programs to build its own brand
- Daytona International Speedway's reinvention of fan intimacy

Combining expert analysis with field-tested strategies for winning hearts and minds, *The Elusive Fan* is your guide to surviving and thriving in today's ever-widening world of sports.



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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

PRAISE FOR THE ELUSIVE FAN

"Forget cars, computers, and cola. The most competitive arena in marketing is sports. Rein, Kotler, and Shields do a brilliant job in analyzing the issues involved in attracting elusive fans who have many more choices today than they have ever had."-Al Ries, author, *The Origin of Brands*

"*The Elusive Fan* is the most thorough and comprehensive overview of the sports marketing industry I have seen. The insights and recommendations are a must read for anyone involved or interested in the field."-Brian Billick, Head Coach, Baltimore Ravens

"The authors apply insightful consumer analysis and branding concepts to the practical problems of bringing people to games, attracting eyeballs to sports TV, and opening consumer wallets for merchandise."-Professor Stephen A. Greyser, Richard P. Chapman Professor, Marketing/Communications, Harvard Business School

"*The Elusive Fan* is a must read for anyone interested in sports marketing strategies-and the 21st century world of sports in general."-Bob Dekas, Coordinating Producer-College Basketball, CBS Sports

"Authors Rein, Kotler, and Shields have hit a home run. *The Elusive Fan* offers a detailed playbook for sports decision makers looking to up their game."-Jonathan Hoenig, Fox News personality and portfolio manager at Capitalistpig Hedge Fund LLC

"*The Elusive Fan* is an essential primer for the past, present, and, most importantly, future of sports."-Jeff Davis, author of *Papa Bear: The Life and Legacy of George Halas*

About the Author

Irving Rein, Ph.D. is a Professor of Communication Studies at Northwestern University's School of Communication. The author of 12 books, including *High Visibility*, a groundbreaking study of image making, Rein also serves on Major League Baseball's Commissioner's Initiative for the 21st Century and is a member of the Advisory Board for Northwestern University's Master of Arts in Sports Administration.

Philip Kotler, Ph.D. is the S. C. Johnson Distinguished Professor of International Marketing at the Kellogg School of Management. He is the author of 35 books, including *Marketing Management*, the most widely used marketing book in graduate business schools worldwide. He has been a consultant to IBM, General Electric, AT&T, Bank of America, Merck, Motorola, Ford, and other global corporations and places.

Ben Shields has done consulting work for a number of organizations on communication issues. His expertise is in sports and technology, and he is currently a doctoral student in communication studies at Northwestern University.

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