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In 1896 the 1st Modern Olympic Games were held in Athens. Since that date the Olympic Games have developed continuously and become the most important international sporting event globally. Without doubt, each manifestation of the Olympic Games has had its own history and developed its unique profile of contributions to sport. However, there is one thing which all Olympic Games have in common; being a stage on which heroes can be 'born', produced or understood through the appreciation of a wider viewing public. This book is about these heroes, though few of the Olympians within it may be house-hold names that is the point; they have been unsung, until now. Perhaps this evokes the impression that some kind of a hall of fame may emerge from the chapters. In general there is nothing wrong with a hall of fame as long as objectivity and individuality are respected. This principle is followed within these pages as it becomes clear in almost every case that there are aspects of an Olympian's life which are worthy of praise for heroism in some measure. This book also proves to be valuable for further research on Olympism and is recommended as a teaching resource for both undergraduate and post-graduate students of sport and physical education.



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