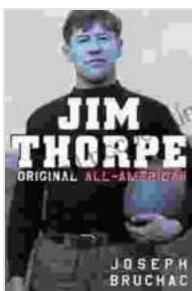


Jim Thorpe: Original All-American by Joseph Bruchac: A Captivating Tale of Native American Heritage and Triumph

In the annals of American sports history, the name Jim Thorpe stands tall as a legendary figure. Recognized as one of the greatest all-around athletes of the early 20th century, Thorpe's story transcends sports and becomes an embodiment of Native American heritage and unwavering determination. Joseph Bruchac's compelling biography, "Jim Thorpe: Original All-American," unveils the intricate tapestry of Thorpe's life, showcasing his remarkable journey from humble beginnings to the pinnacle of athletic achievement.

Early Life and Native American Roots

Born in 1887 on the Sac and Fox reservation in Oklahoma, Thorpe's childhood was marked by the challenges and traditions of his Native American upbringing. Despite facing discrimination and prejudice, Thorpe's athletic abilities emerged at an early age. His speed, agility, and powerful physique foreshadowed his future greatness in sports.



Jim Thorpe, Original All-American by Joseph Bruchac

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1107 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 292 pages



Athletic Prowess and Olympic Glory

Thorpe's athletic career took flight at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania, where he excelled in football, baseball, and track and field. His exceptional skills caught the attention of the nation, and in 1912, he became the first Native American to win an Olympic gold medal, triumphing in both the pentathlon and decathlon at the Stockholm Games.

Stripped of Medals, but Not of Spirit

However, Thorpe's Olympic triumph was met with controversy when it was discovered that he had briefly played semi-professional baseball before the Games, violating the amateurism rules. As a result, he was stripped of his medals, a decision that cast a shadow over his legacy for decades. Despite this setback, Thorpe's spirit remained undeterred.

Later Career and Legacy

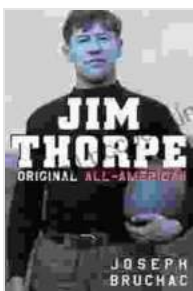
Undeterred by the Olympic controversy, Thorpe continued to pursue his athletic endeavors, playing professional football and baseball for several years. He became a star running back for the Canton Bulldogs, helping to establish the sport's popularity in the United States. After retiring from sports, Thorpe worked as a coach and actor, sharing his knowledge and inspiring others.

Reclaiming His Medals and Honoring His Heritage

In a fitting tribute to his legacy, Thorpe's Olympic medals were restored to him posthumously in 1983, 30 years after his death. This recognition

symbolized not only a correction of a historical injustice but also a celebration of Thorpe's enduring spirit and his role as a pioneer for Native Americans in sports.

Joseph Bruchac's "Jim Thorpe: Original All-American" is a captivating and inspiring biography that delves into the life and legacy of a true American icon. Thorpe's story transcends sports and becomes a testament to the power of resilience, determination, and the enduring strength of Native American heritage. His journey from adversity to triumph serves as a timeless reminder of the indomitable spirit that resides within us all.



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