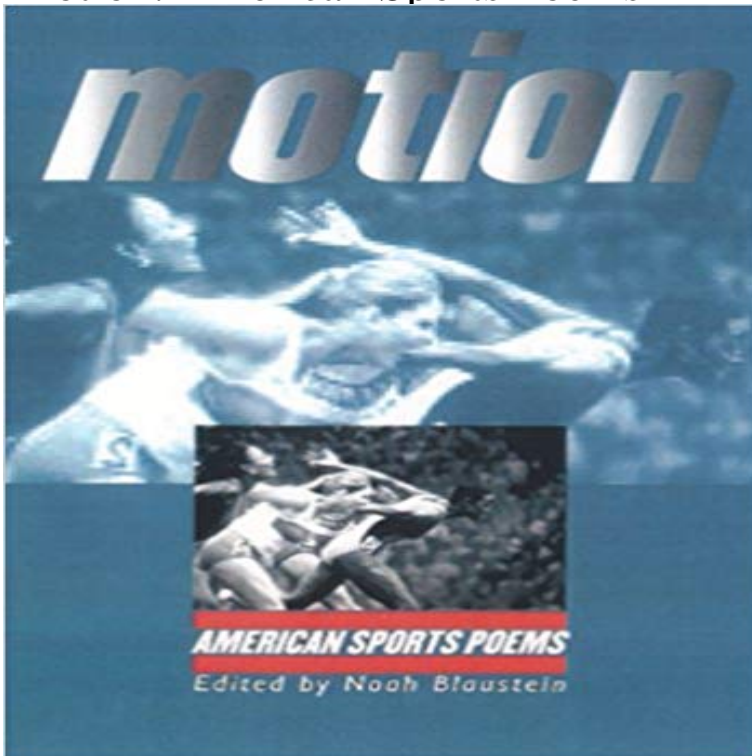


## Motion: American Sports Poems



Sports have long served as inspiration for poetry—the ancient Greeks wrote odes in praise of their athletes—so it is little surprise that in a culture as obsessed with athletes as our own sports would exert an influence on contemporary poets. *Motion: American Sports Poems* rescues sports from our society's focus on superstars, multimillion-dollar contracts, and gold medals to capture champions and losers, competitors and spectators in moments that are anything but fleeting. As Noah Blaustein points out in his preface, among the many parallels made between sports and poetry is the idea of transcendence. Forged from the most basic elements of sport—energy, movement, and rhythm—the poems in this anthology reflect something universal: sport as metaphor, sport as struggle, sport as the battleground for mythic figures and local heroes. The often celebrated sports—baseball, boxing, football, and basketball—are here along with unexpected pastimes like surfing, skateboarding, tennis, soccer, karate, rock climbing, bowling, and curling. Young and old, black and white, male and female, the poets in this anthology celebrate everyone who has come together in the shimmy and shake and sweat of sport.

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