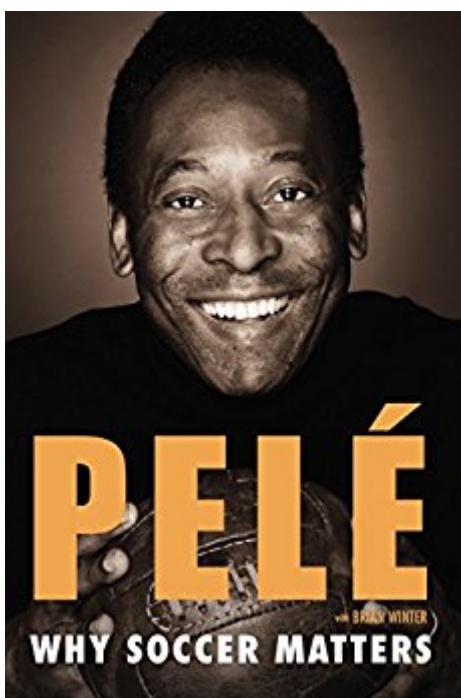


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# Why Soccer Matters: A Look At More Than Sixty Years Of International Soccer



## Synopsis

Soccer. Football. The beautiful game. The world's most popular sport goes by many names, but for decades, fans have agreed on one thing: the greatest player of all time was Pelé. Now the legendary star, ambassador, and humanitarian shares a global vision for what soccer can accomplish. Now he shares his story, his experience, and his insights on the game for the very first time. Before Messi, before Ronaldo, before Beckham, there was Edson Arantes do Nascimento – known simply as Pelé. A national treasure, he created pure magic with his accomplishments on the field: an unprecedented three World Cup championships and the all-time scoring record, with 1,283 goals in his twenty year career. Now, with the World Cup returning after more than sixty years to Brazil – the country often credited with perfecting the sport – soccer has a unique opportunity to encourage change on a global level. And as the tournament's official ambassador, Pelé is ready to be the face of progress. For the first time ever Pelé explores the recent history of the game and provides new insights into soccer's role connecting and galvanizing players around the world. He has traveled the world as the global ambassador for soccer and in support of charitable organizations such as Unicef, promoting the positive influences soccer can have to transform young men and women, struggling communities, even entire nations. In groundbreaking detail and with unparalleled openness, he shares his most inspiring experiences, heartwarming stories and hard-won wisdom, and he puts the game in perspective. This is Pelé's legacy, his way of passing on everything he's learned and inspiring a new generation. In *Why Soccer Matters*, Pelé details his ambitious goals for the future of the sport and, by extension, the world. Commemorative poster inside the jacket

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Warmly retelling the blessed life of one of the greatest athletes of our age, this book is heartwarming while being a page-turner in its own way. There is so much to learn about who Pele is, but also who is this person named Edson, and most importantly, why is soccer such a great vehicle for reaching into the lives of people the world over. While reading "Why Soccer Matters" I find myself telling those around me Why Pele Matters, not just to me, but to so many millions of people in this world. I know that soccer was a great vehicle for me, to bring me out of myself while gaining confidence that I could do something well, and I know that Pele was the man behind the popularity of soccer in the US in the 1970's. I wasn't big enough or wealthy enough for football and my eyes weren't good enough for baseball, but I could muster the speed and the power to be a soccer defender, catching the infectious love of the game from the incredible Pele.

I am not a sports fan - any sport. I generally have an ambivalent opinion of athletes - but that opinion does tend toward the cynical. That said, I was impressed with this book. If Edson is truly as he is presented in it, he is what an athlete should be. He is the kind of person anyone, anywhere, in any profession should strive to be. If he is not, no one tell me. I would like to believe the book is true.

This book was a great, and I found it was hard to put down. This book doesn't only talk about soccer, but Pele's life and what everything meant. It tied soccer to politics to life lessons. I highly recommend this to anyone who has interest in soccer, politics, or anyone reading this :)

I ordered this for my 10 year old son who loves soccer (I have 3 sons who love soccer, and each will probably read). He read the book in two days and loved it. He is reading it again. Exactly what I

ordered, with no issues and no disappointments.

I am not a soccer person. The book was on a book club list. It has good insight into the game and into Pele's life. I am glad I read it.

"Why Soccer Matters" is an easy to read book and an excellent look into the life of the world's best known soccer players. Pele inspires with this book, and not just soccer players. It's the story of an impoverished boy who dreamed of excellence on the field, not only for himself, but for his father. He stresses that in soccer size is irrelevant; technique is everything. I got this for my granddaughter who is 11 1/2 and has played soccer with enthusiasm for 5 years. Her father is her coach, and both of them enjoyed the book immensely. A great gift for any soccer fan!

Bought this for my grandson, who is a soccer-aholic. His soccer idol is Pele, and I bought Pele's book for deeper insight into soccer and to further inspire my grandson. (And, hopefully, encourage him to do more reading).

Good quality

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