

Notable Sports Writing of 2018

SELECTED BY GLENN STOUT

ALEX ABRAMI

How a Vermont Prep Football Player Escaped His Abusive Father and Found His Way. *Burlington Free Press*, July 30

MAX ADLER

For Valentino Dixon, a Wrong Righted. *Golf Digest*, September 19

JESSICA CAMILLE AGUIRRE

An American Surfer Goes Rogue to Claim the Baltic Sea's "Last Wave." *Deadspin*, December 5

STEVE ALMOND

Long Live Pinball. *Southwest*, March

ANYA ALVAREZ

Leveling the Playing Field. *Playboy*, January/February

STEPHANIE APSTEIN

Crushed Davis. *SI.com*, September 24

KEVIN ARMSTRONG

Nack and the Superhorse. *New York Daily News*, June 6

RACHEL Z. ARNDT

Wind. *Ecotone*, Spring/Summer

HUNTER ATKINS

Outings to Astros Games Keep Katy Senior Citizens Young at Heart. *Houston Chronicle*, June 21

KENT BABB

The Revisionist. *Washington Post*, November 18

CHRIS BALLARD

The Last Huddle. *SI.com*, May 2

MICHAEL BAMBERGER

The Partner. *Golf.com*, December 18

KATIE BARNES

They Are the Champions. *ESPN The Magazine*, June 8

MOTÉZ BISHARA

From Humble Beginnings, Gay Bowl Attracts NFL Sponsors and Touches Lives. *CNN.com*, October 17

DAN BOLLES

First & Goal. *Seven Days*, October 24–31

SAM BORDEN

Stay Messi, My Friend. *ESPN The Magazine*, June

TAFFY BRODESSER-AKNER

Tonya Harding Would Like Her Apology Now. *New York Times Magazine*, January 10

PETER BROMKA

“When Everything Isn’t Enough.” *Meter Magazine*, Summer

HOWARD BRYANT

A Protest Divided. *ESPN The Magazine*, January 26

MATT CALKINS

Player’s Death a Reminder Help Is Here. *Seattle Times*, January 18

ANDREW CARTER

Inside a UNC Lineman’s Concussion Ordeal. *Raleigh News & Observer/Charlotte Observer*, August 12

SEAN CLANCY

Hip 68. *Saratoga Special*, August 6

KIT CHELLEL

The Gambler Who Cracked the Horse-Racing Code. *Bloomberg Business*, May 3

JORDAN RITTER CONN

Enes Kanter Contains Multitudes. *The Ringer*, October

MATT CROSSMAN

Five Lessons Death-Defying Adventure Taught Me About Facing My Fears as a Solopreneur. *Success*, October

CHUCK CULPEPPER

One Town, One Team, One Game. *Washington Post*, December 27

VINSON CUNNINGHAM

Figure of Speech. *The New Yorker*, June 25

BRYAN CURTIS

The Great NFL Heist: How Fox Paid for and Changed Football Forever. *The Ringer*, December 13

AUSTIN DANFORTH

The Amazing Andi Boe. *Burlington Free Press*, July 1

BRITNI DE LA CRETAZ

The Hidden Queer History of “A League of Their Own.” *Narratively*, January 22

BRONWEN DICKEY

The Lost Kids on the Line. *Popular Mechanics*, April

MARTY DOBROW

Hoops, Hijabs, Heartbreak, and Hope. *MassLive*, April 17

BYARD DUNCAN

Who Is Omar? *Esquire*, October 22

TYLER DUNNE

"I Can't Be Stopped." *Bleacher Report*, April 3

CHARLEE DYROFF

What It's Like to Be Recruited. *Slate*, June 4

TIM EVANS, JOE GUILLEN, GINA KAUFMAN, MARISA KWIATKOWSKI,

MATT MENCARINI, AND MARK ALESIA

How Larry Nassar Abused Hundreds of Gymnasts and Eluded Justice for Decades. *Detroit Free Press*, March 8.

MIRIN FADER

The LaMelo Show. *Bleacher Report*, February 28

CHRISTINE FENNESSEY

The Beast, the Bootlegger, and the Death Ride. *Bicycling*, May

PETER FLAX

Lost and Found. *CyclingTips*, June 8

REID FORGRAVE

The Penance of John Calipari. *GQ*, March

ROBERTO JOSÉ ANDRADE FRANCO

Canelo, at Young. *Boxing and History*, December 27

KARLEIGH FRISBIE

Two Piece. *Water-Stone Review*, vol. 21

JOHN GIFFORD

Decoy. *The Meadow*, 2018

ALLISON GLOCK

A New Dawn. *ESPN The Magazine*, April 2

LATRIA GRAHAM

How an E-Bike Got Me Riding Again After 20 Years. *Bicycling*, July

VANESSA GRIGORIADIS

Spring Forward. *Vanity Fair*, Summer

JAKE GRONSKY

Nine Days in Cape Cod. *FanSided*, July 31 and August 8

BRIAN HAMILTON

"Why Not Us?" *The Athletic*, May 17

MATT HART

The Man Who Brought Down Lance Armstrong Isn't Done with Him Yet. *The Atlantic*, May

ANDREW HELMS AND MATT PENTZ

Own Goal. *The Ringer*, June 5

Notable Sports Writing of 2018

313

MAGGIE HENDRICKS

The Special Olympics Changes Everything for This Family, and Millions of Others. *For the Win/USA Today*, July 20

DAVID HILL

In the Pit with the Fighting Roosters. *The Ringer*, July 10

EVA HOLLAND

I Would Walk 100 Miles. *Globe and Mail*, March 17

TED JACKSON

The Search for Jackie Wallace. *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, February 2018

SALLY JENKINS

The People in Charge of This Horror Must Be Exposed and Punished. *Washington Post*, January 25

STEPHON JOHNSON

The Struggles of Being a Black Baseball Fan. *The Week*, August 30

CHLOÉ COOPER JONES

Juan Martín del Potro Strikes Back. *GQ*, September

GARE JOYCE

Doc's Last Season. *SportsNet*, November 7

TOM JUNOD

For Auburn Softball, Joy on the Surface Obscured Darker Truths Within. *ESPN.com*, June 1

SHANNON KEATING

These Basketball Players Sued Their College for Anti-Gay Discrimination —and Lost. *BuzzFeed*, May 24

ZAK KEEFER

The Inspirational Life of Edwin Jackson. *Indianapolis Star*, September 30

CHRISTOPHER KEMPF

Lost Mode. *Indiana Review*, Summer

MIKE KESSLER

Life and Limb. *Red Bulletin*, April

MINA KIMES

Aly Raisman Takes the Floor. *ESPN The Magazine*, July

KRISTA LANGLOIS

Change the Culture. *Outside*, March

JEANNE MARIE LASKAS

Serena Williams Is Champion of the Year. *GQ*, December 2018/January 2019

ANDREW LAWRENCE

This Boy's Life. *Men's Health*, July/August

JOON LEE

Jimmy Garoppolo Is Superman in Disguise. *Bleacher Report*, July 23

STEPHANIE M. LEE

Double Crossed. *BuzzFeed*, June 28

FRANCES LEFKOWITZ

Double Overhead. *Catamaran*, Winter

JULIET MAGUR

Suicides, Drug Addiction, and High School Football. *New York Times*,
March 8

PETE MADDEN, CINDY GALLI, BRIAN EPSTEIN, AND CHO PARK

"A Deliberate Cover-up?" *ABC.com*, March 12

GEOFF MANAUGH

Parking for Gold. *The Atlantic*, January 2

STEVE MARSH

The Riders. *Victory Journal*, May

EMILY MCCULLAR

Flesh and Blood. *Texas Monthly*, October

BEN MCGRATH

The Men Who Have Taken Wiffle Ball to a Crazy Competitive Place. *The
New Yorker*, August 31.

KELSEY MCKINNEY

Home Field Disadvantage. *Longreads*, November 30

MAGGIE MERTENS

London Red and Blue. *The Howler*, Winter/Spring

EVAN F. MOORE

Icing Racism. *Chicago Reader*, April 12

PAOLA MORETTI

Body Armour. *Catapult*, February 8

LUKE MULLINS

Nine Minutes of Terror. *Washingtonian*, June

ALEXANDRIA NEASON

The Woman Coming for Larry Nassar's Job. *Bleacher Report*, July 19

HANSON O'HAVER

A Crime and a Pastime. *The Baffler*, no. 40

ALISON OSIUS

On the Earl. *Rock and Ice*, January

NICK PACHELLI

Justin Olsen Will Get Lost. *Esquire*, February

KEITH PARADISE

High Wire Act. *Billiards Digest*, June 2018

NICK PAUMGARTEN

Weaponized. *The New Yorker*, May 21

ANNA PEELE

"Fight Club" with Better Jokes. *ESPN The Magazine*, November 12

ANDREA PETKOVIC

Tennis vs. Tennis. *Racquet/Longreads*, July

MIKE PIELLUCCI

A Football Family Regroups. *New York Times*, December 17

BILL PLASCHKE

Hall of Fame Jockey Victor Espinoza, His Body Broken by One Fateful Fall,
Is Holding on for Dear Life. *Los Angeles Times*, August 18

STEVE POLITI

The Boxer Who Became a Bagger. *Nj.com*, June 19

ROBERT ANDREW POWELL

The Passion of Mike Piazza. *The Athletic*, December 18

BRIDGET QUINN

Pilots. *Narrative Magazine*, November 15

BENJAMIN RACHLIN

Sailing Blind. *Pacific Standard*, December 18

HEATHER RADKE

A Beginner's Guide to Fly Fishing with Your Father. *Longreads*, June 15

CLAUDIA RANKINE

Cam Newton Confounds Both His Fans and His Haters. *The Undeclared*,
January 31

BEN REITER

What Happened to the Houston Astros' Hacker? *Sports Illustrated*, October 4

SAM RICHES

West Across the Sea. *Longreads*, October 19

ALYSSA ROENIGK

Kid Fearless. *ESPN The Magazine*, February 9

TIM ROHAN

Strip Clubs, CTE Talk, and a CBD Sales Pitch. *SI.com*, January 29

C. TRENT ROSECRANS

Where Baseball Starts. *The Athletic*, September 4

TRACY ROSS

Skiing & Booze. *5280 Magazine*, December

JEFF RUETER

What Happened? *The Howler*, Winter/Spring 2018

RICHARD RYS

Inside the Brilliant, Baffling, Beautiful, Bizarre, and Utterly Fascinating
Baseball Mind of Gabe Kapler. *Philadelphia Magazine*, April

SETH SAWYERS

He Was the Best We'd Ever Seen. *Literary Hub*, June 17

MARGARET SEILER

Tonya's Turn. *Portland Monthly*, January

JASHVINA SHAH

Hockey Is for Everyone. *Pen Transmissions*, October 3

DAVE SHEININ

His Lifelong Dream Was About to Come True. Then It Rained. *Washington
Post*, September 2

ALAN SHIPNUCK

Troubled Off the Tee. *Golf Magazine*, January

MIKE SIELSKI

The Toughest Call. *Philadelphia Daily News/Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 1

DANYEL SMITH

Most Dominant Athlete of 2018: Simone Biles. *The Undeclared*, December 11

RORY SMITH AND ELIAN PELTIER

The Boys from the Banlieues. *New York Times*, June 10

CHRISTOPHER SOLOMON

When Your Body Says No. *Outside Online*, December 17

SARAH SPAIN

Runs in the Family. *ESPN.com*, September 2

DAVID STEELE

An Endless Fight, a Defining Choice. *The Sporting News*, October 15

KURT STREETER

Talent. A Football Scholarship. Then Crushing Depression. *New York Times*, November 15

TIM STRUBY

The Glass Sideline. *SB Nation*, November 27

IRA SUKRUNGRUANG

Maintenance Boy. *The Sun*, September

ERIC VAN METER

St. Anthony and Buddha Bike Through the Desert. *Sport Literate*, November 15

TOM VERDUCCI

Freedom from the Press. *Sports Illustrated*, September 24–October 1

JENNY VRENTAS

Friends with (On-Field) Benefits. *Sports Illustrated*, January 29–February 5

GRANT WAHL

The Reyna's Story of Loss and Legacy. *SI.com*, December 12

SHIRLEY WANG

My Dad's Friendship with Charles Barkley. *WBUR/Only a Game*, December 14

MICHAEL WEINREB

The Birth of Steph. *The Ringer*, March 14

L. JON WERTHEIM AND JESSICA LUTHER

Inside the Corrosive Workplace Culture of the Dallas Mavericks. *SI.com*, February 20

JOE WHITTLE

Adventures on the Turtle's Back. *Alpinist*, May

SETH WICKERSHAM

For Kraft, Brady, and Belichick, Is This the Beginning of the End? *ESPN.com*, January 4

Notable Sports Writing of 2018

317

MICAH WIMMER

In the Shadow of a King. *Fansided*, May 31

DENNIS YOUNG

Freestyle. *Victory Journal*, Fall