

## The People's Game: Football, State and Society in East Germany

*By Alan McDougall*

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**The People's Game: Football, State and Society in East Germany** By Alan McDougall

Sport in East Germany is commonly associated with the systematic doping that helped to make the country an Olympic superpower. Football played little part in this controversial story. Yet, as a hugely popular activity that was deeply entwined in the social fabric, it exerted an influence that few institutions or pursuits could match. The People's Game examines the history of football from the interrelated perspectives of star players, fans, and ordinary citizens who played for fun. Using archival sources and interviews, it reveals football's fluid role in preserving and challenging communist hegemony. By repeatedly emphasising that GDR football was part of an international story, for example, through analysis of the 1974 World Cup finals, Alan McDougall shows how sport transcended the Iron Curtain. Through a study of the mass protests against the Stasi team, BFC, during the 1980s, he reveals football's role in foreshadowing the downfall of communism.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### Review

"A lively and informative history of football in the GDR from the bottom up. By employing Germany's most popular sport as a lens through which to understand the complex workings of power and people, everyday life and culture under the East German dictatorship, McDougall masterfully demonstrates the value of sport for the modern historian."

Kay Schiller, University of Durham

"Football may have played little part in making East Germany a European sporting superpower but as Alan McDougall explains in this splendid new book there was a voluntarist ethos to the game that made it dynamic at both regional and national levels. Football mattered because it was popular and it was popular because it mattered. This is the best account of football behind the Iron Curtain since Robert Edelman, written with clarity, style and wit."

Tony Mason, De Montfort University

"If Olympic sport was the GDR's perfect child, football was its unruly but ever popular sibling. In this extensively researched, stylishly written and highly accessible survey, McDougall has provided an English-speaking audience with its first full-scale account of the people's game in East Germany. The result is an excellent and essential contribution to our understanding of GDR society and the peculiarities of football in the wider transnational context of Cold War sport."

Christopher Young, University of Cambridge

#### About the Author

Alan McDougall is Associate Professor of Modern European History and European Studies at the University of Guelph.

### **Users Review**

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#### **James Edwards:**

This The People's Game: Football, State and Society in East Germany book is not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book will be information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This The People's Game: Football, State and Society in East Germany without we know teach the one who looking at it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't always be worry The People's Game: Football, State and Society in East Germany can bring once you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even cellphone. This The People's Game: Football, State and Society in East Germany having fine arrangement in word and layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

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