



Touchdown in Europe: How American Football Came to the Old Continent

Massimo Foglio

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When you talk about football in Europe, everybody thinks you mean soccer. American football is still a developing sport in Europe, despite having a centennial history behind it. Packed with game scores and interesting anecdotes, “Touchdown in Europe”, by Massimo Foglio and Mark L. Ford, tells the story of the first 85 years of American football in Europe from the very beginning : Thanksgiving Day, 1897, near Paris, France, when the gridiron game made its first appearance. During the 20th century there had been a few attempts to introduce Europeans to the game. For the most part, though, football had been confined inside American military bases, especially after World War Two, when American presence on European soil was at its greatest number. Finally, gridiron football in Europe developed as a local sport, thanks to some individuals in Austria, Finland, Germany, Italy and Norway in the late 1970s, and now the game is played throughout the entire continent with a multitude of championship, leagues, teams and competition.

“Touchdown in Europe” isn't about the present status of the game in Europe. Instead, it's the little-known story of the first 80 years of trying to introduce the sport as something to be organized by, played by, and enjoyed by Europeans. At 276 pages, it's filled with stories and information never before published before in book form.

Touchdown in Europe: How American Football Came to the Old Continent Details

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From Reader Review Touchdown in Europe: How American Football Came to the Old Continent for online ebook

Jimbo says

Touchdown in Europe is a well researched history of the greatest game on earth on the old continent from its humble beginnings over a hundred years ago to the early 80's.

Elements of the book were almost like a political history lesson, and I'll be honest and say they were some of my favourite passages. Putting the game in the context of the political environment was a genuinely pleasing touch.

Some of the more in depth match reviews I skipped, and I was a little disappointed to see so little written about the game in the UK. The author is Italian so I suppose this is fair enough. I round myself skipping through nearly all of the final chapter.

The author does make it clear that the history of the last 30 years after the events of the book finish are already detailed in depth elsewhere, but I feel that not linking the events discussed to the huge rise of the sport in the subsequent decades is not just an opportunity missed, but the reason I have knocked off two stars. The best way I can describe this is like you have just read a Jack the Ripper biography that stops before the first murder!

Overall, this isn't quite the book that I hoped it would be. There are some excellent elements, and it will appeal to lovers of the game and historians alike, but I can't help teeing that it's an opportunity missed.

Marcello Rodi says

"L'Europa lunga un piede" è un must per tutti coloro che, come me, amano ed hanno praticato quello sport meraviglioso che è il football americano.

Massimo Foglio incarna questa passione nel modo più scientifico possibile: con le date, i fatti e i numeri. Niente leggende metropolitane, niente "sembra", "si dice", "ricordo": semplicemente una descrizione oggettiva dei fatti, dalle prime partite giocate sul vecchio continente in tempi oramai remoti (in Francia nel 1897: un'autentica sorpresa!) fino all'approdo nelle nostre terre, storia da sempre controversa e che Massimo Foglio dirime con imparzialità da cronista.

In sintesi, un interessantissimo pezzo di storia narrato con brio e maestria da un grande conoscitore di questo sport.

Lance says

Outstanding research and some interesting stories make this book a good read, especially for die-hard gridiron fans. Full review posted here:

<http://sportsbookguy.blogspot.com/201...>

