

**Book Review: Dave Zirin, *Game Over: How Politics Has Turned the Sports World Upside Down*. The New Press, 2013, ISBN: 978-1595588159 (Paperback). 240 Pages. \$18.95**

**Reviewed by Maureen Margaret Smith<sup>1</sup>**

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Dave Zirin's newest book, *Game Over: How Politics Has Turned the Sports World Upside Down*, may be mistitled. Zirin does a terrific job of showing exactly how politics has turned the sports world upside down, but is the game over? In fact, reviewing his litany of examples, it seems this "game" has been going on for decades and with no end in sight. This troubling, complicated relationship between sport and politics isn't new at all, and Zirin reminds the reader of this long term relationship that many continue to deny even exists. Over nine chapters, along with a short pre-game and post-game, Zirin covers the expected broad topics in a book like this – gender, race, and sexuality, along with more specific political issues, such as the Arab Spring, team owners, Joe Paterno and Penn State, Los Suns, and Zirin's current enemy number one (he's not alone; for example, see columns written by Joe Nocera of the *New York Times*), the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Many of the chapters are lengthier versions of Zirin's weekly columns at "The Edge of Sports," and most are timely with layers of examples and connections. His writing style is engaging, provocative, and simply fresh, especially

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