

# Tom English Rugby

The Purple Decades  
 The World Book Encyclopedia  
 When Munster Beat the All Blacks  
 John Dawes  
 This Is Your Everest  
 Ten Survival Skills for a World in Flux  
 Playing Rugby for the British & Irish Lions  
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## BRONSON RAFAEL

*The Purple Decades* Casemate Publishers  
 Bursting with humour and full of amusing anecdotes, *100 Irish Rugby Greats* is a unique celebration of the most significant stars of the sport from the 1930s to the present day. A veritable who's who of Irish rugby, it takes in all of the true greats, including Jack Kyle, Tony O'Reilly, Mike Gibson, Willie John McBride, Moss Keane, Keith Wood, Brian O'Driscoll and Paul O'Connell. Many of the in-depth and revealing profiles are based on interviews with the legends themselves, as well as with those who have lined up against them. The result offers remarkable insights into the myriad controversies,

epic matches, thrilling contests and pivotal events on and off the field in which each player has been involved. Written with an insider's knowledge, *100 Irish Rugby Greats* will prove to be a thrilling read for all fans of the sport.

*The World Book Encyclopedia* Random House

'Original and thought provoking' Gordon Brown 'Challenging and hopeful: a groundbreaking guide to the future' Valerie Amos

*When Munster Beat the All Blacks* Birlinn  
 A biography of the early life and the playing career of John Dawes, the London Welsh, British Lions (1971) and Barbarians captain. The biography is the result of extensive interviews, with a postscript giving a current analysis detailing Dawes' place in rugby history as one of rugby's greatest innovators.

**John Dawes** No Borders Playing Rugby for Ireland

Among the best stories in modern British team sport has been the rise of Exeter Chiefs. How, exactly, did an unfashionable rugby team from Devon emerge from obscurity to become the double champions of England and Europe? What makes them tick? What are their secrets? *Exe Men* is a compelling story of regional pride, fierce rural identity, larger-than-life local heroes, remarkable characters, epic resilience, big city snobbery, geographical separation, stepling ambition and personal sacrifice which will strike a chord with anyone who enjoys a classic underdog story. This is not any old rugby book, it is the inside story of Exeter's incredible journey from the edge of nowhere to the summit of the English and European club game.

*This Is Your Everest* Random House Australia

From the myth of William Webb Ellis to the glory of the 2003 World Cup win, this book explores the social history of rugby union in England. Ever since Tom Brown's Schooldays the sport has seen itself as the guardian of traditional English middle-class values. In this fascinating new history, leading rugby historian Tony Collins demonstrates how these values have shaped the English game, from the public schools to mass spectator sport, from strict amateurism to global professionalism. Based on unprecedented access to the official archives of the Rugby Football Union, and drawing on an impressive array of sources from club minutes to personal memoirs and contemporary literature, the book explores in vivid detail the key events, personalities and players that have made English rugby. From an era of rapid growth at the end of the nineteenth century, through the terrible losses suffered during the First World War and the subsequent 'rush to rugby' in the public and grammar schools, and into the periods of disorientation and commercialisation in the 1960s through to the present day, the story of English rugby union is also the story of the making of modern England. Like all the very best writers on sport, Tony Collins uses sport as a prism through which to better understand both culture and society. A ground-breaking work of both social history and sport history, *A Social History of English Rugby Union* tells a fascinating story of sporting endeavour, masculine identity, imperial ideology, social consciousness and the nature of Englishness.

**Ten Survival Skills for a World in Flux** Y Lolfa

"A 22-volume, highly illustrated, A-Z general encyclopedia for all ages, featuring sections on how to use World Book, other research aids, pronunciation key, a student guide to better writing, speaking, and research skills, and comprehensive index"--

*Playing Rugby for the British & Irish Lions* Allen & Unwin

'An intriguing study of the minds of some of rugby's greatest leaders' - Tom English, BBC Sport An Official Licensed Product of the British & Irish Lions A British & Irish Lions tour presents one of the greatest challenges in sport. Rugby is a game that rewards creative expression, toil, teamwork and a never-say-die attitude. It can be joyful, vibrant and beautiful. Equally, it can brutally expose human flaws and frailties — even more so in the hugely pressurised environment of a Lions

tour. Every team, no matter how talented, will find itself in dark and difficult situations both on and off the field; the successful ones are those with a leadership group that can navigate these challenging moments. In *Legacy of the Lions*, former Lions captain Gavin Hastings draws on his own experiences in the famous red jersey and interviews other greats of the game — including, among many others, Sam Warburton, Warren Gatland, Paul O'Connell, Brian O'Driscoll, Martin Johnson, Finlay Calder and Sir Ian McGeechan, plus a selection of their illustrious opponents, such as Kieran Read, John Smit and John Eales — to explore how to forge a successful team in this most rarefied of environments, the difficulties they each encountered and what leadership lessons they learned. Inspiring, humorous and illuminating, *Legacy of the Lions* casts a unique light on leadership, team-building and elite performance and reveals a new perspective on touring with — and playing against — The British & Irish Lions in the modern era.

*Wallaby Warrior* Taylor & Francis

Here are Scottish rugby's most legendary, celebratory and brilliant moments from the last 50 years. *100 Great Scottish Rugby Moments* is a unique celebration of the sport's most significant moments. Including: • Andy Irvine's kick to beat England in 1974 • The 1984 Grand Slam • David Sole, Tony Stanger and the 1990 Grand Slam • Toony, Paris and that pass • The great Bill McLaren's final commentary • Doddie Weir's Big Entry • The 2019 Calcutta Cup – a match like no other . . . These epic moments feature exclusive interviews with Gregor Townsend, Jim Telfer, Ian Robertson, Ian McLauchlan, Andy Irvine, Alan Lawson, Iain Milne, Jim Calder, John Rutherford, Finlay Calder, Craig Chalmers, David Sole, Tony Stanger, Scott Hastings, Gavin Hastings, Doddie Weir, Rob Wainwright, Gary Armstrong, Kenny Logan, Bryan Redpath, Chris Paterson, Al Kellock, Sean Maitland and many others. Enjoy a host of brilliant anecdotes and remarkable insights into the controversies, epic matches, thrilling contests and pivotal events on and off the field which shaped these 100 GREAT SCOTTISH RUGBY MOMENTS. "All the key moments from the last 50 years of Scottish rugby are captured . . . 100 Great Scottish Rugby Moments will definitely bring back some truly great memories for you." GARY ARMSTRONG OBE *Playing Rugby for the British & Irish Lions* Arena Sport

The gruesome stories of the hardest, most ruthless rugby players from around the world since World War I. As talented as

they were fiery, many were just as lively off the pitch as on it. In our era of citing commissioners, super slow-motion replays and trial by social media, some of their actions are quite hard to believe!

Foreword by Nigel Owens.

*Playing Rugby for the British & Irish Lions* Vintage

A NEW YORK TIMES CRITICS' TOP BOOK OF THE YEAR • One of our most brilliant biographers takes on one of our greatest living playwrights, drawing on a wealth of new materials and on many conversations with him. "An extraordinary record of a vital and evolving artistic life, replete with textured illuminations of the plays and their performances, and shaped by the arc of Stoppard's exhilarating engagement with the world around him, and of his eventual awakening to his own past."

—Harper's Tom Stoppard is a towering and beloved literary figure. Known for his dizzying narrative inventiveness and intense attention to language, he deftly deploys art, science, history, politics, and philosophy in works that span a remarkable spectrum of literary genres: theater, radio, film, TV, journalism, and fiction. His most acclaimed creations—*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *The Real Thing*, *Arcadia*, *The Coast of Utopia*, *Shakespeare in Love*—remain as fresh and moving as when they entranced their first audiences. Born in Czechoslovakia, Stoppard escaped the Nazis with his mother and spent his early years in Singapore and India before arriving in England at age eight. Skipping university, he embarked on a brilliant career, becoming close friends over the years with an astonishing array of writers, actors, directors, musicians, and political figures, from Peter O'Toole, Harold Pinter, and Stephen Spielberg to Mick Jagger and Václav Havel. Having long described himself as a "bounced Czech," Stoppard only learned late in life of his mother's Jewish family and of the relatives he lost to the Holocaust. Lee's absorbing biography seamlessly weaves Stoppard's life and work together into a vivid, insightful, and always riveting portrait of a remarkable man.

*What Every Parent Should Know* Random House

A must for all England Rugby fans! The only place to get the inside line on the greatest team in the world. Do you want to know all about your favourite England players? Want to enjoy loads of quizzes, puzzles and activities? Fancy improving your rugby knowledge or reading reports on the great games from last season? Whichever it is, this is the only place for you. *The Official England Rugby Annual*.

IMAGE OF 2020 ANNUAL FOR  
ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES

Hard Men of Rugby Outlier Press

'As my future crumbled before my eyes, I grasped for the rope. My entire life's struggle was ending here, in plain view of my enemies. How was it possible? How had I let things come to this?' This is not the story of a celebrity sportsman. It's not the story of a life covered in glory with its attendant cavalcade of famous friends, easy wins and glamorous encounters. Errol Christie may have been one of the most promising British boxers of his generation – a Fight Night poster boy, captain of the England boxing team, English and European champion, and a cocky, Ali-esque dancer with a reputation for devastating early knockouts – but this is not that story. This is a story about fighting. Coventry in the dying days of the Seventies was a tough place to grow up – especially if you were poor and black. At the same time as the young Errol Christie was raising the flag in the ring, his fists were seeing off skinhead tormentors and NF bootboys on the streets. Britain was sickening from a vicious racial divide, and even when the big time turned up Errol soon discovered that a black boxer who refused to play by the rules – white rules – would never be tolerated. In 1985, after a string of professional knockouts, Errol faced Mark Kaylor in a brutal bout that tore open the country's simmering racial enmities. In the eighth round he went down – and stayed down, the roar of the hard right in his ears. But the years that followed would see Errol square up against a far tougher adversary – as he found himself out in the cold, struggling to get by, and alone with only his own shattered confidence and no place to hide.

*Lessons in Leadership from the British & Irish Lions* Pan Macmillan

31/10/1978 Thomond Park. One of the greatest days in rugby history, Munster beat the All Blacks. More than 100,000 people claimed to have watched the game, even though the ground could only hold 12,000. In this 40th anniversary edition of the widely acclaimed *Stand Up and Fight*, Alan English revisits some of the key characters involved in this extraordinary story to offer a fully updated account of this extraordinary match.

How I Put The Black In The Union Jack

Black & White Publishing Ltd

Ed Nightingale and his fellow teammates are not the best players on the rugby, football or cricket pitches. So when it comes time to challenge the Badgers, the Bucks, and the Squirrels in this year's Champions' Cup, Ed goes to ask for expert advice from some famous athletes

including English rugby legend George Kruis, Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson and cricket World Cup winner Mark Wood. The superstars each give Ed different advice, except for one main thing: they all say 'work together as a team.' While Ed and the Nightingales don't win any of their matches in the Champions' Cup, they do better than they ever have before. And when a violent storm threatens to cancel the Champions' Cup award ceremony, the birds band together and with their brilliant song, fight off the storm. The Nightingales might not be the best sports team, but they prove that by working together, anything can be accomplished!

*Two Nations, One Match, No Holds Barred* Quiller Press

No Borders Playing Rugby for Ireland Arena Sport

A 'disunited kingdom' Birlinn

This enhanced edition contains match footage highlights from every tour from 1955 to 2009, additional photographs and text, as well as a statistical section and an abridged history of the Lions. This is the history of the British & Irish Lions... in their own words. For 125 years the British & Irish Lions have stood out as a symbol of the ethics, values and romance at the heart of rugby union. To represent the Lions is the pinnacle for every international player in Britain and Ireland, and the dream of tens of thousands of avid fans who follow them. A Lions tour, undertaken every four years to the southern hemisphere, is more than a series of rugby matches played out on foreign fields; it is an epic crusade where the chosen few face a succession of mental and physical challenges on their way to the Test arena, where they do battle with the superpowers of the world game. Behind the Lions sees four esteemed rugby writers from each of the Home Nations delve to the very heart of what it means to be a Lion, using diaries and letters from those who pioneered the concept, to interviews with a vast array of players who have followed in their footsteps. In so doing they have uncovered the passion, pride and honour experienced when taking up the unique challenge of a Lions tour. This is a tale of heart-break and ecstasy, humour and poignancy that is at once inspirational, moving and utterly compelling. And it is the only story worth hearing: the players' own.

*Tom Wills* Birlinn Ltd

Given sport's centrality in English society, what role does it play in symbolising contemporary English national identity? This comprehensive study explores the complex set of relationships between sport

and what it means to be English in the twenty-first century. The bond between sport and nationalism has long been recognised, but with increasingly vociferous separatist nationalisms threatening the dismantling of the United Kingdom, a closer analysis is timely. Part one addresses key debates regarding English national identity within the specific sporting contexts of association football, cricket, tennis, cycling and rugby. Part two discusses the complex relationship between religion, sport and English national identity as well as the attitudes and experiences of traditionally marginalized groups, including women, minority ethnic groups and disabled people. Part three considers the perspectives of the other UK nations on the link between sport and English national identity. Sport and English National Identity in a 'Disunited Kingdom' is fascinating reading for all those with an interest in the sociology, politics and history of sport, and the study of nations, nationalism and national identity.

Stand Up And Fight Childs World Incorporated

This is a complete history of the Welsh rugby union team – told by the players themselves. Based on a combination of painstaking research into the early years of the Wales team to interviews with a vast array of Test match players and coaches from the Second World War to the present day, Ross Harries delves to the very heart of what it means to play for Wales, painting a unique and utterly compelling picture of the game in the only words that can truly do so: the players' own. Behind the Dragon lifts the lid on what it is to pull on the famous red shirt – the trials and tribulations behind the scenes, the glory, the drama and the honour on the field, and the heart-warming tales of friendship and humour off it. Absorbing and illuminating, this is the ultimate history of Welsh rugby – told, definitively, by the men who have been there and done it.

**Tom Brown's School Days** Macmillan

A rugby history based on exclusive interviews that "takes the reader as close to the action as it is possible to get, short of invading the pitch" (The Scotsman). Based on exclusive interviews with players past and present, Behind the Thistle gives a unique insight into the drama and emotion of representing Scotland in that most rarefied of environments—Test match rugby. Drawing on firsthand interviews from a vast array of former and current players, from Russell Bruce and Frank Coutts in the 1940s all the way through to the present day, the authors

uncover the heart and soul of Scottish rugby, recounting the ecstasy of victory and the despair of defeat, drawing out innumerable humorous anecdotes and heartwarming memories. Behind the Thistle provides inside access to the private moments in the changing and team rooms, on tour, and on the pitch itself. From the tension before kick-off to the tumultuous heat-of-battle and the high jinks thereafter, this is the story of what it is like to play for Scotland, and the sacrifices and joys experienced by those who have shed blood, sweat, and tears in pursuit of glory in the international jersey. Absorbing, illuminating, and compelling, this is a must-have for all supporters who have dreamed of playing for Scotland. "Really good reminiscences from hosts of Scottish rugby greets about a host of great Scotland rugby occasions." —Sunday Times

**Life on the Edge of Professional Rugby** Arena Sport

Updated edition of the #1 Amazon Bestseller LONGLISTED FOR THE WILLIAM HILL SPORTS BOOK OF THE YEAR PRIZE

2020 Sports books tend to detail extraordinary achievements, triumphs against the odds or commemorate World Cup winning captains. This book does not do that. For many, playing professional sport is the Dream Job. Few manage it, very few make it to the top and for the rest, life is very different. This is their story. In Fringes, Ben Mercer invites you to witness life at the outer edges of professional rugby. This is a first hand account of what life is like as a journeyman professional athlete. You play, but to the wider public you don't exist. You earn but you don't drive a flash car. You sometimes pack out a stadium but sometimes, you play in a deserted park. This is the story for the majority of sports professionals. Only the minority taste the top, only one person gets to lift the cup or win the medal, only 15 get to play for England at any one time. For the rest, that's not the case. Ben Mercer is a former professional rugby player who after becoming disillusioned and uninspired plying his trade in the English Second Division, accepted an offer out of the blue to go to France and do something different

- help an amateur team turn professional. This is a first hand account of what life is like in the lower reaches of professional sport - where your employment status is as precarious as your health and barely anyone will know your name. It's about how it feels to live year to year, with teammates constantly on the move. It's about how professionalism irreversibly changes the French club Stade Rouennais as they move up the divisions, about the tension between progress and identity in a rugby team. It's also about how it feels to actually be out there on the field, how it feels to occasionally do something extraordinary and how it feels when this is no longer enough for you to make the sacrifices that you need to make to keep playing. There's no ghostwriting, it's an unmitigated meditation on how it feels and what it means to play rugby for a living, to dedicate yourself to an uncompromising but occasionally beautiful game. If you've wanted to know what life is really like as a professional athlete, on the Fringes, away from the glitz and glamour of the international game then look no further.

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