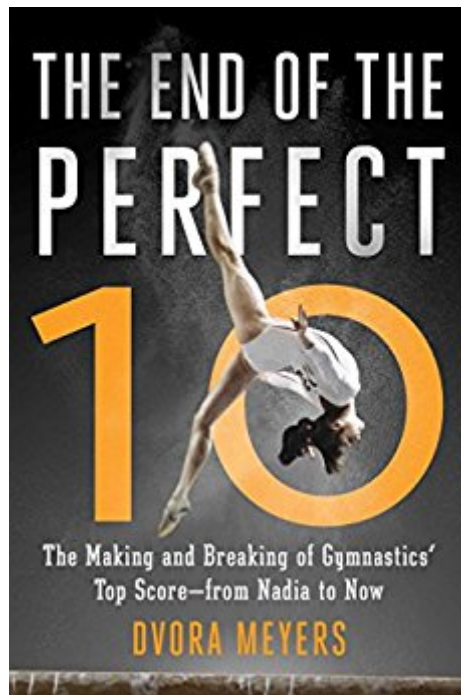


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The End Of The Perfect 10: The Making And Breaking Of Gymnastics' Top Score -from Nadia To Now



Synopsis

Just in time for the 2016 Olympic Games and the fortieth anniversary of Nadia Comaneci's "Perfect 10," an exciting and insightful account of the controversial world of gymnastics, the recent changes of the scoring system, and why those changes will drive American gymnasts to the top of the sport in the twenty-first century. It was the team finals of women's gymnastics in the 2012 London Olympics and McKayla Maroney was on top of her game. The sixteen-year-old US gymnast was performing arguably the best vault of all time, launching herself unimaginably high into the air and sticking a flawless landing. But when her score came, many were baffled: 16.233. Three tenths of a point in deductions stood between her and a perfect score. But if that vault wasn't perfection, what was? For years, gymnastics was scored on a 10.0 scale. During this era, more than 100 "perfect" scores were awarded in major international competitions. But when the 10.0 scoring system caused major judging controversies at the 2004 Olympics, international elite gymnastics made the switch to the open-ended scoring system it uses today, making perfect scores a thing of the past—and forever altering the sport in the process. Gymnastics insider Dvora Meyers examines the evolution of elite women's gymnastics over the last few decades. With insight, flair, and a boundless love for the sport, Meyers answers questions that gymnastics fans have been asking since the last perfect score was handed out over twenty years ago. She reveals why successful female gymnasts are older and more athletic than they have ever been before, how the United States became a gymnastics powerhouse, and what the future of gymnastics will hold. Bolstered by dozens of exclusive interviews with professionals representing every aspect of the sport, *The End of the Perfect 10* explores a crucial change in one of the most popular Olympic sports, and is a captivating account of elite gymnastics' entry into the uncharted world of imperfection.

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Customer Reviews

I listen to books while driving to work and this was an interesting one that has over 10 hours of narration. I have no involvement in gymnastics besides watching it on TV since I was a kid. This filled in a lot of holes in my knowledge of the history of the sport, especially after I Googled a few names and watched some of the old video footage. Even the Soviet Propaganda movie talked about early on is available online (subtitled). Sidebar: The evolution of the uneven bars apparatus is fascinating. Something about Nadia Comăneci's perfect 10 performance was bugging me and I realized it was how she could wrap her body around the bottom bar while holding on to the top. Turns out the bars were closer together then. There's a video montage that shows the evolution from the 1930s to now. Fascinating. It's also interesting to hear how there is still resistance to the new scoring system. The new open-ended scoring always made perfect sense to me as a casual fan. Especially after figure skating changed first, I didn't think twice about the change for gymnastics. It's not like there's a cap on the score of any high-level sport. Whoever brings the best skills and performs better wins in basketball, baseball, football, soccer, etc. There are no judges awarding extra points via some arbitrary rules, for effort, or for preference for a particular player. Or collusion. Say they did this in football: "Oh, he missed that field goal, but he really tried so we'll give him 1 point for effort." or "Russell Wilson missed that pass but he's so good we'll give him the 1st down anyway." If anything, I think open-ended scoring makes things more understandable to many fans rather than having to understand how everything got crammed into a 10.

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