

Book Reviews

By Art McCafferty

Match Made in Heaven

By Bob Mitchell

I confess, this book was not normally one I would pick up, but the high praise it got from early reviews, Bob Costas, Tim Finchem and Jim Nantz are pretty powerful to have on your back cover.

The hook to the book is that the main character of the story, Elliott Goodman (of course) suffers a heart attack and gets a chance to get to save his life with a final game of golf against 18 players that God (there is a character named Dog) has selected. Some of the foes that find Elliott on various tees include Leonardo da Vinci, W. C. Fields, Moses, John Lennon, Freud, Poe, Socrates, Joan of Arc, Babe Didrikson Zaharias, Marilyn Monroe, Picasso, Lincoln, Beethoven, Shakespeare, Babe Ruth, Columbus, Gandhi, and Ben Hogan.

The ending is a bit like the ending of the famous "Incident at Owl Creek Bridge". It keeps you thinking all the way through the match. An interesting read and one that is certainly different. To borrow a Bob Costas quote, "'An engaging and often hilarious account of a star-studded round, but here's my question: What's W.C. Fields doing playing the second hole, when you'd expect to find him on the 19th?'"

The book is published by Kensington Books and will be available May 2 .
<http://kensingtonbooks.com>

The King of Swings: Johnny Goodman, the Last Amateur to Beat the Pros at Their Own Game

By Michael Blaine

In 1933, amateur John Goodman won the U.S. Open, the last time an amateur has done that. Michael Blaine has captured the magic of that moment, while weaving in comparative histories of Walter Hagen, Bobby Jones and O.B. Keeler. Goodman also beat Jones at the first Pebble Beach golf tournament in 1929 and also participated in a Walker Cup.

As the book jacket information revealed, this story is much in the vein of *The Cinderella Man* and *The Greatest Game Ever Played*, in that it traces the humble beginnings of an individual as he makes his way into American history.

I found it an exciting read and thoroughly enjoyed Goodman's reflections on "The Haig", Jones and the great golfers of the day.

The book will be published by Houghton Mifflin Company and will be available on June 5th of this year.
<http://houghtonmifflinbooks.com> **MG**

