

**Handbook on the economics of professional football, ed. by John Goddard and Peter Sloane. E. Elgar, 2014. 448p bibl index ISBN 9781781003169, \$225.00.**

Alert: this book is not about the National Football League, but rather what those in the US call soccer. Nor is it for casual couch-potato fans or sports journalists. The 25 stand-alone essays—all by well-known economists around the globe and all complete with data tables, figures, equations, endnotes, and references—address key economic topics of interest to sports economists, other scholars, civic leaders, and public officials. Subjects include output or product markets, league organizations, competitive balance, financial underpinnings, media matters, strategic decision making within teams, labor markets, discrimination, gambling, and corruption. The six chapters in part 3 consider country-specific institutional histories and issues in England, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Japan, and the US. The ten-page introduction by Goddard (Bangor Univ., UK) and Sloane (Univ. of Swansea, UK) informs and whets the appetite. As with other Edward Elgar "handbook" volumes, of which there are many, this collection is an invaluable complement to professional journals for those whose day job is understanding, teaching, researching, or effecting public policy on any number of sports-economics matters. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty, researchers, and professionals.