

Economics of competitive sports, ed. by Plácido Rodríguez, Stefan Késenne, and Ruud Koning. E. Elgar, 2015. 222p bibl index ISBN 9781783474752, \$120.00.

In the 21st century, Edward Elgar has been, in this reviewer's opinion, the go-to publishing house when it comes to virtually any aspect of the economics or business of sports. The total is now larger by one with the addition of *Economics of Competitive Sports*. All three editors of this book, and almost all the contributors, are from European institutions, and the subjects treated in these independent, stand-alone pieces have a decidedly non-American flavor (not that there is anything wrong with that). The demarcation in the contents is five chapters in part 1, largely on the organization of sport and competition, though not everything within the section fits this definition. The concluding six chapters in part 2 are mainly about competitive balance and outcomes and associated financial and non-monetary rewards. There is considerable variation in length, quality, and rigor in these essays, though with regard to the latter criterion, a solid understanding of mathematics and statistics is a prerequisite for following the arguments, modeling, and empirical results throughout. All 11 chapters contain solid references. Some topics complement the existing literature in the field; others, including the longest and arguably the best chapter—on prize money in tennis—break new ground. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates, graduate students, faculty.