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in light of his own experiences of the racial expectations of others, posing such accusations as a larger symptom of the misplaced expectations that characterize the cultural practice of race within the United States.

Drawing strength from literature, lived reality, Pawnee tradition, personal truth, and public history, Echo-Hawk has skillfully crafted a timely twenty-first-century book that should encourage vigorous debate and discussions of race and racial identities among American Indians within university classrooms. If this book has a flaw, it is that at times a recalled experience can seem somewhat inconsistent with the topic being discussed, which may make readers wish for further explanation. Still, as with most dreams and awakenings, the messages are incomplete, sporadic, and in need of further interpretation, and this may seem inconsistent with the concise analytical structures expected in academia. Rather than offer one definitive statement, which would inadequately represent the diversity of his experience of having to navigate the random behaviors and race-based expectations of others, Echo-Hawk brings to this easy and insightful read a structure of dream reflection, which fulfills its goal to incite readers to think critically. Scholars of race in American Indian studies, American studies, anthropology, and ethnic studies should find this work a thought-provoking and vital addition to any curriculum that seeks to examine the salience of race in individual lives.

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**Native American Son: The Life and Sporting Legend of Jim Thorpe.** By Kate Buford. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. 496 pages. \$35.00 cloth.

Jim Thorpe is the lone American Indian athlete whose accomplishments have earned him ongoing multicultural respect. He is not merely a hero to Indians everywhere, but a hero in the dominant culture of the United States and even worldwide. There were other outstanding Native American sports performers with hordes of admirers: Billy Mills, the superb Olympic runner; Charles "Chief" Bender, the Hall of Fame baseball pitcher; and Louis Francis Sockalexis, the Penobscot who so impressed Cleveland baseball fans that they voted to call their team "the Indians." But only Thorpe had the ability and the charisma to capture minds and hearts on such a grand scale. He towers above them all, an inspiration to adults and schoolchildren alike, a worldwide symbol of sports excellence. He was, and remains, unique.

Kate Buford explores that uniqueness in *Native American Son: The Life and Sporting Legend of Jim Thorpe*, undoubtedly the most comprehensive

examination of the stellar athlete ever to appear, and her second biography to date. In 2000 she published a study of Burt Lancaster, the Hollywood star who portrayed Thorpe in the Warner Brothers hit, *Jim Thorpe—All American* (1951). Both books prove her to be a premier biographer. There are only two comparable studies of Thorpe, both published in 1975. Jack Newcombe's *The Best of the Athletic Boys: The White Man's Impact on Jim Thorpe* (1975) is substantively and stylistically engaging—a beautifully crafted text, but less ambitious in scope than Buford's study. Robert W. Wheeler's extraordinary 1981 biography, *Jim Thorpe: World's Greatest Athlete* also surveys Thorpe's life, athletic and otherwise, but it lacks the probing depth of Buford's book. Fascinating to any student of human behavior, *Native American Son* stands alone in offering facts, dates, details, and anecdotes of a mortal whose exploits on and off the playing field are a distinctive mix of truth and fiction.

Buford unfolds her biography in four parts. Parts 1 through 3 provide a chronological analysis of Thorpe's life, from his birth in 1887 to his death in 1953, and the epilogue examines the controversy-filled thirty-year period that followed. With exemplary diligence, Buford has mined numerous sources to fill out each part with more information than any other Thorpe biography. Each has its intriguing findings or descriptions, starting with Buford's discovery that Thorpe's paternal ancestry traces not to Ireland, where all previous biographers had placed it, but to England: "His great-great-great-great-great-great-grandfather, William Thorp [*sic*], was of East Anglian origin, and arrived in New England from London in 1637" (9).

More importantly, part 1 contains her exciting explorations of Thorpe's 1911 and 1912 football achievements at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, and his mind-boggling performance at the Olympiad of 1912. In examining his two most successful college gridiron seasons and his record-breaking feats in Sweden, Buford provides an engaging specificity that is a highlight of the volume.

Part 2 addresses Thorpe's loss of his Olympic medals and trophies because of his summer participation in professional baseball in 1909 and 1910 and his subsequent initial excursions into professional football. Buford provides especially ample and informative descriptions of the successful Canton Bulldogs, winners of three unofficial world football championships. In part 3, she explains Thorpe's several stints in Hollywood, noting that in 1944 one source "claimed that Jim was playing his 147th Indian role" (326). Relying largely on Thorpe's third wife Patricia, Buford again provides noteworthy specificity in detailing the negotiations—and machinations—that led to Thorpe's 1954 burial in a Pennsylvania town carrying his name. That commendable specificity

later resurfaces in Buford's explanation of the ultimately successful campaigns to reinstate Thorpe's Olympic awards.

Despite its numerous strengths, however, this encyclopedic volume is not without its flaws. Factual errors that may elude other readers prove distracting, if not disappointing, to baseball historians. Thorpe did not play his first professional baseball game in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, nor was "A and M athletic field in Rocky Mount"; both were in Raleigh (87). Thorpe did not suffer his final pair of pitching losses of 1910 while with the Rocky Mount team; these two games came after his trade to the Fayetteville Highlanders (406). The Eastern Carolina League was not "created" in 1908, the year before Thorpe entered it, "with four teams," nor were "two more . . . added for the 1909 season" (85). During the three seasons it operated, the league always had six teams, Rocky Mount and Fayetteville replacing Kinston and New Bern after the 1908 season. Thorpe did not end "the 1922 season leading the Eastern League with a .344 average" (232); Elmer Bowman led the league in hitting with an average 21 points higher.

While its abundant research is a delight, the volume is not as satisfying in other ways. Buford's treatment of the massive amount of information that she includes is oblique, perhaps caused by a fear of offense, and as a result, no satisfying sociological and psychological depiction of Thorpe emerges. What does emerge comes dangerously close to the kind of portrait to which, in a speech on March 28, 2003, on Jim Thorpe Honor Day in North Carolina, Thorpe's son Jack objected: Jim Thorpe as a stereotypical American Indian, alcoholic, irresponsible, incapable of adapting to the demands of Anglo-European civilization. When Jack delivered his moving comments, he left no doubt in the minds of his audience that his athletically gifted father should be viewed as a man caught between two cultures that, in his words, "buted heads." Despite her commendable research, Buford's words are not similarly clear and convincing.

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**The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma: A Legal History.** By L. Susan Work. Foreword by Lindsay G. Robertson. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2010. 376 pages. \$45.00 cloth.

*The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma: A Legal History* is the fourth volume of the American Indian Law and Policy Series published by the University of Oklahoma Press. The author, L. Susan Work, is a member of the Choctaw