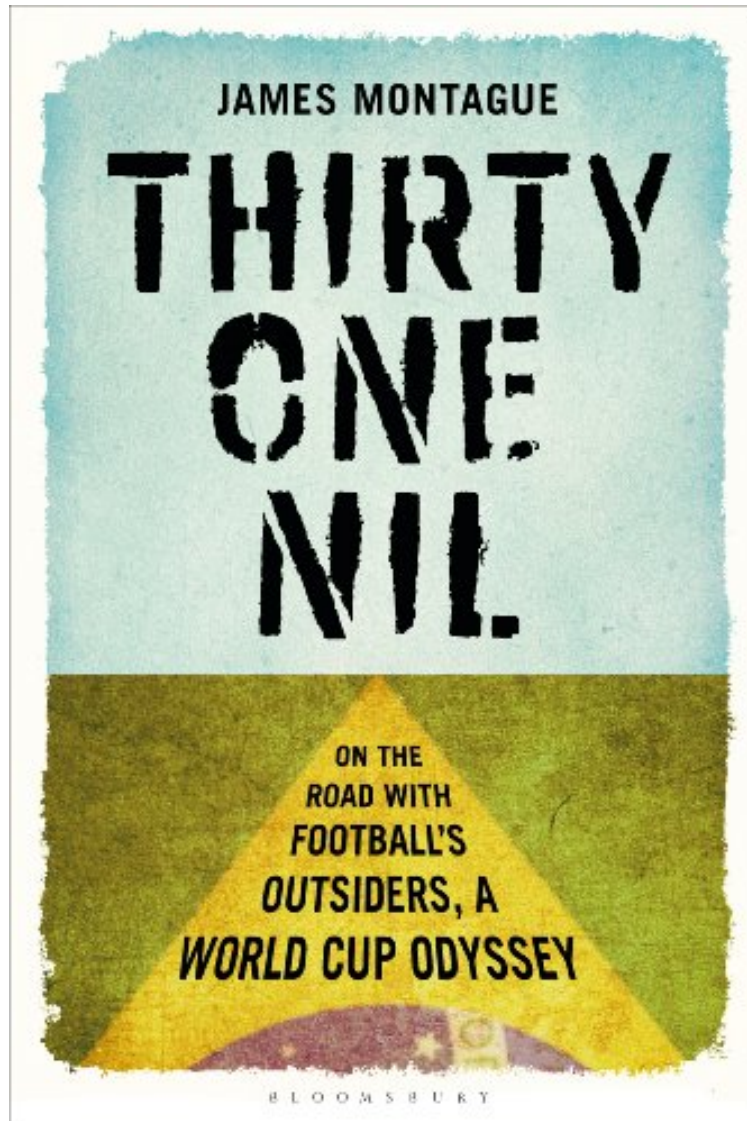


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Thirty-One Nil: On the Road With Football's Outsiders: A World Cup Odyssey

Von James Montague
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Von James Montague : Thirty-One Nil: On the Road With Football's Outsiders: A World Cup Odyssey before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thirty-One Nil: On the Road With Football's Outsiders: A World Cup Odyssey:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Mehr als nur ein FussballbuchVon Peer SylvesterJames Montague begleitet diverse Mannschaften durch die Qualifikation zur

Weltmeisterschaft 2014. Das ist spannender und interessanter als es sich anhört, denn er begleitet nicht die Favoriten, sondern die kleinen Teams. Und selbst da ist seine Auswahl sehr gelungen: Wie schlagt sich Haiti nach dem Erdbeben? Was für Probleme hat das palstinensische Team? Wird es Amerikanisch Samoa zum ersten Mal in der Teamgeschichte gelingen, ein Spiel zu gewinnen? Es werden dabei nicht Mannschaften vorgestellt, sondern mehr die Länder, die Erwartungen, die Probleme der Teams. Das ist ungemein gelungen, nicht nur weil der Blickwinkel besonders ist, sondern weil man viele Probleme mitbekommt, die einem sonst nicht bewusst sind, z.B. Wie spielt man gegen Eritrea, das "Nordkorea Afrikas", bei dem regelmäßig Spieler flüchten? Und wer hat hierzulande von der Brisanz der Begegnung Ungarn-Rumänien gehört? Oder den zahlreichen Match-Annulierungen in Afrika? Dass das Buch aber tatsächlich ein 5-Sterne-Buch ist, ist die Relevanz, die es mitbringt. Alleine die ganzen Geschehnisse rund um das ägyptische Team sorgen für eine historische Tiefe (und natürlich darf auch eine Aufarbeitung von Port Said nicht fehlen). Aber während den Geschehnissen des Buches gab es natürlich die gewaltigen Proteste in Brasilien während des Confed Cups (die der Autor miterlebt) und Wettskandale bei Qualifikationsspielen, auf die er ebenfalls eingeht. Damit ist das Buch ein ungemein interessantes Zeitdokument und viel mehr als "nur" ein Sportbuch. Ich hätte bei meinem Kauf niemals gedacht, dass ich 5 Sterne vergebende (es war mehr als Einstimmung auf die WM gedacht), aber es ist tatsächlich eines der besten und interessantesten Bücher, die ich dieses Jahr gelesen habe!

Kurzbeschreibung In a tiny, decaying aluminium smelting town in southern Tajikistan, a short drive from a raging war zone, Afghanistan take on Palestine in the first Asian qualifier for 2014's World Cup in Brazil. Every player on both teams is risking something by playing: their careers, their families, even their lives. Yet, along with thousands of other footballers backed by millions of supporters, they all dream of snatching one of the precious 32 places at the finals; and so begins a three-year epic struggle long before the usual suspects start their higher-profile qualifying campaigns under the spotlight. Named after the greatest victory (and defeat) that the World Cup qualifiers have ever seen (Australia's 31-0 victory over American Samoa), *Thirty-One Nil* is the story of how footballers from all corners of the globe begin their journey chasing a place at the World Cup Finals. It celebrates the part-time priests, princes and hopeless chancers who dream of making it to Brazil, in defiance of the staggering odds stacked against them. It tells the story of teams who have struggled for their very existence through political and social turmoil, from which they will very occasionally emerge into international stardom. From the endlessly humiliated San Marino to lowly Haiti; from war-torn Lebanon to the oppressed and fleet-footed players of Eritrea, in *Thirty-One Nil* James Montague gets intimately and often dangerously close to some of the world's most extraordinary teams, and tells their exceptional stories.

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