Article

Autobiographies of famous sportsmen

We rave about the goals they score; we celebrate the runs they pile. Be it Messi scoring his 400th goal or Sachin making a century, we all have a favourite sporting hero whom we worship like God. When in action their every move thrills us and every accomplishment exhilarates us. But today their influence goes beyond a single game. Many sportspersons have taken to writing and have pen down their life story, capturing the struggle, the sweat, and the success they have seen on their journey.

With Sachin Tendulkar being the latest to join this elite club with his autobiography

‘Playing it My Way’, we take a look at some of the most moving autobiographies written by sporting icons which adorn the shelves of various bookshops.

Open by Andre Agassi- As one reads this book, one journeys on the path on which this former tennis great had walked. From having struggled with meth use to completing a career grand slam, Andre Agassi provides us with a painstakingly honest account of his life, tracing all the highs and the hiccups he faced in his journey and how he became a legend with sheer grit and determination.

Moments by Christiano Ronaldo-This book is more than Ronaldo’s exploits on the football field. Its a poignant tale which introduces us to a different Ronaldo. With the facade of fame and glory removed, we get to know about the hardships he faced as one of a big family which struggled to make its ends meet. The sacrifices he made on his way, the moments of doubt and despair he faced, how his sheer love for the ball propelled him to international fame, he writes about it all.

A Kind of Grace by Jackie-Joyner-Kersee-Regarded by many as one of the greatest female athlete of all times, her autobiography “A Kind of Grace” is an international bestseller. Her journey from poverty and helplessness in East St. Louis to The Olympics and unparalleled fame is an inspiring story for many. A three time gold medallist in heptathlon, this book traces her journey to international acclaim and how she fought all odds with sheer grit, determination and passion for her sport. A must read for all!

Goal by Major Dhyan Chand-‘The wizard of hockey’, ‘the magician on field’ these are few of the many sobriquets by which the late Dhyan Chand is known. For him the field was his stage his stick his magic wand. His heroics are still alive in our memories and his autobiography makes for the perfect way for knowing more about this legend. It’s about the rise of a phenomenon from the city of Allahabad who went on to astound the Fuhrer with his impeccable performance, overcame countless struggles, fought every challenge and continued to move on. It is this spirit of his which makes his book what it is!

With such inspirational stories awaiting us, it’s the perfect time to know more about one’s idol in his own words. Tim to grab a book and give those video games and movies a break.......