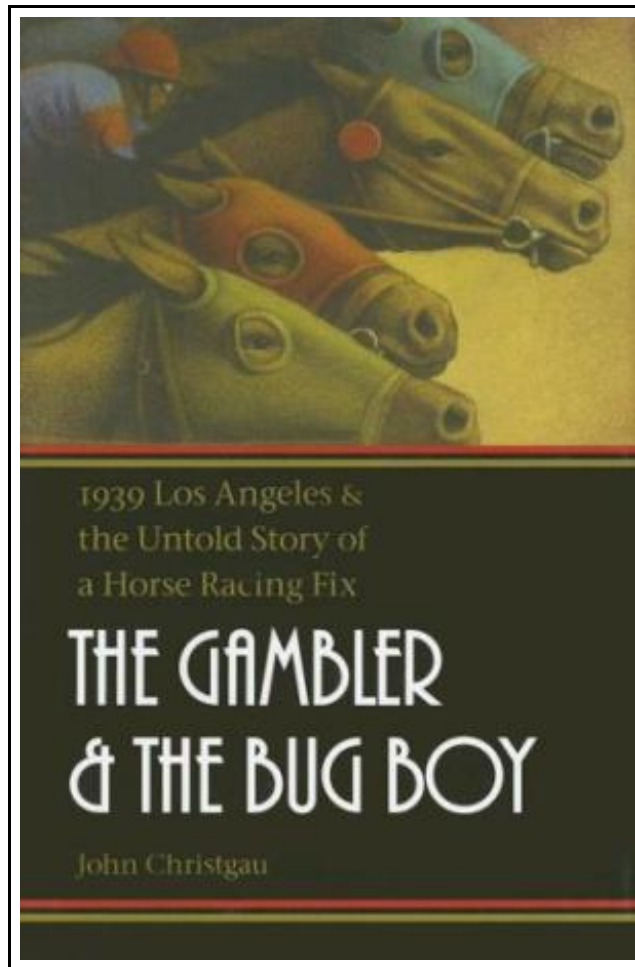


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THE GAMBLER AND THE BUG BOY: 1939 LOS ANGELES AND THE UNTOLD STORY OF A HORSE RACING FIX.

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University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 2007. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. 274 pages. Hardcover with dustjacket. New book. CRIME. "Scandal on the Turf!" the Los Angeles Times proclaimed. It was October 1940, a mere few months after Seabiscuit had won the Santa Anita Derby, and now this bombshell: "Six Jockeys Admit Horse Races Fixed." The Gambler and the Bug Boy recounts this dark chapter in horse racing history. At its center is Bernard "Big" Mooney, a flashy L.A. bookmaker who began his seedy career by threatening young jockeys with death if they didn't "pull" their horses. His unwilling partner is Albert Siler, a callow, eighteen-year-old apprentice rider (a so-called bug boy) from eastern Oregon. John Christgau tells how Big Mooney manipulated this promising rider and how Siler tried to escape the gambler's criminal grip without ruining his career. Christgau's book gives all the harrowing details of the unraveling plot and the botched court case that followed which riveted the attention of the nation. Told in full for the first time, this story brings to light a little-known but important horse racing scandal. John Christgau is the author of several works, including The Origins of the Jumpshot: Eight Men Who Shook the World of Basketball, and Tricksters in the Madhouse: Lakers vs. Globetrotters, 1948, both available in Bison Books editions. "Christgau is skilled at making memorable characters from his subjects. . . . [H]istory-minded handicappers will find much to appreciate."ÑPublishers Weekly Web Exclusive "[T]his fascinating story of gambling and corruption has not yet been told. Fortunately, John Christgau brings the title characters into light and sets the stage effectively. . . . [A] well-researched piece that recounts a great story of intrigue in a place filled with mystery."ÑTrue West "In his customary fashion, John Christgau has spun an engrossing tale, rich in...



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