

# Contents

List of Figures	viii
Acknowledgments	ix
<b>1</b> Introduction	1
<b>2</b> Sport as a Religious Phenomenon	9
<b>3</b> The Quest for Perfection: A Theological Approach	41
<b>4</b> A Psychology of Sport and Religion: Escaping Finitude	55
<b>5</b> Come Together: A Sociology of Religion and Sport	75
<b>6</b> Sport and the Moral Life	93
<b>7</b> Thinking Critically about Religion and Sport	111
<b>8</b> Religion, Sport, and Secularism	125
Epilogue	137
Notes	144
Bibliography	162
Index	171

*D. Gregory Sapp*

I also thank my coauthor and friend, Eric Rein-Sebo, who so graciously invited me on him in this project. His wisdom, guidance, and, especially, his patience have been invaluable to me and are greatly appreciated. To my teachers throughout my years—both kindergarten through graduate school and beyond—I owe so much and wish to “pay it forward” to my students as my best thank to them. My colleagues at Eastern have been wonderful, supportive and engaging, helping me think through some of the issues related to religion and sport. I would like to thank Christopher Esch, Michael Redden, Donald Musser, Randy Queen-Sutherland, Olson Sutherland, Philip