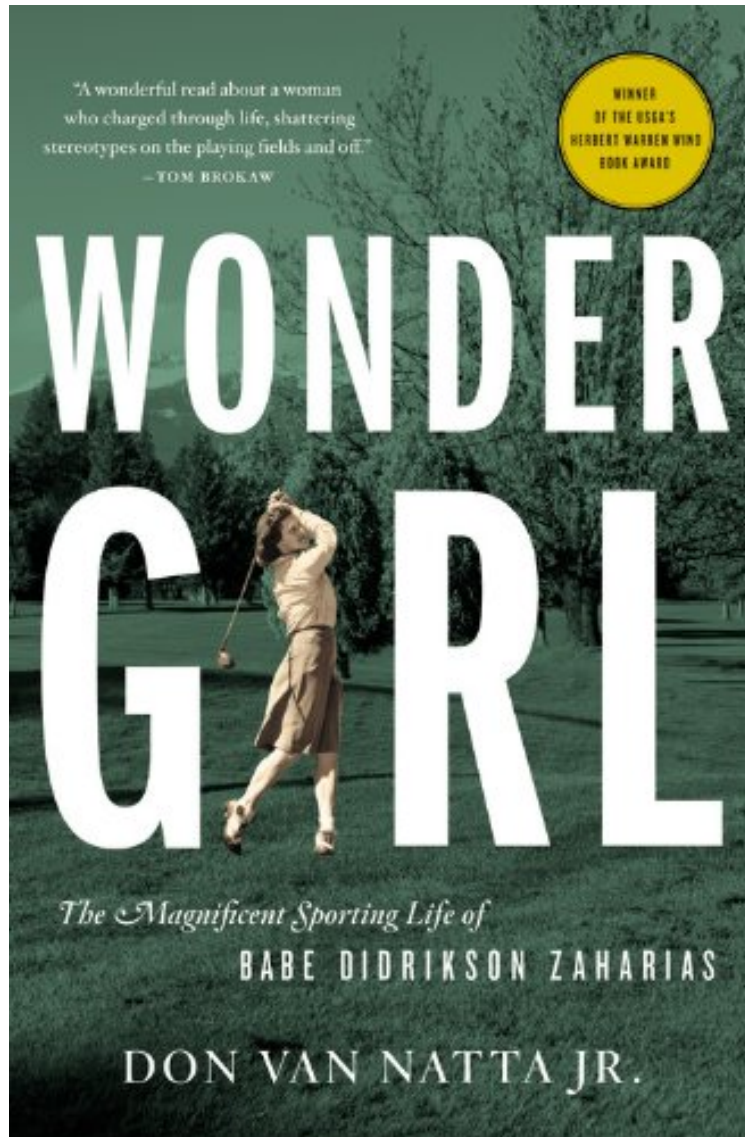


# Wonder Girl: The Magnificent Sporting Life of Babe Didrikson Zaharias

Don Van Natta

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**Don Van Natta : Wonder Girl: The Magnificent Sporting Life of Babe Didrikson Zaharias** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wonder Girl: The Magnificent Sporting Life of Babe Didrikson Zaharias:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Warts and all story about probably the greatest female athlete of all time  
By Customer  
Warts and all story about probably the greatest female athlete of all time. Stunning is all you can say about her accomplishments (and ego).  
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. a great read  
By Kittygem  
I enjoyed reading this book about Babe Didriksen. It's too bad she is not well known these days. A lot of women athletes owe their accomplishments to her and the fact that she made it easier for women to compete in sports. I gave it a 4 because the writing style was a bit confusing to me. At times it felt like you were reading now and looking back at her life while other times it felt like you were really there. Anyway, overall I like the book and it also comes with photos. This book should be mandatory reading in high school or college, in courses about women's studies or for those students studying sports management. The accomplishments of this great woman athlete should be better known by younger generation students.  
14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Great book! And not just for sports fans!  
By Kate JI  
I had heard of Babe Didrikson before I read the book but had no idea what an amazing athlete she was! A female Jim Thorpe. Beyond her athletic achievements, she was a fantastic character and her life was filled with both major achievements and challenges - her sporting life as well as her personal life. If she was alive today she would easily be among the most famous athletes in the world.  
Any sports fan will of course love this book. But its not just for sports fan. Babe was such a character and lived such an interesting life that you don't have to be a sports fan to love this book.

This is the extraordinary story of a nearly forgotten American superstar athlete. Texas girl Babe Didrikson never tried a sport too tough and never met a hurdle too high. Despite attempts to keep women from competing, Babe achieved All-American status in basketball and won gold medals in track and field at the 1932 Olympics. Then Babe attempted to conquer golf. One of the founders of the LPGA, Babe won more consecutive tournaments than any golfer in history. At the height of her fame, she was diagnosed with cancer. Babe would then take her most daring step of all: go public and try to win again with the hope of inspiring the world. A rollicking saga, stretching across the first half of the 20th century, *WONDER GIRL* is as fresh, heartfelt, and graceful as Babe herself.

"Van Natta constructs a satisfying if bittersweet narrative...It's to [his] credit, and her own, that we find ourselves caring not just for the great athlete, but for the person she was as well."  
Kate Tuttle, Boston Sunday Globe  
"Finally, the definitive account of the extraordinary adventures of the one and only Babe Didrikson Zaharias, expertly and lovingly rendered by Don Van Natta. From the track to the tee to the stage, the greatest of all female athletes--arguably the greatest of all athletes, period--stirs vividly to life. Comprehensively reported and elegantly told, funny and tragic, *Wonder Girl* is an indispensable testament to the epic gifts of an American original."  
Jeremy Schaap, ESPN reporter and author of *Cinderella Man and Triumph*  
"A spirited biography about the courage and chutzpah of a tough, fun-loving Texan, who, as Van Natta says, "once upon a time could do everything but fly"...Van Natta doesn't just recount the Babe's incredible life, career and vicious person attacks on her tomboy looks and behavior...He gives the 5-foot-6 but larger-than-life sports legend the lively treatment she deserves...He makes her dribble, shoot, run, jump, bat, pitch, drive and putt off its 256 pages."  
Jane Sumner, Dallas Morning News  
"Full-bodied and honest....*Wonder Girl* offers the definitive account of Babe's life, ignoring the legend for the real story-one that needs no embellishment."  
Colleen Kelly, Minneapolis Star Tribune  
"I didn't know a whole lot of things about Babe until I picked up *Wonder Girl*, a new biography by Don Van Natta Jr., about one of the most remarkable (and remarkably unappreciated) women who ever walked (and ran) the Earth ...what I didn't know would fill a book. Luckily, it fills Van Natta's book. Van Natta tells her tale compellingly, warts and all, holding back nothing. The contradictions of Babe Didrikson Zaharias, loved and hated, immortalized and forgotten, are detailed by Van Natta in equal measure."  
Mike Downey, Los Angeles Times  
"Don Van Natta has turned one of the most famous athletes in history into a fresh revelation. Van Natta is everywhere she is--from the track to Vaudeville stage, from *The Ed Sullivan Show* to the 18th hole and peels away the brash veneer on the irrepressible Babe Didrikson Zaharias to reveal the personal arc of an invincible woman who ends up inspiring a nation. By deftly mining all sides of Babe, Van Natta provides remarkable dimension to an American heroine."  
Selena Roberts, Sports Illustrated senior writer and author of *A-Rod: The Many Lives of Alex Rodriguez*  
"Babe Didrikson Zaharias--named by Sports Illustrated as one of the top ten athletes of the twentieth century - has long been shrouded in myth. Now, at long last, Don Van Natta Jr. brilliantly tells the real story behind the hubristic Olympic gold medalist who became the greatest female golfer in history. *Wonder Girl* is a deeply compelling and warm-hearted biography about an evergreen American sports legend. A marvelous scholarly accomplishment and a page-turner to boot."  
Douglas Brinkley, author of *The Quiet World: Saving Alaska's Wilderness Kingdom 1879-1960*  
"Van Natta's meticulously researched book opens up this era the way Laura Hillenbrand's wonderful *Seabiscuit: An American Legend* opened up the world of horseracing in the same period..."  
John Paul Newport, The Wall Street Journal  
"Babe Didrikson Zaharias gets the biography she deserves....[Van Natta] brings Babe back to life in all her rough-edged, indomitable glory....It's a remarkable story, and Van Natta tells it with grace and humor. He doesn't beatify Babe....but keeps his eye on the ball."  
Colette Bancroft, St. Petersburg Times  
"*Wonder Girl* is a wonderful read about a woman who charged through life shattering stereotypes on the playing fields and off. As a boy I followed her

amazing career in the sports pages as she changed the face of golf and the Olympics but now, thanks to Don Van Natta, I have the complete story of this authentically American trail blazer who was so much more than just a gifted athlete."Tom Brokaw"On reading this charmingly evocative narrative of a woman named Babe, I couldn't help but be reminded of Muhammad Ali. Didrikson shared the same pizzazz, raw physical talent, and indomitable spirit of the great Ali, plus the penchant for breaking barriers. Finally there is a biography worthy of her remarkable story."Neal Bascomb, New York Times bestselling author of *The Perfect Mile*"The Babe has largely been hailed as America's preeminent female athlete, but as Don Van Natta Jr. makes clear in his wonderfully detailed and beautifully written account of her life, this was one gutsy, poetic, and ultimately endearing dame who rose from the heartland to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with any American sports legend. I haven't enjoyed a sports biography this much in years."Jim Dodson, bestselling author of *Final Rounds*, *A Son of the Game*, and *Ben Hogan: An American Life*"Don Van Natta's gripping portrait of Babe Didrikson Zaharias sheds valuable light on the history of women in sports and in the public eye, and brings back to vivid life a woman whose drive and raw talent made her among the most accomplished athletes of all time, but about whom we have remembered far too little."Rebecca Traister, author of *Big Girls Don't Cry*About the AuthorDon Van Natta is an investigative correspondent for the New York Times. He has been a member of three Pulitzer Prize-winning teams, and is the author of *First off the Tee: Presidential Hackers, Duffers and Cheaters from Taft to Bush* and *Her Way: The Hopes and Ambitions of Hillary Rodham Clinton*.