

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON PRESS

RECOMMENDED BOOKS BY BLACK AUTHORS

Champions, Cheaters, and Childhood Dreams: Memories of the Soap Box Derby **Melanie Payne**

Melanie Payne's *Champions, Cheaters, and Childhood Dreams: Memories of the Soap Box Derby* is in its second edition. Since 1934, the All-American Soap Box Derby has pushed thousands of youths to use their curiosity, ingenuity, and determination to become the most famous kid in America. Through first-person accounts, *Champions, Cheaters, and Childhood Dreams* chronicles a history of the race from a hillside in Dayton to the corporate-sponsored, star-studded event it would become in the 1950s and 1960s. The influence of the Great Depression, World War II, the Civil Rights and feminist movements, Vietnam, and Watergate helped shape and transform the race from a simple amateur event into an American icon.

<https://blogs.uakron.edu/uapress/product/champions-cheaters-and-childhood-dreams/>

High School Heroes: Stories of Inspiration, Dedication, and Hope **David Lee Morgan Jr.**

David Lee Morgan Jr.'s *High School Heroes: Stories of Inspiration, Dedication, and Hope* touches the heart and emphasizes the little victories in a series of true stories about high school athletes in Northeast Ohio. David Lee Morgan Jr. was a sports reporter for the Akron Beacon Journal for 15 years, covering high school sports and winning awards for his work.

<https://blogs.uakron.edu/uapress/product/high-school-heroes/>

The Inside Game: Race, Power, and Politics in the NBA **Wayne Embry**

Wayne Embry's *The Inside Game: Race, Power, and Politics in the NBA*, coauthored by Mary Schmitt Boyer, chronicles his life and forty years' experience in the NBA. In 1972, Embry became the first African American general manager in professional sports, with the Milwaukee Bucks. Spike Lee contributed the foreword.

<https://blogs.uakron.edu/uapress/product/inside-game/>

Wheels of Fortune **Steve Love and David Giffels, forward by Rita Dove**

Rita Dove authored the foreword for one of the bestselling UA Press books, *Wheels of Fortune*, by Steve Love and David Giffels. A section of the book on Black workers in the rubber shops describes the career of her father, Ray Dove, who began as an elevator operator and rose up to work as a chemist.

<https://blogs.uakron.edu/uapress/product/wheels-of-fortune/>