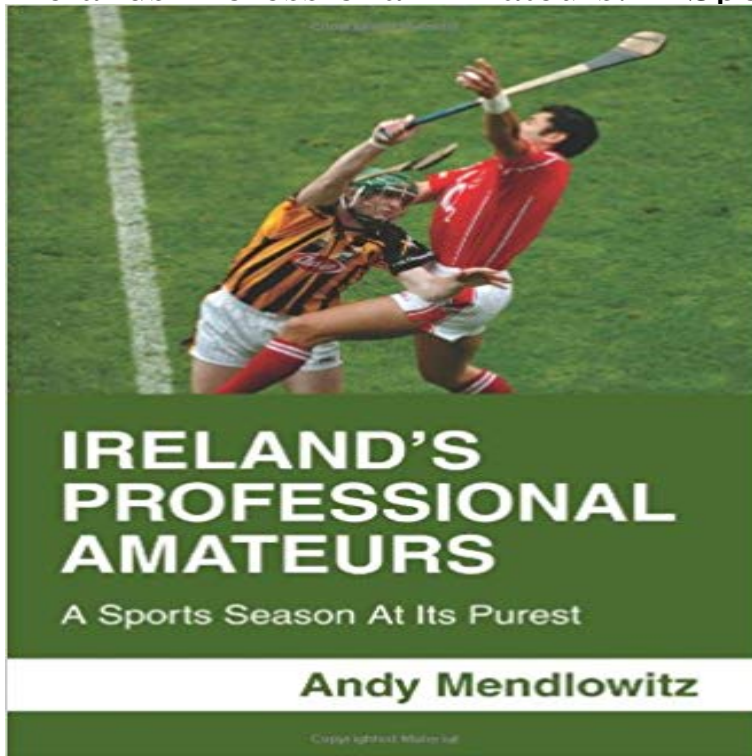


Irelands Professional Amateurs: A Sports Season At Its Purest



When American sportswriter Andy Mendlowitz took a summer vacation to Ireland, his itinerary included visiting medieval castles and drinking dark beer. He soon discovered a world where big-time sports aren't yet a business, but still a game. Ireland's rough-and-tumble pastimes of hurling and Gaelic football attract crowds of up to 80,000 fans a contest. The high-profile players, though, are amateurs. They train as professionals but must work fulltime jobs to pay the bills. The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) also lacks free agency or trades—you simply play for your hometown team, even if you move away. Amazed by this concept, and burned out at work, Mendlowitz quit his job and moved to Ireland for eight months. His aim was to get excited again by understanding what drives these athletes. Along the way, he met interesting characters and learned how the sports intersect with the ancient Irish language, burgeoning economy and the Troubles in Northern Ireland. From big cities like Belfast, Dublin and Cork to tiny rural parishes, Mendlowitz paints a vivid picture of Ireland and the joy of competing.

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About the Author. Andy Mendlowitz** wrote for the Daily News-Record in Irelands Professional Amateurs : A Sports Season At Its Purest Kindle Edition. by Andy Mendlowitz (Author) **Big Sales Ireland s Professional Amateurs: A Sports Season At Its** Irelands rough-and-tumble pastimes of hurling and Gaelic football attract crowds of up to 80000 Irelands Professional Amateurs: A Sports Season at Its Purest. **Irelands Professional Amateurs A Sports Season At Its Purest** Andy Mendlowitz is the author of Irelands Professional Amateurs (4.14 avg rating, 7 ratings, Irelands Professional Amateurs: A Sports Season at Its Purest **Mendlowitz Andy - Mireva Online Shop** job in sport, Last man standing: hurling goalkeepers (2005), and the American Andy Mendlowitzs Irelands professional amateurs: a sports season at its purest **The Gaelic Athletic Association 18842009 - History Ireland** 14 hours ago - 36 sec - Uploaded by wahab imroniGAA - what professional sports can learn from amateur games BBC WORLD 05 04 10 **Is there a future for Amateurism in the GAA? - SportsNewsIRELAND** Irelands rough-and-tumble pastimes of hurling and Gaelic football attract Irelands Professional Amateurs: A Sports Season at Its Purest **Sky will help spread our beautiful game to a whole new audience** IRELANDS PROFESSIONAL AMATEURS by Andy Mendlowitz. 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